

**Strong as ever,  
Building our future**



**Broadcasting maximizes the  
socio-economic value of the  
470-694 MHz band  
in Sub Sahara Africa**

**8<sup>th</sup> Sub Sahara Africa  
Spectrum Management conference  
2023 session 2.**

**Joe Frans**

# For Africa, Digital Terrestrial Television is an investment into a strategic asset. African Broadcasters are fully mobilized around it

- The investment on DTT is on-going:  
**43** Sub Sahara African countries have launched a DTT service.

« Terrestrial broadcasting is the main distribution platform in Africa that provides free television, universal coverage and high reliability.»

- This platform is a key asset for national and regional sovereignty and culture, complemented by **PMSE** for creation, live performance and events.



## DAKAR DECLARATION

03RD JUNE 2022

*Aware that terrestrial broadcasting is the main distribution platform in Africa that provides free television, universal coverage and high reliability,*

*Aware that decisions affecting the use of the Ultra High Frequency, UHF (470-694 MHz) used for terrestrial television in ITU Region 1 (Africa, Europe, Middle East) will be discussed at the next World Radio Communication Conference in 2023 (WRC-23) under point 1.5 of the agenda,*

*Noting, that during the preparatory discussions for WRC-23, it was suggested that a call for allocation for the mobile service in the band 470-694 MHz in Region 1 be introduced as the primary current for the broadcasting service,*

*Noting, that Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) uses the UHF frequency band 470-694 MHz for TV broadcasting, which is the only UHF spectrum available for terrestrial broadcasting, after the release of the 800 MHz and 700 MHz for use by the mobile services,*

*Noting, that DTT cannot sustain any further reduction or release of available spectrum and continue to operate and develop further,*

*Noting, that the proposed modification for an additional allocation to mobile services is purely commercial orientation to the detriment of the public interest in universal access to broadcasting services,*

*Welcomes the position of ITU Region 1 broadcasters that there should be "No Change" in the "No Change" position to the current Primary allocation of the 470- 694 MHz at WRC-23.*

*Therefore, having reviewed the facts and analyzed the impact of further spectrum allocation for UHF broadcast, in the band below 700 MHz, hereby:*

*Declare our resolve to make every effort to raise awareness and generate support for the "No Change" position under WRC-23 agenda item 1.5, and to seek the support of the AUB!*

*Adopt unanimously the "No Change" position with regard to item 1.5 of the ITU agenda,*  
*Recommend* to the AUB to seek support for this position from the current Chair of the African Union,  
*Recommend*, the AUB to continue cooperating with other broadcasting organizations in ITU WRC-23 agenda item 1.5,  
*Recommend*, the AUB to develop deeper cooperation with other broadcasting organizations to support the development of public broadcasting in Africa and beyond,

*Recommend to the members of the AUB to be aware of the risks of weakening the public audiovisual sector by the bands allocated to terrestrial broadcasters and to seek the production of content.*

*Encourage* AUB members to attend the 3rd African Telecommunications Preparatory Meeting in September 2022 in Zambia (ATU-APM 3), and organize a meeting at the International Broadcasting Convention, IBC in September 2022,

*Encourage* the members of the AUB to improve their representation within the national regulatory authorities responsible for frequency management and ensure that the regulators defend the position of "No Change" for point 1.5 of the agenda during the preparations for regional and international WRC-23.

*Hereby* decide to create a self-constituted ad-hoc action group under the auspices of the AUB, to follow up on the conclusions of this declaration,

*Decide*, that the action group will be organized on the basis of the volunteering of members of the AUB with the following initial composition:

- South Africa (Angola will solicit contributions from Namibia, etc.)
- West Africa (Senegal, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Niger, Guinea Conakry, Benin: Senegal will be leader)
- East Africa (Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda: Rwanda will be leader)
- North Africa: Algeria (leader, will solicit other countries in the region)
- Central Africa (Cameroon, Gabon)
- Rapporteur (AUB)

*Decide* that the action group will seek a mandate from other broadcasters in their respective regions, and cooperate with broadcasters in the region in favor of a "No Change" position.

Dakar, Senegal June 03, 2022

Adopted by acclamation

(cf. Attendance list).

« Recommend...to sensitize political decision makers to the risk of weakening the public audiovisual sector ...and the distribution and production of content »

# For the future, 94 countries in Region 1 see a need for at least 224 MHz of spectrum for terrestrial broadcasting in the UHF band



- **To support massive, worldwide usage of several hours of TV/day/pop** (in Europe, 3h36, 88% in linear mode)
- **In a sustainable way:** Terrestrial Broadcasting is the environmentally friendly way to distribute Television.
- **And Innovate**
  - **Higher image and sound quality:** France and Spain are launching Ultra High Definition services
  - **Interactivity:** Hybrid TV platforms and new DVB standards unify linear and non-linear worlds for a seamless user experience.
  - **Mobility:** 9 European countries have launched 5G-Broadcast trials; leading broadcasters in Africa are considering it.

Sources:

Report ITU-R BT.2302

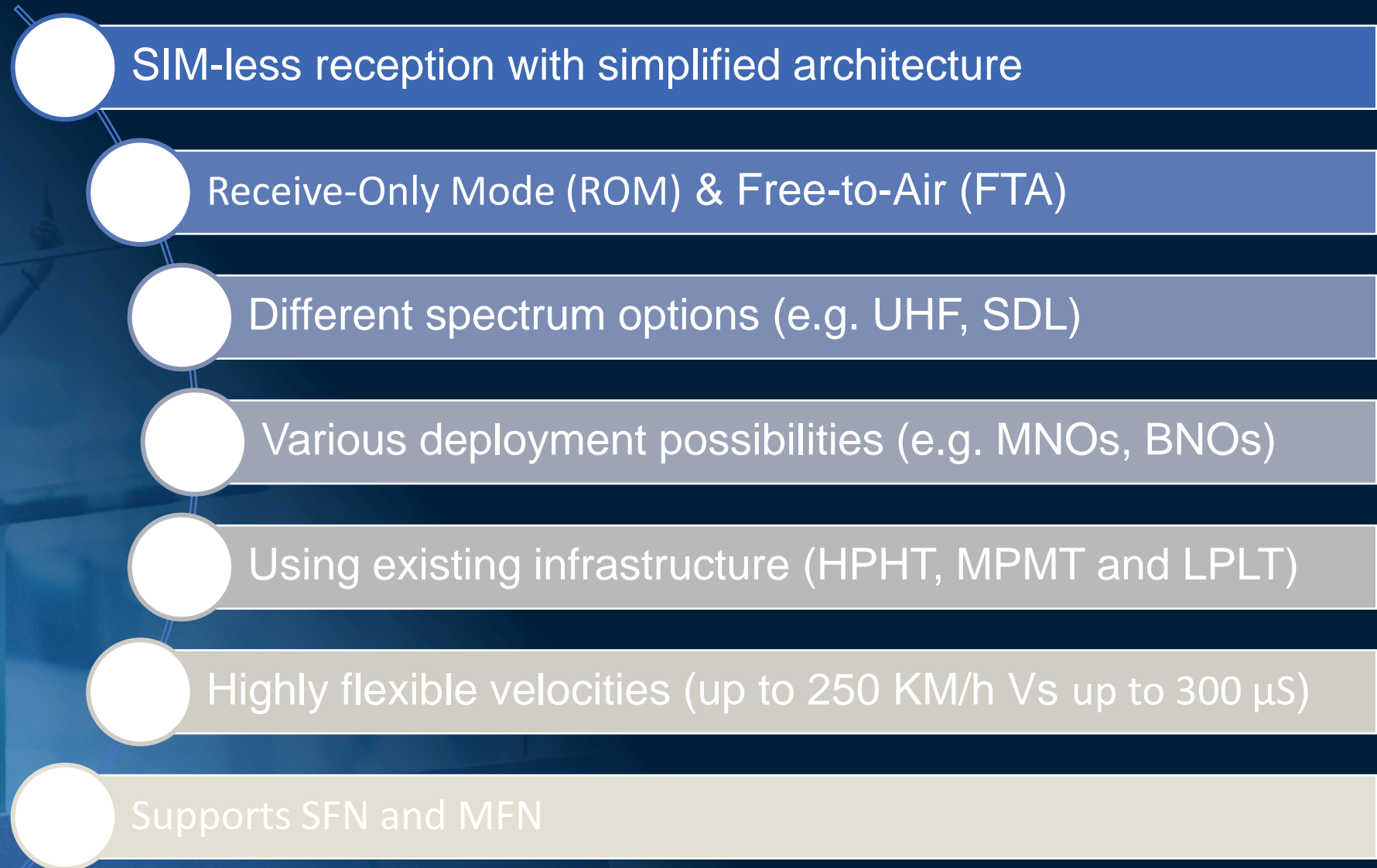
European AudioVisual Observatory YearBook 2022; EBU Audience trends 2022

LOCAT sustainability study

BNE innovation roadmap

BNE Brochure 5G-Broadcast Trials in EUrope

# 5G Broadcast – Main Features for multiple use cases

- 
- SIM-less reception with simplified architecture
  - Receive-Only Mode (ROM) & Free-to-Air (FTA)
  - Different spectrum options (e.g. UHF, SDL)
  - Various deployment possibilities (e.g. MNOs, BNOs)
  - Using existing infrastructure (HPHT, MPMT and LPLT)
  - Highly flexible velocities (up to 250 KM/h Vs up to 300  $\mu$ S)
  - Supports SFN and MFN

# Conclusion – The Future of the 470-694 MHz band

We support a position of 'No Change' to the Radio Regulations under WRC-23 agenda item 1.5. Noting existing Radio Regulations and GE 06 Agreement incorporate flexibility to address specific national needs.

Because of the business, social, cultural and sovereignty benefits, BNE believes maximising the public value of the UHF band in Africa and Region 1 means ensuring the continued delivery of broadcasting services in the 470-694 MHz band, which also allows PMSE.

Stability in the regulatory allocation means dynamism and progress for Africa: 20 African countries have launched DTT in the past 8 years, and the broadcasting innovation roadmap shows the way.

# BNE represents 19 Terrestrial Network Operators active in 20 Countries

 <i>UK</i>	 <i>Spain</i>	 <i>Czech Republic</i>	 <i>Greece</i>		
 <i>Finland</i>	 <i>Poland</i>	 <i>Serbia</i>	 <i>Italy</i>		
 <i>Italy</i>	 <i>Germany</i>	 <i>Croatia</i>	 <i>Austria</i>		 <i>Switzerland</i>
 <i>Ireland</i>	 <i>Romania</i>	 <i>Norway, Belgium</i>	 <i>France, Estonia</i>		 <i>Sweden</i>