SARL News reports next week South Africa will send the largest ever delegation to attend the ITU World Radio Conference in Egypt.

For the past 4 years, the WRC-19 Industry held Preparatory meetings in Pretoria to discuss South Africa's position on the various WRC-19 agenda items. Brian Jacobs, ZS6YZ and Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV attended the meetings representing the SARL and the interest of the South African Amateur Radio community.

ZS6AKV was the rapporteur for Agenda Item 1.1 to consider an allocation of the frequency band 50 - 54 MHz to the amateur service in Region 1. The group supported the SARL position, which was Option A, and it reads: an allocation to the amateur service on a primary basis in all the band 50 - 54 MHz, or part thereof, with appropriate footnotes to provide protection to services that already have an allocation in the band. This position was lobbied at SADC and ATU meetings. At the last ATU meeting before WRC-19 held in East London and attended by ZS6YZ, this position was confirmed as the African position.

At the WRC-19 Industry Preparatory meeting held on Thursday last week, Dick Sono of the Department of Telecommunication and Postal Service and convener of the group, said he was pleased that the SARL position has become an Africa position. He said it is important that we support Amateur Radio in South Africa and on the African continent.