ITU-APT Foundation of India
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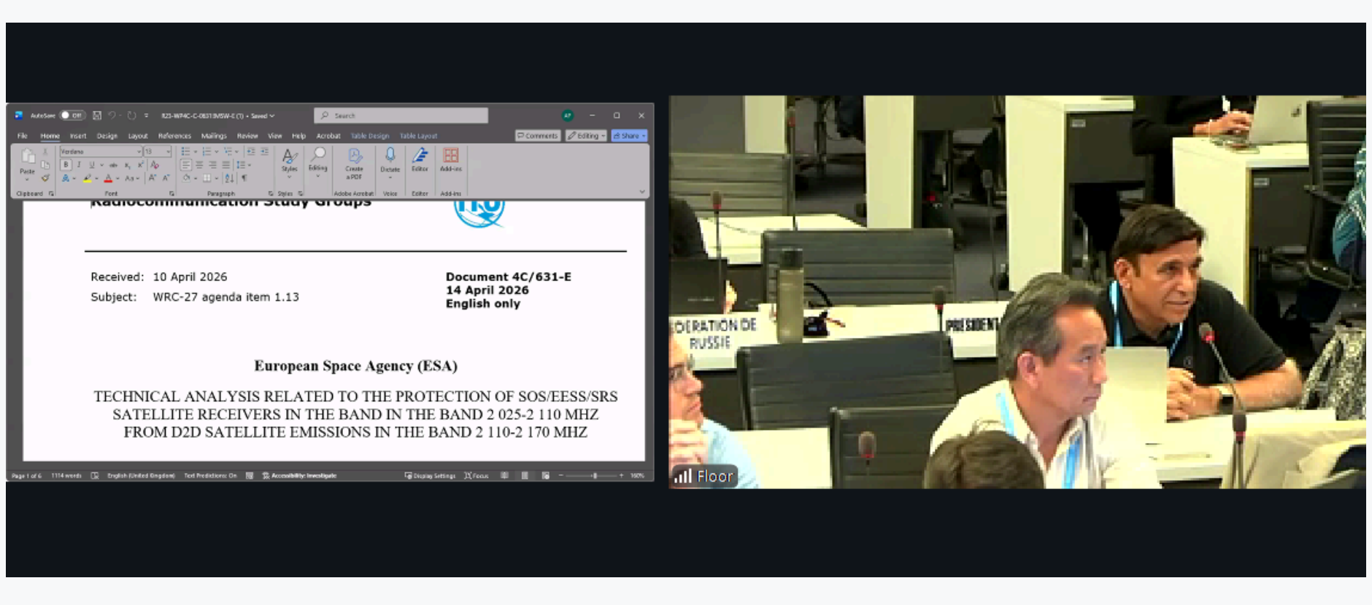
IAFI News

WP-4C Meeting concluded – 01-05-2026


Radiocommunication Study Groups

Received: 10 April 2026
Subject: WRC-27 agenda item 1.13

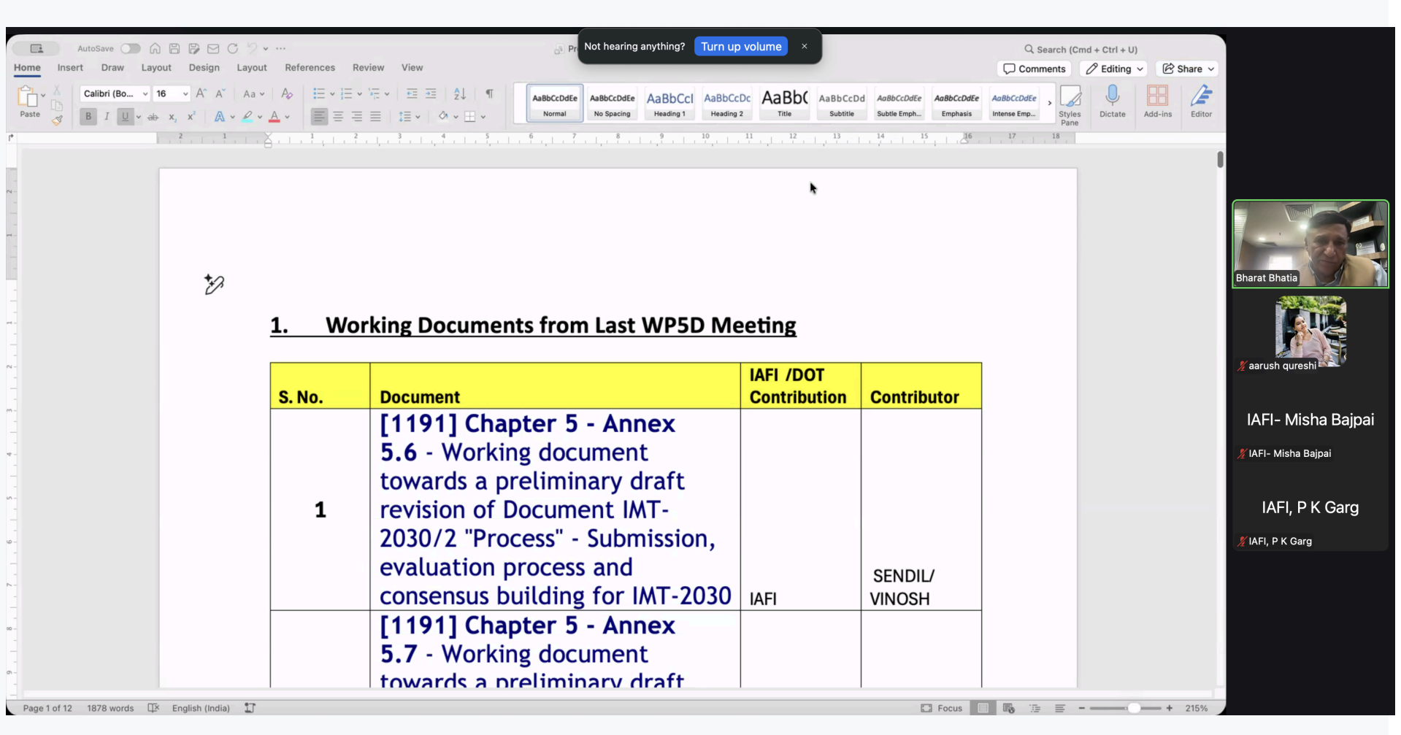
Document 4C/631-E
14 April 2026
English only

European Space Agency (ESA)

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS RELATED TO THE PROTECTION OF SOS/EESS/SRS SATELLITE RECEIVERS IN THE BAND IN THE BAND 2 025-2 110 MHZ FROM D2D SATELLITE EMISSIONS IN THE BAND 2 110-2 170 MHZ

The 35th meeting of Working Party 4C (WP 4C), under Study Group 4 (SG 4) of the ITU-R, took place from 22 April to 01 May 2026, in Geneva, Switzerland, in a hybrid format. WP 4C is responsible for "Efficient orbit/spectrum utilization for the mobile-satellite service (MSS) and the radio-determination-satellite-service (RDSS)." Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI attended the meeting physically, while several IAFI members participated in the meeting virtually. Two major issues (1) Sharing and Compatibility studies, to explore Direct Connectivity between Mobile-Satellite Services (MSS) and standard terrestrial IMT devices and (2) Drafting CPM Text for the WRC-27 Agenda Item-1.13, drew maximum attention of the members. WP 4C consists of two working groups: WG 4C1 and WG 4C2. Out of total of 215 contributions, documents pertains to various Agenda Items; AI 1.11-19, AI 1.12 -28, AI 1.13 -104, AI 1.14-24 and AI 1.15-1. Maximum attention was drawn by the Sharing and compatibility studies regarding DC-MSS-IMT and incumbent services in the frequency band 694/698 - 2690 MHz.
IAFI submitted a contribution to the Agenda Item-1.13 titled, “Updates to the Working Document draft CPM Text regarding Agenda Item 1.13” regarding allocation of frequency bands for DC-MSS-IMT in the 694 MHz to 2.69 GHz range. The document proposes draft preliminary text for the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) for Agenda Item-1.13 for upcoming WRC-27. The next WP- 4C meeting will be held from 07 Oct to 16 Oct, 2026 at Geneva, Switzerland.

IAFI Radio Group Meeting for WP-5D -29-04-2026


1. Working Documents from Last WP5D Meeting

S. No.	Document	IAFI /DOT Contribution	Contributor
1	[1191] Chapter 5 - Annex 5.6 - Working document towards a preliminary draft revision of Document IMT-2030/2 "Process" - Submission, evaluation process and consensus building for IMT-2030	IAFI	SENDIL/ VINOSH
	[1191] Chapter 5 - Annex 5.7 - Working document towards a preliminary draft		

The IAFI Radio Group meeting was held on April 29, 2026, to review and finalize contributions for the upcoming 52nd ITU-R WP-5D meeting, scheduled for May 25 to June 5, 2026, in Geneva, Switzerland. With strong remote participation from IAFI members, the group discussed seven key documents in detail, including a specific contribution regarding FWA-BB from HFCL. The seven contributions under review included (a) A joint proposal by IAFI and WWRF to organize a Workshop on IMT-2030 (6G) during the 54th WP-5D meeting in February 2027 (b) Updates to ITU-R M.2528 regarding Multimedia (c) Revisions to ITU-R M.2480 on National Approaches (d) Updates to ITU-R M.2527 regarding IMT use-cases (e) Inputs for WRC-27 Agenda Item 1.13 concerning Direct Connectivity (DC-MSS-IMT) (f) Developments in Air-to-Ground communications and (g) Further updates to the FWA-BB document. Following the discussions, members suggested additional refinements to several drafts. These updated documents will be presented at the next group meeting, anticipated next week, ensuring all final contributions are ready well ahead of the WP-5D submission deadline on May 15, 2026.

TRAI Releases Consultation Paper on “Proliferation of Public Wi-Fi Networks in India

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued a Consultation Paper on 27 April, 2026 regarding the "Proliferation of Public Wi-Fi Networks in India" to review current regulatory frameworks and accelerate nationwide infrastructure growth. TRAI is seeking stakeholder feedback, with initial comments due by May 25, 2026, and counter-comments by June 8, 2026. The paper evaluates India's current Wi-Fi deployment and demand against global best practices. To overcome existing barriers, the consultation explores the collaborative roles of government bodies, internet service providers, and private entities in establishing viable public Wi-Fi models across rural, urban, and high-footfall areas. Furthermore, it comprehensively addresses technical and commercial frameworks, including authorization, seamless roaming allowing users to remain connected across different Wi-Fi providers without repetitive logins,, billing systems, and sustainable revenue models vital for the ecosystem's long-term success. TRAI notes that per-GB data costs on Wi-Fi are significantly lower than mobile broadband, making it a vital tool for digital inclusion among price- sensitive users.

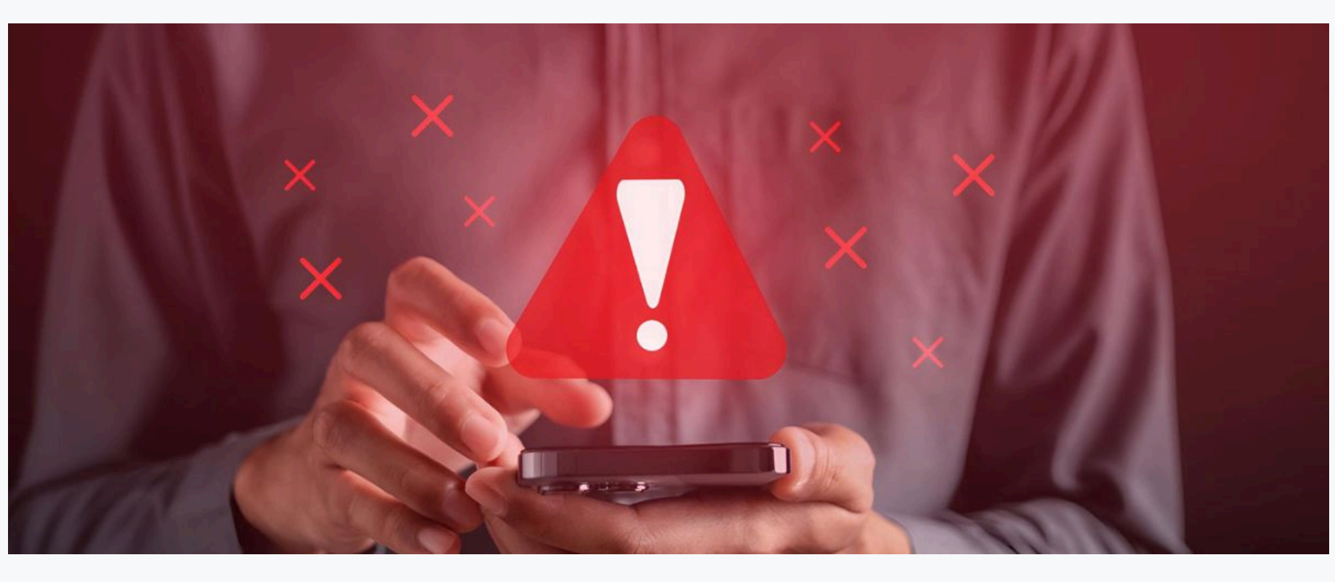
ITU Webinar regarding AI-Driven African Cities and Communities

IAFI participated in a webinar organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) on 27 April 2026, focused on AI-Driven African Cities and Communities. The event commenced with opening remarks from Mr. John Omo (Secretary-General, ATU) and Mr. Seizo Onoe (Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, ITU). The session explored how AI-driven Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) can create more efficient, inclusive, and resilient communities, as Africa’s cities move beyond AI experimentation toward coordinated, scalable, and responsible implementation. Discussions centered on transitioning from data collection to active decision-making, with speakers emphasizing four key areas: building AI-ready infrastructure that delivers tangible benefits to citizens; ensuring interoperability to prevent vendor lock-in through open approaches; utilizing standardization to translate technical standards into trusted, scalable solutions; and showcasing practical, real-world applications from African cities and governments.

TEC and IAFI submitted a contribution to SG-20 of ITU-T

TEC (DoT), in association with IAFI, submitted a contribution (C-593) proposing the creation of a new work item - ITU-T Y.HybIoT-Agri, "Requirements for hybrid IoT network systems for digital agriculture in remote areas" in Study Group 20 (SG-20) of the ITU-T. Agriculture remains a critical sector for global food security, rural livelihoods, and economic development, particularly in developing countries. Increasing climate variability, water scarcity, and the need for higher productivity are accelerating the adoption of digital technologies in agriculture. The emergence of the IoT has enabled precision agriculture through the real-time monitoring of soil, crops, livestock, and environmental conditions.
Digital agriculture relies heavily on data acquisition from deployed sensor networks to drive crop growth monitoring, livestock tracking, and smart pest management. However, a significant standardization gap exists regarding agricultural deployments in remote, rural, and un-served or underserved areas, where terrestrial telecommunication infrastructure is often absent, unreliable, or economically unviable. The SG-20 meeting will take place from 12 May to 21 May 2026, in Geneva, Switzerland, in a hybrid format.

DoT commences Nation-wide trial of Mobile-Based Disaster Alert Systems



In an effort to ensure the timely dissemination of critical information during emergencies, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) are enhancing India's disaster communication capabilities by introducing Cell Broadcast (CB) technology alongside the existing SMS-based system. Built on the ITU-recommended Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), the current system already delivers geo-targeted SMS alerts across all 36 States and Union Territories; however, Cell Broadcast technology significantly improves upon this by simultaneously transmitting alerts to all mobile devices within a specific geographic area for near real-time delivery. As the government conducts nationwide trials of this upgraded system, officials advise citizens to simply ignore the test messages they may receive on their devices. First trial will take place on 02 May 2026.

TRAI Consultation Paper

Consultation Paper	Submission Dates	Status
Consultation Paper on the Regulatory Framework for Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) Communication	28th May 2026	Under Development
Proliferation of Public Wi-Fi Networks in India	25th May 2026	Under Development
Consultation Paper on the Framework for Satellite Communication Network Authorisation, and Assignment of Spectrum to Satellite Communication Network Providers	06th May 2026	Under Development

Important Meeting that IAFI will attend

Meeting	Dates	Submission Dates
ITU-R: WP 4B – Systems, air interfaces, performance and availability objectives for FSS, BSS and MSS	29th April - 05th May 2026	17th April 2026
ITU-R: WP 4A – Efficient Orbit/Spectrum Utilization for FSS and BSS	04th - 14th May 2026	22nd April 2026
ITU-R: SG 4 – Satellite Services	15th May 2026	03rd May 2026
ITU-R: WP 5A – Land mobile service above 30 MHz; amateur and satellite services	18th - 26th May 2026	06th May 2026
ITU-R: WP 5C – Fixed wireless systems; HF and other systems below 30 MHz	18th - 29th May 2026	06th May 2026
ITU-R: WP 5B – Maritime mobile service including GMDSS; aeronautical mobile service	19th - 28th May 2026	07th May 2026
ITU-R: WP 5D – IMT Systems	27th May - 05th June 2026	15th May 2026
APT: The 3rd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-27 (APG27-3)	27th - 31st July 2026	20th July 2026

Telecom Stories:

Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw has laid out three clear expectations from the global artificial intelligence ecosystem as India accelerates its push to become an AI hub. Speaking at a recent industry interaction with top technology companies, including Google, the minister framed his “three asks” as crucial conditions for building a resilient, sustainable and locally anchored AI infrastructure in the country.
Vaishnaw’s first call to industry is to manufacture AI servers and related hardware in India instead of relying heavily on imports, arguing that domestic production of the compute backbone is essential if India is to capture more value from the ongoing wave of AI investment. He said that as global technology firms expand data centres and AI capacity in India, they should also integrate Indian manufacturing into their supply chains so that jobs, technology transfer and ecosystem growth happen locally, not just at the level of service consumption.

The Department of Telecommunications has dismantled 44 illegal telecom centres across the country over the past two years as part of a coordinated action against cyber fraud and “digital arrest” networks. The facilities were allegedly involved in SIM box operations and illegal call routing systems used by cybercriminals for fraudulent calls, digital scams and impersonation-based offences.

Illegal telecom infrastructure used for fraudulent calls

The information was disclosed in a Ministry of Home Affairs report submitted before the Supreme Court. According to the report, the action was carried out between April 2024 and October 2025 in coordination with local law enforcement agencies across multiple states.
The DoT stated that the illegal telecom centres were spread across different regions and were being misused to route international and spoofed calls. These systems allegedly concealed caller identities, making it difficult for enforcement agencies to trace the origin of fraudulent communications.

The decision to allow overseas companies with Chinese shareholding of up to 10 per cent to invest in India under the automatic route will be notified soon under FEMA, a senior government official said.
After that, the changes will come into effect.
In March, the Union Cabinet approved amendments in the press note (PN) 3 of 2020 of the DPIIT. As per the press note, foreign companies having a Chinese/Hong Kong shareholding of up to 10 per cent will be eligible to invest in India in sectors where FDI is permitted under the automatic route.
However, these relaxed FDI rules will not apply to entities registered in China or Hong Kong or other countries sharing land borders with India.

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