



Press Release

**24 September 2014**

## **SIXTH TRIPARTITE MEETING AMONG INTERGOVERNMENTAL SATELLITE ORGANIZATIONS**

The Sixth Tripartite Meeting of the Heads of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO), the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) and the European Telecommunications Satellite Organization (EUTELSAT IGO), took place on 23 and 24 September 2014 in Washington D.C., USA. Hosted by Mr. José Toscano, Director General of ITSO, the meeting was attended by Mr. Christian Roisse, Executive Secretary of Eutelsat IGO and Captain Esteban Pacha-Vicente, Director General of IMSO. ITSO Director of Technical Affairs, Mr. Patrick Masambu, and ITSO Director of Legal Affairs, Ms. Renata Brazil David, also participated in the meeting.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the three organizations in 2009, in which it was agreed, *inter alia*, that they would explore areas where the three satellite organizations could usefully co-operate and contribute to the development of the satellite industry. Since then, Tripartite Meetings have taken place annually and been hosted by each organization in turn to discuss issues of common interest, relating to the respective companies the three Organizations oversee: Intelsat S.A. (overseen by ITSO), Eutelsat S.A.(overseen by EUTELSAT IGO), and Inmarsat Ltd. (overseen by IMSO).

During the Sixth Tripartite Meeting, the Heads of the three organizations reviewed the developments related to their organizations since their last meeting in June 2013. Upon the invitation of ITSO's Director General, Intelsat joined the meeting and a presentation was made by Mr. Gonzalo de Dios, Associate General Counsel of Intelsat, on Intelsat's activities and future plans. Mr. de Dios recognized the improved cooperative relationship between ITSO and Intelsat, and highlighted the role that Intelsat plays in the fundamental public service provided by the Intelsat satellite constellation, and the fulfillment of the Core Principles established in the ITSO Agreement. During the session "Discussion on Next Steps" the Heads of the three organizations held an exchange of views on matters of common interest and/or concerns, taking into account recent developments since their last meeting.

Discussions were also held in relation to their role in the activities of the UN Broadband Commission for Digital Development, in which they actively promote satellite solutions as a means to bridging the digital divide through the speedy provision of cost-effective satellite broadband to all areas of the world including those not traditionally covered by existing services. They also reviewed and coordinated their organizations participations in the activities of the UN, ITU and the EU with the objective of reducing cost and increasing efficiency. Consideration was also given to the implementation of the Capacity Building Initiative, to the proposal of a regulatory regime applicable to satellites, and to the necessity to raising awareness about satellite technology as a tool to implement a worldwide broadband infrastructure.

The Heads of the three Organizations agreed to continue to meet on an annual basis, and, under the terms of the MoU, to explore areas where the three Organizations could usefully cooperate.

### **About ITSO**

The International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO), formerly abbreviated and referred to as INTELSAT, is the continuation of the intergovernmental organization established by treaty in 1973. The Organization underwent an important restructuring in 2001 in order to secure the long-term viability of its communications system in a market that is characterized by increasing competition, fast-paced innovations and rising capital costs, and in order to attract private investments. On 18 July 2001 the satellite fleet, customer contracts and other operational assets previously held by INTELSAT were transferred to a new private company Intelsat, initially registered in Bermuda but now registered in Luxembourg. At that time, the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization changed its acronym from INTELSAT to ITSO. Since the restructuring in 2001, ITSO has been tasked with the mission to ensure that Intelsat, S.A. continues to provide public telecommunications services, including voice, data and video, on a global and non-discriminatory basis. Headquartered in Washington D.C., ITSO currently has 149 member countries. For more information, visit [www.itso.int](http://www.itso.int).

### **About EUTELSAT IGO**

EUTELSAT IGO (The European Telecommunications Satellites Organization) is an Intergovernmental Organization established by an International Treaty. After a period (1985-2001) during which the Organization had operational activities in outer space to the level where it became one of the leading world satellite operators, the organization was transformed and its operational activities, assets and related liabilities were transferred to the company Eutelsat S.A., operating under French law. Since 2001, EUTELSAT IGO, based in Paris, France and comprising 49 Member States, has a twofold role in maintaining the rights to use radiofrequencies and orbital locations which were assigned collectively to the Member States by the ITU before restructuring and

monitors the operations of the company Eutelsat S.A., in particular to ensure that the Basic Principles defined in the Treaty are observed.  
For more information, visit [www.eutelsatigo.int](http://www.eutelsatigo.int).

## **About IMSO**

IMSO (The International Mobile Satellite Organization) is the intergovernmental organization which oversees certain public satellite safety and security communication services provided via the Inmarsat satellites and also co-ordinates the System for the Long Range Identification and Tracking of ships (LRIT). IMSO is established under the provisions of the Convention on the International Mobile Satellite Organization which also defines the public services, such as satellite services for the Global Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS), which is subject to international oversight. Headquartered in London, UK, IMSO currently has 98 Member States.  
For more information, visit [www.imso.org](http://www.imso.org).



Captain Esteban Pacha, IMSO Director General, Mr. José Toscano, ITSO Director General, and Mr. Christian Roisse, EUTELSAT IGO Executive Secretary.