

Mario Maniewicz

Uruguay

Re-elected Director of the
ITU Radiocommunication Bureau



The most important thing for our relevance is to keep our expertise. ”



Mario Maniewicz received 174 votes, with 181 Member States present and voting and with a required majority of 88.

Mario Maniewicz continues spearheading radiocommunications

"Connectivity today means also getting people into the digital economy, and getting societies integrated through communications applications," explains Mario Maniewicz, Director of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau, during a video interview after his re-election at the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22) in Bucharest.

ITU, through its [Radiocommunication Sector](#) (ITU-R) and associated Radiocommunication Bureau (BR), is the global agency responsible for management of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbit resources.

As BR Director for another four-year term, Maniewicz will continue to spearhead work in stewarding the Radio Regulations, the internationally agreed treaty on the use of radio spectrum and satellite orbits. "My first priority is to make sure the World Radiocommunication Conference to be held next year is successful," says Maniewicz.

ITU's work in radiocommunications contributes not only to building resilient infrastructure but to almost all the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations for 2030.



For more insights, watch the full [video](#) interview.



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ITU-R helps in numerous ways to create a better world for everyone, from bringing connectivity to rural areas, advancing agricultural services, and promoting Internet-of-Things applications that enhance education, health and government services, to disaster mitigation and climate monitoring through Earth observation.

“Everything today runs through ICT networks, and more and more wirelessly,” says Maniewicz, noting the use of radio waves, satellites and radiocommunication devices around the world.

“A priority since I was first elected in 2018 is that everybody takes part in our activities and everybody feels ownership about what we develop all together,” he replied, when asked how to ensure ITU-R stays effective and relevant to countries and radio services worldwide. International cooperation to advance information and communication technologies (ICTs) and boosting connectivity are simultaneously important aims.

Developing countries “are more and more integrated into our work,” Maniewicz added, noting growth in their participation in ITU-R. Further strengthening this upward trend will be a priority for him during his second term as Director, he says.

He has gained valuable insights from the last four years, with his experience in his first term shaping his view of radiocommunication technologies around the globe.

The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a shift to online platforms for negotiation and international cooperation processes. Despite constraints, radiocommunication communities have endured and progressed well in their preparatory discussions for the next [World Radiocommunication Conference \(WRC-23\)](#), says Maniewicz.

WRC-23 will take place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, between 20 November and 15 December 2023.

The Radio Regulations treaty – maintained by ITU and continually updated through the quadrennial ITU-R conference – is vital to avoid harmful interference in all sorts of radiocommunications. The only way it works is if everyone lives by it. The essential treaty, Maniewicz points out, “is 116 years old – and has never been abandoned”.



Career path | Mario Maniewicz

Mario Maniewicz was elected at the last ITU Plenipotentiary in 2018 to the position of Director of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau and has nearly completed his first four-year term in that position.

Maniewicz served from 2014 to 2018 as Deputy Director of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau (BR), where he supported the Director and the membership in the vital function of global management of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits.

Previously, he held a variety of management positions at the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) as well as in ITU Regional Offices, where he worked closely with governments, regulators and operators to develop strategic policies and regulations to enable the modernization of the telecommunication sector in Latin American countries.

Prior to joining ITU, Maniewicz worked for Uruguay's main telecommunications operator and as an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Engineering of Uruguay's leading university.