

Domestic and Regional Preparations for WRC-23

Brian M. Patten & Eric Lee
NTIA International Spectrum Policy Division
June 29, 2022

World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs)

- WRCs are a UN-level, world agreement forum through an international treaty
- Operating as a part of the ITU-R, WRCs periodically review and revise the Radio Regulations, meeting every 3 to 4 years
- WRCs operate by the principal of consensus, but there is voting on occasion
- WRCs set the world stage for future technological development
- In recent years there is an increasing emphasis of regional positions and proposals



WRC-15 Opening, November 2, 2015





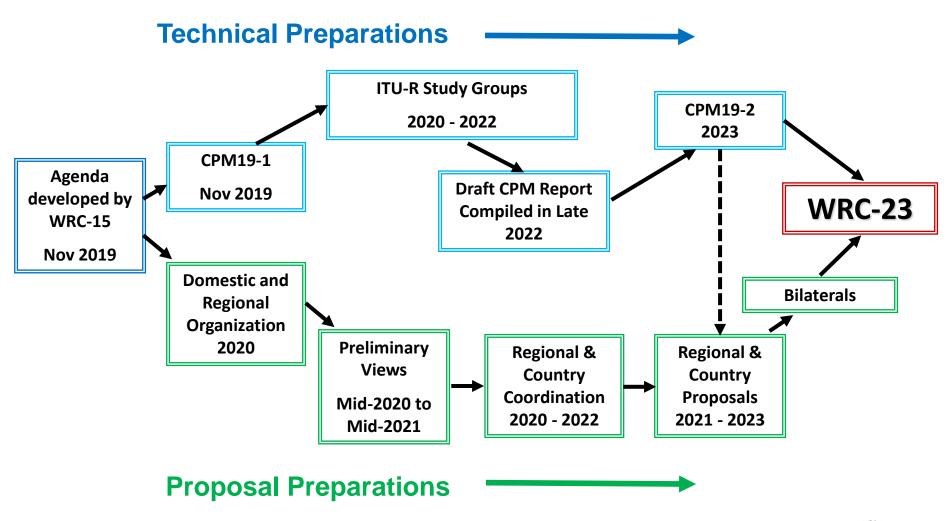
WRC-23 Agenda Items

WRC-23 will be considering 25 agenda items – but a lot of these break out into multiple issues/topics, so there are approximately 40 issues/topics to be addressed. These include items like,

- Mobile Broadband / International Mobile Telecommunications Issues
- High Altitude Platform Systems as IMT Base Stations in the Mobile Service
- Science Issues EESS 45 MHz radar sounder, Space Weather Sensors
- Aeronautical, Maritime, Radiolocation Issues Global Maritime Distress
 Safety Systems (GMDSS) modernization, Modernization of Aeronautical HF
- Satellite ESIMs (GSO and Non-GSO), new FSS links in Region 2
- Satellite Regulatory Issues (Agenda Item 7 topics)



International Preparatory Process





U.S. Domestic Preparatory Process

In the United States, we have two regulators for spectrum

NTIA – Represents Federal Government Agencies

- The RCS of the IRAC develops federal preliminary views and proposals
- NTIA forwards views and proposals to the FCC

FCC – Represents the Private Sector and General Public

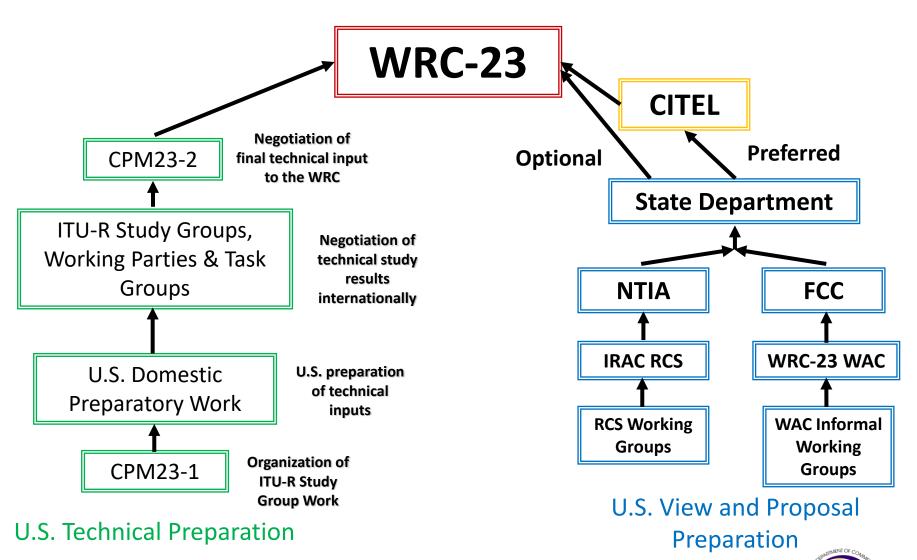
- The FCC's WAC develops private sector preliminary views and proposals
- The WAC forwards views and proposals to the FCC
- The FCC Bureaus analyze & modify proposals and forwards them to NTIA

NTIA & FCC coordinate, modify, and approve views and proposals

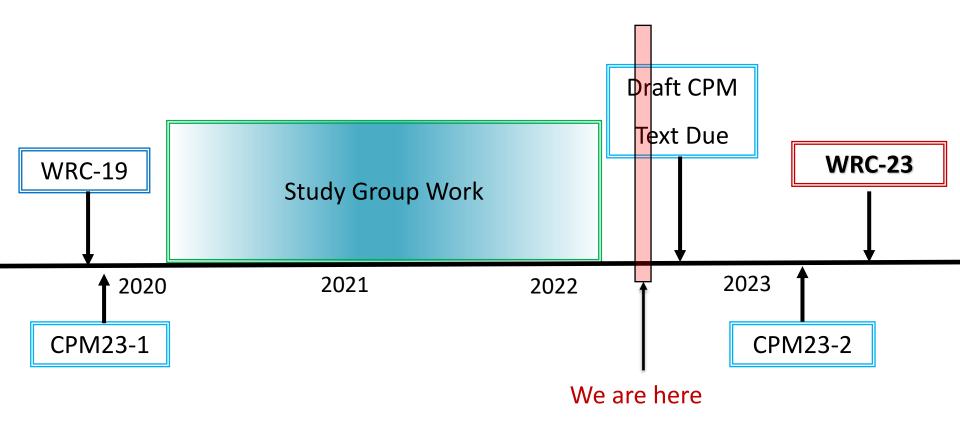
The State Department submits U.S. views and proposals to CITEL or the ITU



U.S. Domestic Preparatory Process



The Big Picture



Much of the work that is done to prepare for a WRC is done in a period called a **study cycle**. This figure shows the primary milestones.



Regional Preparations for WRC-23













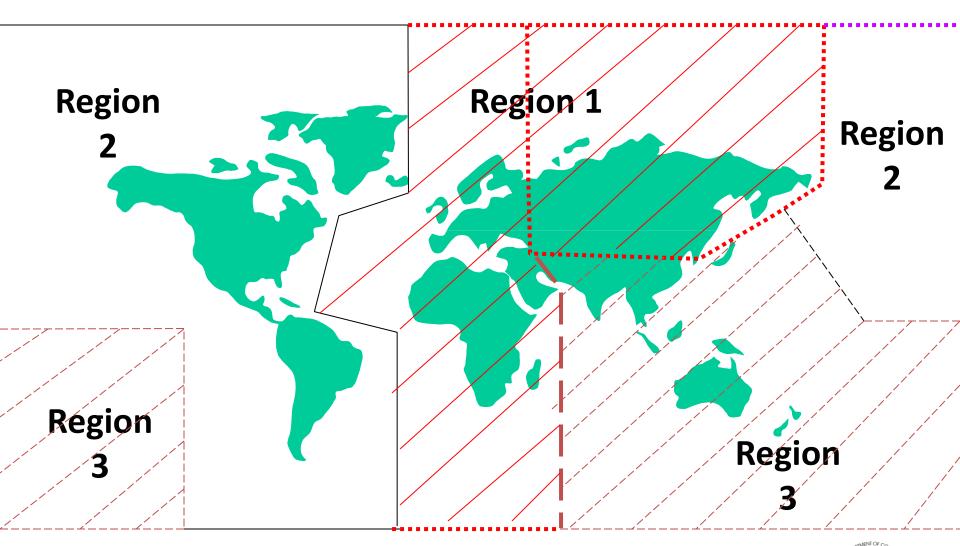
In recent WRCs, the participation of member states as part of *Regional Groups* (groups of countries associated by geography as well as politics) has been an important part of reaching consensus on the issues before each conference.

- Regional Groups prepare views and proposals on WRC agenda items and submit proposals to the WRC on behalf of their regional group.
- Each Regional Group has its own set of rules and procedures for producing regional proposals to the WRC.

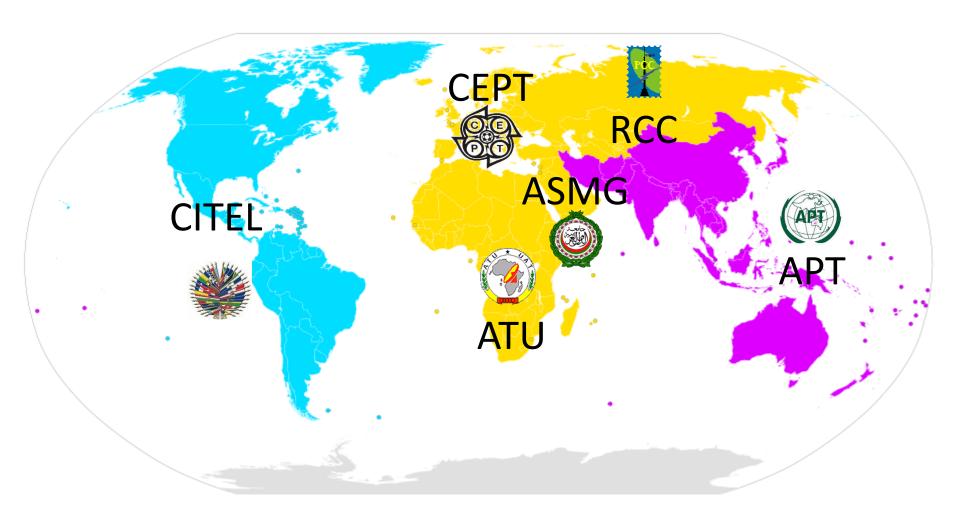
Examples of Regional Group preparations can be seen at, http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/conferences/wrc/2019/Pages/reg-prep.aspx



ITU Regions



Regional Organizations





Regional Telecommunication Organizations

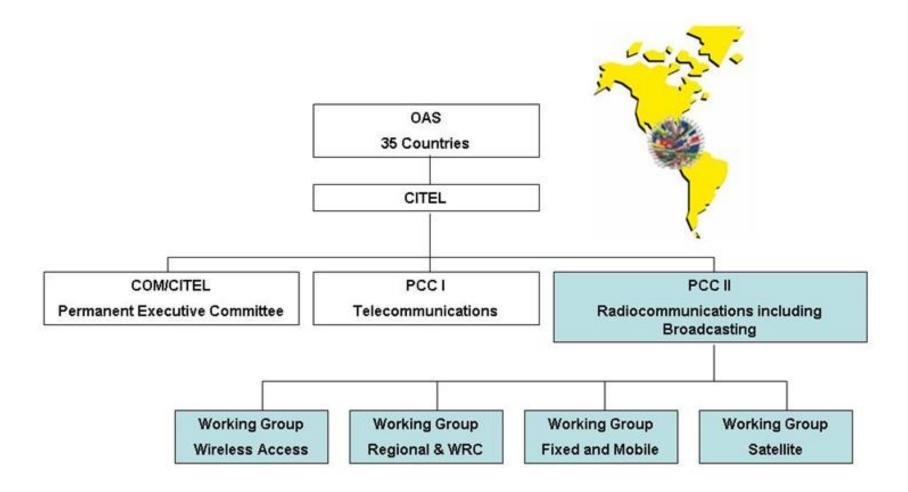
Almost all of the countries in the world belong to one of these six main regional groups.

- CITEL Inter-American Telecommunication Commission, 35 members
- CEPT European Conference of Postal and Telecommunication Administrations, 48 members
- APT Asia Pacific Telecommunity, 38 members
- ASMG Arab Spectrum Management Group, 22 members
- **ATU** African Telecommunications Union, 48 members
- RCC Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications, 11 members

There are also other political alliances, such as NATO and GCC, which have spectrum interests, and sub-regional groups such as CTU, SADC, ECOWAS, and EACO which work on spectrum interests based on geography

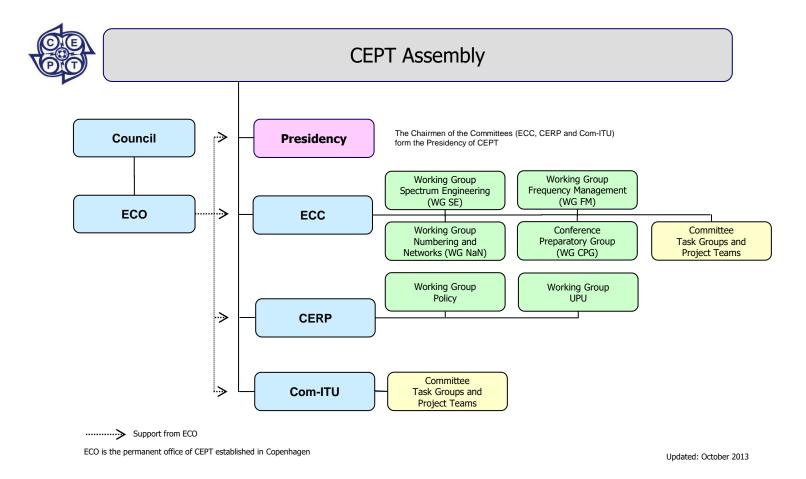


Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)





European Conference Of Postal And Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT)



Participate!

We encourage getting involved in the WRC preparatory process

- Participation in technical ITU-R Study Group work
- National & Regional Preparation of CPM Proposals
- National & Regional Preparation of WRC Proposals

Keep up to date on U.S. WRC-23 preparations

- www.ntia.doc.gov (click on Spectrum Management -> International)
 The NTIA web site also keeps track of the progress of CITEL proposals
- www.fcc.gov/ib/

The preparations for WRC-23 are well underway!



Questions?

