

Radiocommunication Bureau open for (virtual) business

Today we are all living, learning and working under exceptional circumstances as a result of the COVID19 global health emergency.

In order to protect the health of delegates and staff and to help to curb the spread of COVID-19, ITU has rolled out mandatory work from home, while our meetings and events have gone virtual.

All physical meetings at ITU Headquarters in Geneva remain suspended until further notice. We are however making full use of the available technology to ensure ITU's core functions and services to members are maintained.

BR remote participation (virtual) meetings

In the Radiocommunication Bureau and with the support of the ITU Information Services Department we remain virtually open for key meetings and consultation with our members. Some meetings were rescheduled to ensure the health and safety of all participants and guarantee an adequate level of participation.

On March 25, the Radiocommunication Bureau held its first-ever virtual [Radio Regulations Board](#) (RRB) meeting with full interpretation in English, French and Russian. All the 12 members of the board, connecting from 12 different countries, joined the meeting virtually along with the BR Director and BR subject matter experts.

Following consultation with the ITU-R Study Groups leaders, and considering the necessary matters to be addressed, it has been decided to host fully virtual meetings of ITU-R [Study Group 7](#), [Working Party 7B](#) and [Working Party 7C](#), as scheduled from 20 to 24 April 2020. Registrations already submitted to these meetings remain valid. Advance registration, and focal point approval, remain necessary to participate in the event(s) remotely. Instructions can be found in the [Remote participants Guidelines](#).

The 27th meeting of the [Radiocommunication Advisory Group](#) (RAG) originally scheduled to be held from 6 to 9 April 2020 will now take place from 25 to 27 May 2020 at ITU headquarters in Geneva.

Registrations already submitted to the 27th meeting of the RAG remain valid and there is no need to register again. Remote participation to the RAG meeting will be made available and requests for should be submitted to ITU-R.Registrations@itu.int . Please make sure your registration to the event is confirmed before requesting remote participation.

We have postponed or cancelled other meetings that were to take place in April/May and made the necessary modifications to guarantee that the minimum necessary actions could progress. Further details will be communicated to you. I invite you to visit the [BR meetings portal](#) to see the status of your meeting.

Tools for our BR members and customers

I am delighted to let you know that the [Final Acts](#) of the World Radiocommunication Conference WRC-19 are now available online for free download.

Due to the limitations to postal delivery imposed by the Swiss authorities, the delivery of physical DVDs containing BR IFIC will be suspended as from the Edition No. 2917 of 31 March 2020 and until further notice. I invite Administrations and BR IFIC subscribers to use the ISO copies of BR IFIC available at the following addresses:

- [BRIFIC terrestrial services](#):
- [BRIFIC space services](#):

Platforms being used for Remote Participation in ITU Meetings

ITU member states and delegates now can participate in meetings remotely using different web conferencing platforms. We are using the platforms described below to provide the opportunity for delegates to engage in our various meetings.

ITU Meetings with Interpretation in the six UN languages: ITU has been a pioneer of Multilingual Interactive Remote Participation (MIRP) which allows Member States to participate in ITU meetings remotely with interpretation in the six official languages. It was first used during the eruption of Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland which disrupted air traffic in Europe in April 2010.

The current "Interprefy" MIRP platform allows for up to 300 remote participants to participate interactively using any of the six ITU official languages. The screen shows captioning (in English), the main conference screen (normally the document under discussion), and the image of the speaker which gives the experience of being in a single virtual meeting room.

Delegates can raise their virtual hand to request the floor. The Chairman gives the speakers the floor assisted, if necessary, by a moderator. There is also a chat function which allows delegates to make their comments or questions directly to the Chairman, or to coordinate between themselves using the private chat option. An additional 2000 users may also connect to the platform as observers (i.e. they cannot take the floor). This is currently limited to floor only audio.

[Watch video on ITU remote participation using Interprefy](#)

ITU-R Meetings in a single Language: For remote participation without interpretation, commercial tools are being used such as Zoom; Skype for Business, GoToMeeting, etc. (with PSTN dial available); and Microsoft Teams (Max 250 users who will need to use a web plugin or: <https://teams.microsoft.com/downloads#allDevicesSection>)

The above measures are being implemented on a temporary basis to cope with the restrictions and difficulties due to the Covid-19 pandemic that the entire world is facing.

Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to your active participation.