United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 29, 2026

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio:

We write to encourage the Department of State move to designate a U.S. head of delegation for the 2027 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-27). At WRC-27 the United States and 193 other Member States will negotiate the terms for a treaty agreement governing radio spectrum, including the bands that will carry next-generation 5G and 6G networks, and satellite communications.

WRC-27 will convene in Shanghai in October and November 2027. As host, the People's Republic of China (PRC) will enjoy a homefield advantage as it attempts to sway spectrum and technology standards a direction that supports the interests of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and its subservient companies such as Huawei. A strong U.S. delegation, coordinating its position well in advance alongside likeminded allies and partners, is the best defense against the CCP's authoritarian agenda.

Designating a delegation lead would also help the United States avoid a repeat of WRC-23, when the then-head of the U.S delegation had to be replaced on short notice mid-preparation. That late handoff, according to public accounts by former members of the U.S. delegation, cost the U.S. critical time to build the relationships and regional coalitions needed to negotiate effectively. We cannot afford to enter WRC-27 under similar conditions.

The stakes are especially urgent given looming decisions and standards surrounding 6G. Its technical standards are still being written, and if Huawei-aligned proposals have an opportunity to shape them first, the U.S. and its allies risk being disadvantaged in a technology that will underpin global communications for a decade or more. It is also critical for U.S. leadership in satellite technology where rapid development of non-geostationary orbit constellations has dramatically changed the environment for international coordination.

We recognize the progress the Administration has made on the substance of U.S. preparations. U.S. proposals developed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) have already been submitted to the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), and the Administration intends to submit the remaining U.S. positions at the next meeting of CITEL's Permanent Consultative

Committee II (PCC.II) in Bogotá, beginning November 30. We support this timetable and appreciate the progress that agencies have made toward meeting it.

We recommend designating a head of the delegation before that process concludes, so that the individual responsible for representing the U.S. will have been part of shaping the positions they will be asked to champion. On matters as consequential as the technical rules for the next generation of global communications, the U.S. should set a clear lead and force our adversaries to play catch-up—not the other way around.

We respectfully encourage the Administration to take the following steps, and provide a written response or a briefing no later than October 23, 2026:

1. Formally name a WRC-27 head of delegation before the next meeting of CITEL PCC.II in Bogotá, Colombia, on November 30, 2026, where the U.S. and its Western Hemisphere partners will begin aligning positions ahead of WRC-27.

2. Provide a description of how the designated head of delegation will engage CITEL and the broader Western Hemisphere coordination process.

3. Explain the steps the U.S. government is taking to ensure U.S. leadership in 6G and satellite technology, including through WRC-27. Describe how the Administration is working with U.S. industry and international partners to establish trusted supply chains and offer countries in the Global South and beyond viable alternatives to Huawei and other Chinese companies.

4. Provide a closed briefing by spring 2027 on the Administration's strategy for countering PRC positioning at WRC-27.

The United States must take the lead in building a robust coalition to support its interests in the run up to WRC-27. We appreciate your attention to this request and would welcome the opportunity to discuss it further with your staff.

Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Jim Banks
United States Senator