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Radiocommunication Bureau

(Direct Fax N°. +41 22 730 57 85)

Administrative Circular
CA/186

5 December 2009

To Administrations of Member States of ITU

Subject: World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC-79) - 30 year anniversary

To the Director-General

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my great pleasure to draw your attention to a very important event which took place 30 years ago when 147 Delegations of the ITU Member States deliberated for ten weeks (24 September to 6 December 1979) under the chairmanship of Mr. Roberto Severini (Argentina) at the CICG Centre in Geneva during the ITU World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC-79).

Background of WARC-79:

WARC-79 – an inter-governmental conference whose decisions having the force of an international treaty still enjoys a decisive influence on the development of all types of radiocommunications and broadcasting right into the 21st century.

This Conference was the first one in twenty years empowered to examine and completely modify the main document of the radio sector “The ITU Radio Regulations” in order to meet new challenges of rapidly changing radio technology and to provide a better sharing of spectrum and orbit resources among developed and developing countries.

Starting with the full structural rearrangements of the ITU Radio Regulations, the WARC-79 substantially modified the table of frequency allocations and the associated procedures designed to facilitate the application of these modifications; it worked out new approaches to facilitate access to the spectrum and the Geostationary Orbit by the developing countries; and decided to convene conferences for planning space services and short wave broadcasting services. In parallel to that, WARC-79 Conference agreed on the expansion of the shortwave spectrum allocated for broadcasting and adopted major changes in the frequency allocations for the space services.

Given the decisive influence of WARC-79 results on the development of internationally harmonized radiocommunications and on the long-term guaranteed access to orbit and spectrum resources through the ITU Radio Regulations, I wish to invite all Membership to celebrate this occasion in their Administrations.

A website <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/warc-79-30years/> has been set up for this anniversary, which I invite to freely peruse as it contains important information and articles of this historical occasion.

The Bureau remains at your disposal for any questions concerning this celebration (contact person in the Radiocommunication Bureau: Ms Grace De Angelis-Petrin, telephone: +41 22 730 5810, e-mail: brpromo@itu.int).

Yours faithfully,

Valery Timofeev
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

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- Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group
- Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Conference Preparatory Meeting
- Members of the Radio Regulations Board
- Secretary-General of the ITU, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau