The first ITU Radiocommunication Assembly

The first ITU Radiocommunication Assembly, held in Geneva from 8 to 16 November 1993, is the successor to the Plenary Assembly of the International Consultative Radio Committee (CCIR). Its role is to act as a management body for the work carried out by the Study Groups of the Radiocommunication Sector (ITU–R). It was attended by 545 delegates representing 96 countries. Thirty-three operators, eight scientific and industrial organizations, 16 international organizations and two United Nations specialized agencies also took part. The Conference elected Mr L. W. Barclay (United Kingdom) as its Chairman assisted by five Vice-Chairmen: Messrs A. J. Gabrielli (Argentina), M. J. Mulla (Saudi Arabia), E. Kamdem Kamga (Cameroon), A. Motai (Japan) and V. V. Timofeev (Russia).

Role of Study Groups

RA-93 reaffirmed the changes adopted by the 1990 CCIR Plenary Assembly but also gave a greater role to Study Groups in studying and reporting, to World and Regional Radiocommunication Conferences, on radio regulatory procedures as well as technical and operational aspects, according to the mandate of the APP-92.

It also decided that the Chairmen of Study Groups could be re-elected for a maximum of eight years to enable a reasonable amount of stability while providing the opportunity for different individuals to bring their expertise and skills to the management of Study Groups.

Following the restructuring of the ITU in March 1993, some issues dealing with matters of standardization and performance of radio systems interconnecting with public telecommunication networks were identified for transfer to the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU–T). The Assembly completed the work initiated jointly by the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) and the Ad Hoc Group on Strategic Review and Planning and endorsed by the World Telecommunication Standardization Conference (WTSC-93). The ITU–R Study Groups will however continue to be responsible for radio system characteristics.

Work programme

In a detailed review of the entire work programme of the Radiocommunication Study Groups, Questions were categorized as *urgent* (questions associated with the preparatory work of a radio conference or questions which the Assembly has requested that a Recommendation be formulated within one to three years) or *important* (general studies for preliminary or progressive study or questions not falling under the urgent category) in assigning them to specific Study Groups, usually with specified completion dates. Completed or inactive Questions were deleted.

The 1994-1995 work programme comprises 413 Questions covering nearly every aspect of radiocommunications and includes service-oriented topics such as digital television (conventional, enhanced and high-defintion television), digital sound broadcasting, future mobile services (universal personal telecommunications and low Earth orbiting satellite services). Other non-service specific fields of study include radio wave propagation, spectrum management and inter-service sharing and compatibility issues.

Structure of Study Groups for the 1994-1995 study period

The Assembly consolidated Study Groups 5 (Radio wave propagation in non-ionized media) and 6 (Radio wave propagation in ionized media) into a new Study Group 3

addressing all issues in relation to radio wave propagation to achieve optimum management of propagation studies.

Study Group 12 (Inter-service sharing and compatibility), set up by the Düsseldorf Plenary Assembly, was maintained to carry out further urgent (specific) studies requested by WARC-92. It was however renumbered Study Group 2. Long-term strategies for frequency spectrum utilization, principles and techniques on frequency management issues including monitoring will continue to be dealt with by Study Group 1.

As a result, Study Groups 1 to 3 are concerned with general or spectrum management issues and the six others (Study Groups 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11) with service-oriented issues. In addition, a Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) was set up to act as a focal point for the consolidation and harmonization of the study of technical, operational, regulatory and procedural matters in relation with radio conferences. As World Radio Conferences (WRC) are scheduled to take place normally at regular two-year intervals, the management of the CPM will be based on

rotation of Chairmen. The Chairman will be responsible for the studies relating to the nearest WRC and the Vice-Chairman for the subsequent WRC. After the first conference, the Vice-Chairman takes over the chairmanship and a new Vice-Chairman is designated to carry out the preparatory work of the following WRC. A second Vice-Chairman will be responsible for the coordination of regulatory/procedural studies.

In preparing its reports, the CPM will reconcile, to the extent possible, the differences in approach which contributions might put forward. The setting up of CPMs will be effective immediately after the Radiocommunication Assembly and will meet twice between WRCs. The Assembly nominated Messrs S. Pinheiro (Brazil) as Chairman of the CPM and R. Taylor (United States) as first Vice-Chairman. The second Vice-Chairman will be selected at the first meeting of the CPM.

The nine Study Groups falling under the administrative responsibility of the ITU–R will be set up as from March 1994 at the close of the current study period (table 1).

Table 1

Study Group	Responsibility	Chairman
1	Spectrum management	M. J. Hunt (Canada)
2	Inter-service sharing and compatibility	J. Karjalainen (Finland)
3	Radio wave propagation	L. W. Barclay (United Kingdom)
4	Fixed-satellite service	E. Hauck (Switzerland)
7	Science services	H. G. Kimball (United States)
8	Mobile, radiodetermination, amateur and related satellite services	E. George (Germany)
9	Fixed service	M. Murotani (Japan)
10	Broadcasting service—Sound	C. Terzani (Italy)
11	Broadcasting service—Televison	M. Krivocheev (Russia)

The Chairman of the Coordination Committee for Vocabulary (CCV) is Mr M. Thué (France).

The procedure for the approval of Recommendations by correspondence between Radiocommunication Assemblies, established in 1990 by a Resolution of the Düsseldorf Plenary Assembly, was endorsed and integrated into the normal working methods of ITU–R.

The decision by the Study Group participants to apply this procedure must be unanimous. If 70% or more of the replies received from the Members, within three months, indicate approval, the Recommendation is adopted and published.

Strategic planning

A broadly based "top down" approach towards strategic planning was adopted leaving to the Director the need to consider strategies at a detailed functional and organizational level to include both medium and longer term issues.

The Assembly agreed on a general framework for such a plan and some proposals for the contents.

A possible mission statement of the Sector would be to aim at *an efficient contribution to technical standards and the most effective utilization of the radio spectrum in the context of the world's economies and needs.*

Against this mission, criteria against which issues and strategies could be measured and prioritized are to be identified.

RA-93 identified issues to be addressed by the strategic plan:

- the need to define priorities on the use of the spectrum

- the need to use more precise criteria for the coordination between GSO and LEO

- the possible redefinition of the service-based approach to spectrum allocation

- the contribution of new technologies for rural communications in developing countries

- the need for Study Groups to have flexibility to rapidly initiate or terminate questions

- the need to re-assess the role of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) in satellite network coordination.

The Assembly endorsed the current priorities identified by the Director of the BR and invited the Sector to develop strategies, both functional and organizational, to take account of the environment and emerging issues while recognizing the resource limitations for both the ITU and the administrations.

A proposal to set up a Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG), open to members of the ITU–R, was approved. Mr M. Goddard (United Kingdom) was elected Chairman of the RAG.

Coordination

The relations with other Sectors of the ITU (telecommunication development and standardization) as well as that with external organizations having interest in radio-communications was reviewed with the aim of fostering cooperation and coordination.

Coordination on substantive issues with the ITU–T will be ensured by liaison rapporteurs who will participate in the work of ITU–T Study Groups dealing with matters of mutual interest and concern. Coordination may also be undertaken exceptionally by Intersector Coordination Groups (ICG). Their mandate will be clearly defined by a joint decision of RAG/TSAG and their lifetime will be determined at the outset. They will fall under the administrative responsibility of only one Sector.

Two ICGs, set up by WTSC-93 already exist: one on satellite matters which held a meeting last June and another one on FPLMTS. The ICG on satellites will also address the issue of interconnection of very-small aperture terminals (VSATs) to public switched networks.

Principles for the allocation of work between ITU–R and ITU–T, including transitional arrangements to ensure satisfactory pace, quality of output and avoidance of delays in progressing current work, were also adopted in a Resolution.

Other institutional mechanisms of coordination include the joint meetings of the Advisory Groups and the daily coordination at the management level of each Bureau.

As for coordination with external bodies, a Resolution was adopted inviting administrations to encourage the participation of radiocommunication organizations and institutions in ITU–R activities.

RA-93 adopted a text inviting the ITU "to make every effort to persuade regional bodies, national authorities and other entities to support the Radiocommunication Sector in the development of Recommendations on FPLMTS in the interest of achieving a single worldwide standard".

The coordination with the ITU Development Sector (ITU–D) was dealt with in a Resolution which addresses issues of concern to developing countries.

In particular, the Assembly requests that ITU–R Study Groups and the Director of the BR assist the Telecommunication Develop-ment Bureau (BDT) in organizing regional and world information meetings that will familiarize developing countries with the substance and implications of ITU–R Recommendations; and provide assistance in developing and updating handbooks for developing countries and in their preparation for radio conferences.

Participation in the ITU–D Study Groups by the Director of the BR and by ITU–R Study Group Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen is requested when relevant studies are considered to which they may give valuable inputs.

The Resolution also calls upon members of the ITU–R to provide experts to assist developing countries in radiocommunication activities and to host trainees.

Another Resolution addresses the forthcoming World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, March 1994). It calls for the participation of a representative of the ITU–D in the RAG to facilitate the review of matters of common interest and concern as well as his/her on-going participation in the joint RAG/TSAG meetings to encourage the tripartite review of work together with issues of a policy and strategic planning nature.

High frequency broadcasting

In addition to the approximately 33% expansion of the bands introduced by WARC-79, WARC-92 extended the bands allocated to HF broadcasting by a further 25% to be available by 1 April 2007, provided that these would be used exclusively by single-sideband emissions and be subject to planning procedures to be drawn up by a future world radio conference.

In the absence of planning procedures, the additional spectrum allocated in 1979 and in 1992 has not become available and congestion in the HF broadcasting bands has continued to increase.

In this respect, RA-93 adopted a new Question aimed at the development of alternative planning procedures with a target date for completion of 1997.

INFORADIO

Leslie Barclay

Les Barclay has recently chaired, very successfully, the first Radiocommunication Assembly, summing up as the debates went along (quite an accomplishment at times!), pacifying, stimulating, sticking to timetables as closely as possible: in other words, doing a very good job! As we watched him officiate, we wondered what sort of man he is and decided to ask him. This is a summary of the interview he gave Dominique Bourne a few hours before his departure from Geneva.

Les Barclay, who is now 60, was a young boy during the war years which, in his own words, "...were an interesting time". After finishing school in Essex, he went on to be an apprentice in radiocommunication engineering. He obtained his qualifications and while working for E K Cole Ltd., a record-player manufacturer, he followed night classes to complete his education and obtain a degree in the same field. In December 1956, he sailed to Halley Bay in the Antarctica where he spent two years as a member of the Ionospheric Group of the Royal Society Antarctica Expedition. This, he said, "...helps you cope with any situation. You have to learn to cook, to sew, to do everything for yourself..." and he would recommend this sort of experience to anyone. This is also where he got involved with radio propagation which is his main field of interest now. After processing the results of this expedition, he joined the Research Division of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co. in Chelmsford. In the 70s, he started working for the Directorate of Radio Technology, now the Radiocom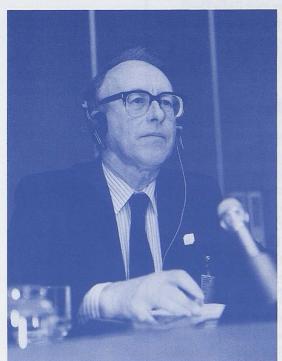munications Agency, and has been there ever since. It was also in the 70s that he started coming to CCIR meetings, slowly climbing up the ladder, from participant, to Working Group Chairman, Study Group Chairman and finally Chairman of the first Radio-communication Assembly. He recently became a visiting professor at Lancaster University.

Mr Barclay has many interests besides his work and only regrets that his frequent professional travels do not leave him enough time to do everything. He enjoys mountain walking and photography. He is also a radio-amateur and a very keen Morris dancer. He is married and has four children who are all grown up and away from home.

Mr Barclay was obviously born to be a leader: he has chaired many committees, not only within ITU, but also in the United Kingdom, whether for the local parish or school, or for the UK CCIR National Committee.

A discreet man with a nice smile who knows what he wants, he has chaired Study Group 6 for over 14 years. Acknowledging the reasons for the decision taken at RA-93 to limit the Chairman's mandate to eight years maximum, his period in office has enabled him to know the participants and acquire an in-depth knowledge of the radio propagation problems.

As to the new structure of the ITU and more specifically the Radiocommunication Sector, Mr Barclay thinks that there is still a lot to be done and emphasizes the gap which exists between the decisions taken in such

a large forum as the Radiocommunication Assembly and their implementation within administrations. The latter very often lack the resources to implement these decisions which at times remain *lettre morte*. Technology is progressing so fast and resources are so scarce that this gap seems inevitable. He also stresses that with the welcome creation of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group, care should be taken to maintain a close coordination with the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group, so as to ensure that future work is undertaken in the most effective way.

Mr Barclay has known ITU and BR staff for a very long time and he has the kindest words for them: "...when I need something, I only have to ask and they are all there to help! A conference can only run smoothly with such help". When we asked him whether he felt any apprehension at assuming the chair of the Assembly, he just smiled and said: "...Not at all". The Assembly was just another two weeks in the life of Les Barclay.

**Season's Greetings from
the International Telecommunication Union
with one of the winning entries from the
"Youth in the Electronic Age 91" competition
(see overleaf)**