



**Journal Title:** Telecommunication Journal

**Journal Issue:** vol. 57 (no. 1), 1990

**Article Title:** Broadcasting Conference for Africa and neighbouring countries opens in Geneva

**Page number(s):** pp. 4-5

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(ITU) للاتصالات الدولي الاتحاد في والمحفوظات المكتبة قسم أجراه الضوئي بالمسح تصوير نتاج (PDF) الإلكترونية النسخة هذه والمحفوظات المكتبة قسم في المتوفرة الوثائق ضمن أصلية ورقية وثيقة من نقلاً.

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## Union Activities

### Broadcasting Conference for Africa and neighbouring countries opens in Geneva

**T**he Second Session of the Regional Administrative Conference for the planning of VHF/UHF television broadcasting in the African broadcasting area and neighbouring countries (namely Bahrain, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates)—AFBC(2) opened on 13 November 1989 at the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG). The First Session of the Conference—AFBC(1)—was held in Nairobi (Kenya) from 22 September to 9 October 1986.

The first Plenary meeting, chaired by Mr H. Y. Al-Kindy (Oman), elected Mr C. T. NDiongue (Senegal) as Chairman of the Conference. Messrs A. A. Fahd (Saudi Arabia), I. J. Yombiyeni (Gabon), A. Bahreinian (Islamic Republic of Iran) and W. M. Kilonzo (Kenya) were elected Vice-Chairmen.

The Conference also set up six Committees and one Technical Working Group of the Plenary and elected their respective Chairman and Vice-Chairmen as follows:

#### Committee 1—Steering Committee

The Chairman of the Steering Committee is the Chairman of the Conference, assisted by the Vice-Chairmen of the Conference as well as the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of all the Committees and the Working Group of the Plenary.

#### Committee 2—Credentials Committee

Chairman:

Mr R. J. L. Fernandes (Mozambique)

Vice-Chairman:

Mr M. R. Al-Ani (Iraq)

#### Committee 3—Budget Control Committee

Chairman:

Mr A. Fayoumi (Egypt)

Vice-Chairman:

Mr A. Bizimana (Rwanda)

#### Committee 4—Planning Committee

Chairman:

Mr E. Kamdem Kamga (Cameroon)

Vice-Chairman:

Mr H. A. I. Mustafawi (Qatar)

#### Committee 5—Regulatory Committee

Chairman:

Mr D. F. Matavire (Zimbabwe)

Vice-Chairman:

Mr M. Derragui (Algeria)

#### Committee 6—Editorial Committee

Chairman:

Mr A. Schlatter (France)

Vice-Chairmen:

Mr C. L. Crespo Martínez (Spain)

Mr J. Seleka (Tanzania)



*The rostrum of the AFBC(2)*

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## Technical Working Group of the Plenary

Chairman:

Mr K. J. B. Yao (Côte d'Ivoire)

Vice-Chairman:

Mr F. L. Letele (Lesotho)

In his opening address, the ITU Secretary-General, Dr P. J. Tarjanne, recalled that broadcasting is one of the most effective means of disseminating information to the public at large and represents a universal vehicle of communication vital for socio-economic and cultural purposes. "Any improvement of the quality of programme transmissions including new dimensions of significant cultural and social impact holds the promise of leading the peoples of Africa and neighbouring countries towards speedier national development and the promotion of prosperity" he stated. "Broadcasting and, in particular, television, has indeed been recognized as a key contributor towards progress of every kind in all parts of the world" he added. "International cooperation based on mutual respect and understanding and the full use of the latest techniques and information will move us, once more, towards the realization of appropriate solutions" concluded Dr Tarjanne.

## Background

Twenty-six years ago, Africa started to establish plans for sound and television broadcasting. The current plan, providing for the installation of 10 604 stations for Africa (4969 for FM sound broadcasting and 5635 television stations) was drawn up by the first African VHF/UHF Broadcasting Conference for sound (frequency modulation) and television broadcasting held in Geneva in 1963.

At the time, not all the African countries had been able to participate in the Conference and since then, many more sovereign countries have emerged which need to be included in a new plan. Moreover, television broadcasting has developed considerably with a consequent increased demand for frequencies.

In addition, at the time of the 1963 Conference, propagation data applicable to the region were, in many areas, incomplete or even totally inexistent. New technological developments and improved broadcasting and television standards have also been witnessed in the last two decades.

Finally, the World Administrative Radio Conference of 1979, which entirely revised the Radio Regulations governing the use of frequencies, decided to extend the upper end of the band used by FM sound broadcasting from 100 to 108 MHz and one of the bands used for television from 223 to 230 MHz.

As a result, a new plan for sound broadcasting was drawn up in 1984 for the whole of Region 1 (Europe, Africa and the USSR) and certain countries of Region 3 (namely Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran). The 1984 Plan, covering some 54 000 FM stations (13 000 for Africa) came into force on 1 July 1987.

## Purpose of the present Conference

The purpose of the AFBC is therefore to complete the action taken to review the 1963 Plan by revising the parts related to television broadcasting. It was decided to hold the Conference in two sessions. The First Session prepared the technical bases and proposed planning methods to assist the Second Session in establishing a new frequency assignment plan\* for VHF/UHF television broadcasting in certain frequency bands comprised between 47 and 862 MHz. If the planning principles adopted by the First Session are confirmed by the Second Session, assignments of frequencies to television stations between 862 and 960 MHz will follow the procedure set out in Article 12 of the Radio Regulations (Notification and Recording procedure) and will not be included in the 1989 Plan.

\* An assignment plan is a plan which provides specific frequencies to each station for which frequencies were required.

## Work undertaken by the ITU for AFBC in the period 1986-1989

Since 1986, administrations submitted their frequency requirements for all their existing and planned television stations to the International Frequency Registration Board (IFRB). After having developed the necessary computer software, the IFRB prepared a first draft Plan on the basis of the decisions made at AFBC(1), taking account of all the requirements submitted. The result of the exercise was then submitted to each administration for evaluation and submission of any modifications considered necessary as far as their country was concerned. A second draft Plan has now been prepared, on the basis of the comments received, for submission to the Conference.

With respect to radiocommunication issues, the International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR) was requested to undertake certain propagation studies relevant to the use of the VHF/UHF band in the planning area and to continue its studies on sharing criteria for the fixed and mobile services (bands 223-235 MHz and 790-862 MHz). The CCIR was also requested to pursue its studies for the geographical division of the area into propagation zones and to study, from the viewpoint of protection against interference, the technical characteristics and effectiveness of circularly polarized emissions for television broadcasting, indicating the related advantages and disadvantages.

## Outcome of the Conference

The Conference terminated on 8 December 1989 with the signing of the Final Acts. During AFBC(2), the entire 1963 Plan has been reviewed taking into account the new technical and geopolitical realities of the region. A two-day Regional Conference was held on 4 and 5 December to abrogate the 1963 Plan.

A complete report on the decisions of AFBC(2) will be published in a forthcoming issue of the "Journal".