1. **ARDF in general**

In the last three years, we could witness a significant development of the ARDF. Increasing numbers of competitors and participating societies are proving this. Especially Youth ARDF Championships are increasing too, securing the future of our sport and hopefully amateur radio. New ARDF disciplines (sprint and foxoring) became regular and well received part of the IARU ARDF events and help to show the beauty of the amateur radio to wide public.

2. **ARDF Rules**

The ARDF WG works continuously on the ARDF rules to handle the increasing number of competitors and categories and to provide fair competitions. Last changes reflect the development of the technologies currently used for organizing, communication, media and data and picture processing. Currently most of the job is focused to the set of guidelines which should help to improve the ARDF events technical and sport level.

3. **Child Protection Policy**

The IARU Region 1 Child Protection Policy was implemented in 2015 and highlighted at every organized event since then. I would like to point out that the Child protection principles are respected from the very beginning of the ARDF and during the whole ARDF history, no case of children abuse or harm was not reported or even heard of.

4. **IARU involvement in the international sport and anti-doping structures**

ARDF WG already proposed that IARU shall become involved in the international sport structures, for example SportAccord or ARISF. This should help recognizing ARDF and other radio amateur sports in a public and media and establish better conditions for raising funds from the government, sponsors and donors. Also, it can help in promoting ARDF and other radio amateur sports as attractive sports for young people.

Moreover, in recent months we experience increasing pressure from government authorities to get connected with the international sport structures. Several societies were suddenly cut off from the government support for sport and youth because their International Federation (IARU in our case) is not a member of the international sport structures and not recognized by the IOC (International Olympic Committee).

To improve the situation, ARDF WG proposed that national societies and national ARDF organisations should try to contact IOC and WADA via the national sports structures. However,
it appears that we came to a kind of Catch-22 situation: national organisations are required to be members of IOC-recognized International Federation, while one of the conditions for the International Federation to be recognized by the IOC is that the IF shall have more than 50 national member organisations ALREADY RECOGNIZED BY LOCAL NATIONAL OC's.

ARDF WG keeps surveying various possibilities to get into the International sport structures but the situation is very difficult. If there is any development, I will inform IARU R1 EC immediately and ask for considering the cooperation on this matter.

5. IARU ARDF events held in 2014 - 2017:

5.1 15th IARU Region 1 Youth ARDF Championship
Date: July 06 -10, 2014
Venue: Primorsko, Bulgaria
Hosting society: UARL and BFRA

The event was originally planned to be held in Vinnitsia, Ukraine. Due to the difficult situation in the region, the whole event was moved to Primorsko, Bulgaria. The whole process was coordinated and approved by the ARDF WG. The organisation was provided by UARL and BFRA jointly.

102 competitors from 11 countries participated at this event. Three competitions (classic 80 m, classic 2 m and sprint 80 m) were organized at very good level.

5.2 17th IARU World ARDF Championship
Date: September 10 - 16, 2014
Venue: Burabay, Kazakhstan
Hosting society: KFRR

249 competitors from 25 countries participated at this event (a bit lower participation due to the remote location). The 4-day training camp was organized before the event. Four competitions including two classics, sprint and foxoring were organized. The 36th IARU R1 ARDF WG Plenary meeting was held within the schedule of the event.

5.3 16th IARU Region 1 Youth ARDF Championship
Date: June 04 - 08, 2015
Venue: Zamość, Poland
Hosting society: PZK

97 competitors from 12 countries participated in this well-organised event. Three competitions (classic 80 m, classic 2 m and sprint 80 m) were organized at very good level. Official results and bulletins are available at the ARDF WG website.

5.4 20th IARU Region 1 ARDF Championship
Date: August 17 - 23, 2015
Venue: Mariánské Lázně, Czech Republic
Hosting society: CRC
308 competitors from 26 countries participated at this event. Four competitions including two classics, sprint and foxoring were organized at high technical and sporting level. The 4-days training camp was organized before the event. The whole organisation went smoothly with no problems and all participants took away just the best impressions. Official results and bulletins are available at the ARDF WG website. The 37th IARU R1 ARDF WG Plenary meeting was held within the schedule of the event.

5.5 **17th IARU Region1 Youth ARDF Championship**  
**Date:** July 02 - 05, 2016  
**Venue:** Oslo, Norway  
**Hosting society:** NRRL

92 competitors (146 participants in total) from 11 countries participated. Thanks to the small but very dedicated organizing team the whole event went smoothly, in a fun and friendly atmosphere. All three competitions (classics on 80 m and 2 m and sprint 80 m) were organized at good sport and technical level. Official results and bulletins are available at the ARDF WG website.

5.6 **18th IARU World ARDF Championship**  
**Date:** September 03 - 09, 2014  
**Venue:** Albena, Bulgaria  
**Hosting society:** BFRA

374 competitors (462 participants in total) from 39 countries participated at this event. All competitions including two classics, sprint and foxoring were organized at high technical and sporting level. The 4-day training camp was organized before the event. Official results and bulletins are available at the ARDF WG website. The 38th IARU R1 ARDF WG Plenary meeting was held within the schedule of the event.

5.7 **18th IARU Region 1 Youth ARDF Championship**  
**Date:** June 30 - July 04, 2017  
**Venue:** Turčianske Teplice, Slovakia  
**Hosting society:** SARA

So far, 127 competitors (166 participants in total) from 14 countries are expected to attend. Preparations proceed according to the schedule.

5.8 **21st IARU Region 1 ARDF Championship**  
**Date:** September 04 - 10, 2017  
**Venue:** Druskininkai, Lithuania  
**Hosting society:** LRMD

So far, 272 competitors (287 participants in total) from 19 countries are expected to attend. Preparations proceed according to the schedule. The 4-day training camp will be organized before the event. The 39th IARU R1 ARDF WG Plenary Meeting will be held within the schedule of the event.
The 40th IARU R1 ARDF WG Plenary Meeting will be held within the frame of the IARU Region 1 General Conference 2017 on September 17th, 2017.

6. IARU ARDF events planned in 2018:

6.1 19th IARU Region 1 Youth ARDF Championship
Date: June 30 - July 03, 2018  
Venue: Doksy, Czech Republic  
Hosting society: CRC

6.2 19th World ARDF Championship
Date: beginning of September 2018  
Venue: South Korea  
Hosting society: IARU Region 3, KARL

The 41st IARU R1 ARDF WG Plenary Meeting will be held within the schedule of the event.

In the end, I would like to thank to all organizers for their outstanding jobs and well organized events, to all ARDF WG members for their valuable effort and to all societies supporting ARDF and Region 1 ARDF Working Group for their cooperation.

Jiří Mareček, OK2BWN  
IARU Region 1 ARDF WG Chairman