The first 2018 virtual Executive Committee (EC) meeting of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 (IARU R2) started at 2200 GMT on January 23, 2018 via Skype with the participation of the following board members and guests:

- President, Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AM
- Vice-President and Area C Director, Ramón Santoyo V., XE1KK
- Secretary and Area D Director, José Arturo Molina, YS1MS
- Treasurer and Area B Director, Jay Bellows, KØQB
- Area A Director, George Gorsline, VE3YV
- Area E Director, Noel E. Donawa, 9Y4X
- Area F Director, Gustavo de Faria Franco, PT2ADM
- Area G Director, Ernesto Siryani, LU8AE

Representing IARU International Secretariat was Mr Dave Sumner, K1ZZ. Also present as a guest was the Chairman of the IARU R2 Band Planning Committee, Mr Al Penney VO1NO.

The President of IARU R2, Mr Leandro, opened the session, welcoming everyone. The agenda was approved without changes and, afterwards, participants proceeded to review the documents

1. Executive Committee:

1.1 Treasurer update – Mr Bellows

IARU R2’s service company in Minnesota is operating as planned and we are able to do payments on a day-by-day basis as needed. For the long term, we need to re-organize the legal structure of R2 by registering, in order to be able to permanently address banking services to meet regulatory requirements. He also reported that we are operating within budget.
1.2 Emergency Communications: lessons learned from Puerto Rico – Mr Bellows, who was returning from the ARRL Board Meeting, commented that the biggest challenge during the Puerto Rico hurricane Maria’s emergencies was transporting communication equipment and personnel to the island. We need to have better arrangements on transportation sources when an emergency occurs. There should be ways of addressing this issue using PARF for funding. We need to have a better action plan for hurricanes. President Leandro suggested including IARU R2 EMCOR Dr Santos in these discussions.

2. International Secretariat

Mr. Sumner reported on various agenda items.

2.1 Calendar 198 was sent at the end of 2017 and includes, among other things, the invitation to member societies and regional organizations to identify candidates for President and Vice President of the IARU no later than March 31, 2018.

2.2 Update on SKNAARS vote. We are receiving votes to accept the St Kitts and Nevis society into the IARU, but more votes are needed for this to be affirmed. IARU R2 Vice-President Santoyo will coordinate a campaign to promote the vote among the MS in Region 2 to meet the ending date.

2.3 IARU Statistical Questionnaire. In a few days a statistical questionnaire will be delivered to member societies, asking for current amateur statistics and include questions about the status of 5 MHz band allocations in each country.

2.4 Wireless Power Transmissions for Electric Vehicles
Region 1 is requesting support on this important matter. Please study the documents received and talk with your MS. We shouldn’t let R1 work alone in this challenging situation.

2.5 Update on unified web page design for the International Secretariat and the Regions. Mr Sumner, R1 President Mr Beattie and the regional webmasters are working on a unified design for the four websites. The R2 webmaster Mr Buenger was congratulated for his good work and commitment.

3. Regional Organizations:

3.1 CTU – Mr Donawa
Mr Donawa has been participating in various working groups with CTU not only on amateur radio. From our side emergency communications and licensing are the main topics on the table. President Leandro congratulated Mr Donawa’s work.
3.2 CITEL – Mr Archangelo
Mr Archangelo sent an extensive written report on his participation in ITU and CITEL meetings. President Leandro commented that Mr Archangelo is doing wonderful voluntary work. Mr Molina reported on the progress of the Winlink project for Central America and the Dominican Republic sponsored by the ITU, where concrete results are expected within 3 or 4 months.

4. Region 2 Coordinators

4.1 Update on the EMC Coordinator – Mr Bellows
Mr Bellows reported that Mr Hare is enthusiastic about being the R2 EMC Coordinator but needs to know who else is doing work in this field in the region. Area Directors should contact their MS and ask for such information.

4.2 EMCOR Report – Dr Santos
Dr Santos also sent the R2 EC a written report describing the work that is taking place between the ITU in Central America with regional Member Societies, the EMCOR, Mexico’s FMRE and Winlink experts. President Leandro congratulated Dr Santos for his continuing work on emergency communications.

4.3 Update on the new Beacon Coordinator – Mr Santoyo
As reported on the webpage and news reflector, Mr Hayes retired as Beacon Coordinator after 10 years. The new Coordinator is Mr Stice, who was recommended to the EC by Mr Hayes.

4.4 Special guest: Mr Penney, Band Planning Committee Chairman
Mr Penney reported on the BPC’s response on “Future Spectrum Work Above 148 MHz” requested by IARU Vice President Garpestad. This was the first activity of the recently established Band Planning Committee. Mr Sumner commented that Mr Garpestad was very satisfied with the scope and content of the report and the presentation format. President Leandro congratulated Mr Penney and the Committee.

4.5 Monitor System Coordinator. Mr. Syriani noted that documentation for this activity is ready and it will be sent to the EC for review shortly.

5. Other business
Future meeting dates were discussed and set as follows:

- Next Virtual EC meeting: Tuesday May 8th, 2018 at 2200 GMT on Skype
- Next in Person EC meeting: Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 October 2018 in Panama City, Panama
- Lima 2019 General Assembly: September 30 to October 4, 2019