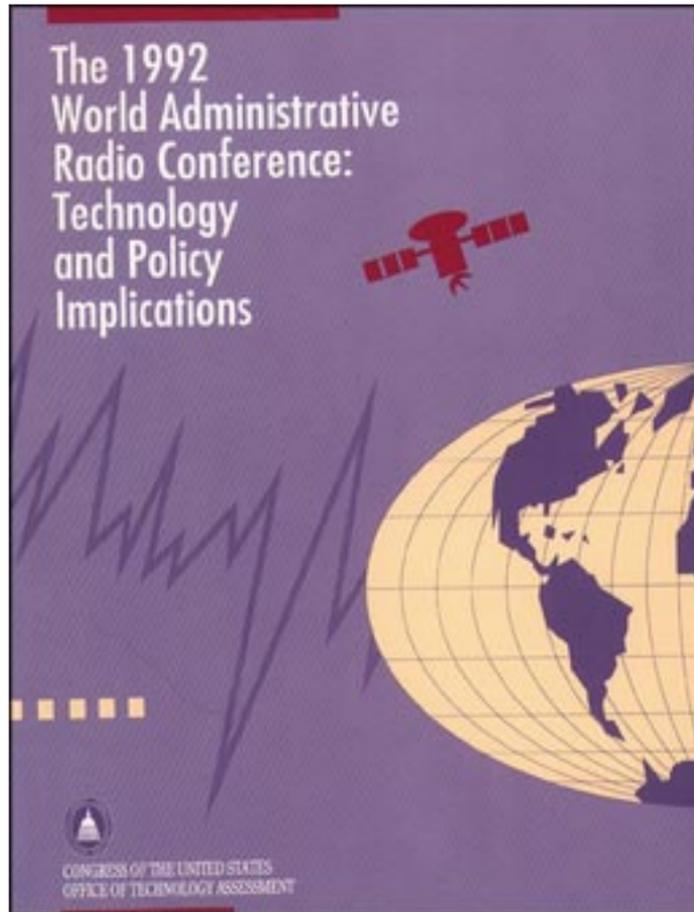


*The 1992 World Administrative Radio  
Conference: Technology and Policy  
Implications*

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# Foreword

**A**s the 20th century draws to a close, new radio technologies and services are poised to change the ways we communicate. Radio waves already make possible a wide range of services considered commonplace—AM and FM radio broadcasting, television, cellular telephones, remote garage-door openers, and baby monitors. Advances in radio technology are giving birth to even more new products and services, including pocket-sized telephones that may allow people to make and receive calls anywhere in the world, high-definition televisions (HDTV) with superior quality pictures and sound, and static-free digital radios.

The 1992 World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC-92) authorized frequencies for many of these new radiocommunication services, and granted additional frequencies for many existing services, including international broadcasting, satellite-based mobile communications, and communications in space. The effects of these changes will be felt well into the 21st century as countries around the world develop and deploy new communications systems to serve the needs of consumers, businesses, and governments. For the United States, the decisions made at the conference will critically affect how we develop new radio technologies and applications, how competitive this country will be in radiocommunications equipment and services, and how effectively the United States can exercise its role as a leader in world radiocommunication policymaking.

This study of the outcomes and implications of WARC-92 was requested by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. OTA was asked to evaluate the success of U.S. proposals at the conference, discuss the implications of the decisions made for U.S. technology and policy development, and identify options for improving U.S. participation in future world radiocommunication conferences. This report complements OTA's assessment of the preparations process for WARC-92, *The 1992 World Administrative Radio Conference: Issues for U.S. International Spectrum Policy*.

OTA acknowledges the contributions of the members of the U.S. delegation to WARC-92, who helped clarify and focus the issues. OTA also appreciates the assistance of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the Federal Communications Commission, and the State Department, as well as the numerous individuals in the private sector who reviewed or contributed to this document. The contents of this report, however, are the sole responsibility of OTA.



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