

**STATEMENT OF  
CHAIRMAN TOM WHEELER**

Re: *Presentation on the outcomes of the International Telecommunication Union's World Radio Conference that took place in November 2015*

Thank you, Mindel, for that presentation. More important, thanks to you and the entire FCC team for your advocacy on behalf of our agency and our nation at WRC-15. I attended WRC for just a few days and found the non-stop schedule to be grueling. The Commission's nine-member team was in Geneva for four weeks working round-the-clock. To those of you who spent a month away from your home and families representing the Commission -- Alex Roytblat, Dante Ibarra, Mike Mullinix, Larry Olson, Sankar Persaud, Chip Fleming, Carlos Flores, Allen Yang, and, of course, Mindel -- thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Special thanks to Commissioner O'Rielly, who had his own marathon of meetings in support of the U.S. delegation, for his very effective advocacy.

And I believe the entire U.S. delegation would join me in acknowledging the superb leadership of the U.S. Ambassador to the Conference, Decker Anstrom.

The World Radiocommunication Conference is kind of like the Olympics of wireless public policy: a quadrennial international gathering of elite talent, which requires years of preparation from participants seeking to make the most of this rare opportunity. As with any Olympics, the U.S. enjoyed victories worth celebrating. We also endured some disappointments that have left us determined to work even harder moving forward to achieve our goals.

Leading the most notable advancements, the United States and others in our region identified 619 MHz of additional spectrum for International Mobile Telecommunications, far more than any other region. I know some would have preferred to see more global allocations for IMT, especially in the UHF band. But I believe other regions will take a much closer look at these bands when they see the progress we will make in our region over the next few years.

The same will be true for efforts to identify spectrum for 5G. It would have been far better if the Conference had agreed to study the 28 GHz band among the bands they agreed to consider for 5G, but the U.S. and other leaders in the 5G arena will go forward with our own studies. And I am fully confident that, as we and others move forward with 28 GHz, an international consensus will develop.

This important work will continue over the next few years. In fact, the delegates to the WRC set the agenda for the next WRC before even leaving Geneva. We at the FCC are already preparing for the next WRC in 2019, while at the same time making good on the WRC-15 outcomes.

Once again, thank you to Mindel and your team for the incredible years-long effort to prepare for this WRC. I don't know how you have the patience to do what you do, but I'm glad you do.