

The new Radio Regulations Board holds its first meeting



From left to right (seated): George Hugh Railton (New Zealand), Mian Muhammad Javed (Pakistan), John Ray Kwabena Tandoh (Ghana), Ravindra N. Agarwal (India), Jean-Baptiste Kouakou Yao (Côte d'Ivoire), Carlos Alejandro Merchán Escalante (Mexico), Valery V. Timofeev (Russia) and (standing): Bob Jones (Director of the Radio-communication Bureau), Ryszard G. Struzak (Poland), Ahmed Toumi (Morocco), Pierre Abouardham (France), Gabor Kovacs (Hungary) and James R. Carroll (United States) Photo: A. de Ferron (ITU 990013)

The new Radio Regulations Board (RRB), elected by the Minneapolis Plenipotentiary Conference last autumn (12 October-6 November 1998), held its first meeting in Geneva from 1 to 5 March 1999. The Radiocommunication Sector works, amongst others, through this Board. Its duties include the approval of Rules of Procedure and providing guidance to the Director and the Radiocommunication Bureau in the application of the provisions of the Radio Regulations to register frequency assignments and orbital characteristics of satellite networks.

The Minneapolis Conference changed the composition of RRB, increasing the number of its members from nine to twelve (see *ITU News*, No. 10/98, page 15). Amendments to the Union's Constitution and Convention reflecting this change entered into force provisionally on 1 February 1999. The twelve members also took up their duties on this date. All of these members are thoroughly qualified in the field of radiocommunications and have long practical experience in the assignment and use of frequencies. They are familiar with the geographic, economic and demographic conditions within the particular area of the world they come from, which they, however, do not represent. They perform their duties for the Union independently and on a part-time basis, and receive no instructions in the exercise of their duties.

This meeting was the fifteenth in the series of meetings which the part-time RRB has held since 1995. The Board has elected Jean-Baptiste Kouakou Yao (Côte d'Ivoire) as its Chairperson and Ravindra N. Agarwal (India) as its Vice-Chairperson for 1999. In particular, the Board noted the Director's report, reviewed its internal working methods with a view to increasing transparency, considered proposals on Rules of Procedure and two cases of dispute. It will hold its next meeting in Geneva from 24 to 28 May 1999.

For further details, please visit the Web site at <http://web.itu.ch/bredh/rrb/index.html>.