



IMSO NEWS 038

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The IMSO Director General, Captain Esteban Pacha-Vicente, today announced that he has been invited to become a founding Commissioner of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development.

The Broadband Commission has been established by the Secretary-General of the ITU and the Director General of UNESCO, with the full backing of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The aim of the Commission is to provide policy guidance to extending the availability of broadband worldwide, in the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The Broadband Commission comprises an eminent group of global leaders from government, business, civil society and international organizations within the aim of accelerating attainment of the MDGs by 2015 through the introduction and development of universal and ubiquitous broadband access that will support innovation and deliver a multiplicity of essential services. The Director General will attend the first meeting of the Broadband Commission, as a founder Commissioner, and the Commission will deliver its final report on 19 September 2010 to the UN Secretary-General and Member States in time for the MDG review summit that will take place in New York prior to the UN General Assembly on 2011.

Captain Pacha stated that he is delighted to accept this honour and that IMSO is fully committed to the goals of the Commission to extend broadband worldwide. Mobile satellite communications, on land, sea and air, are fundamental to the goals of the Broadband Commission, in particular providing universal broadband services which ensure transport safety and security and interoperability in rural and remote areas and in times of natural disasters,

IMSO was established under the following principles:

- Resolution 1721 (XVI) of the General Assembly of the United Nations which states that “*communication by means of satellites should be available to the nations of the world as soon as practicable on a global and non-discriminatory basis*”; and
- provision for the benefit of telecommunications users of all nations through the most advanced suitable space technology available, for the most efficient and economic facilities possible consistent with the most efficient and equitable use of the radio frequency spectrum and of satellite orbits.

The IMSO Convention provides that IMSO: “*through existing international and national mechanisms dealing with technical assistance, should seek to assist Providers in their effort to ensure that all areas, where there is a need, are provided with mobile satellite communications services, giving due consideration to the rural and remote areas.*”