



# 2020 ACHIEVEMENTS IN REVIEW

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To say that 2020 has been an unprecedented year is an understatement. Since mid-March, NABA's mission has been to “**be there for our industry.**” The pandemic has required innovation by our members, and NABA. Here is a brief overview of NABA and the WBU's work over the past year.

## **COMMITTEE WORK:**

- **NABA Virtual AGM**

NABA's AGM was held virtually on June 25<sup>th</sup> with a focus on the NABA Audit and extension of the Board members through 2021.

- **NABA Board of Directors**

Virtual board meetings were held on June 25<sup>th</sup> and July 28<sup>th</sup> to primarily discuss the NABA Strategy and a plan to move forward through 2020. The year-end December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting reviewed activities, financial situation, and new projects/activities for 2021.

- **NABA Technical Committee**

The NABA-TC in-person meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> was cancelled, the Chair and Vice-Chairs moved the agenda forward in a virtual setting. A series of webinars tackling each of the major subject areas was produced. The cancelled March 25<sup>th</sup> MOIP/Cybersecurity Symposium provided several strong topics for these webinars. Shortened TC meetings were held virtually on October 8<sup>th</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup>.

- **NABA-TC Cybersecurity Sub-Committee**

Regularly scheduled teleconferences every 4-6 weeks continued and the committee published two papers: [NABA Recommendations on Best Practices to Mitigate Social Engineering](#) (June 2020) and [World Broadcasting Unions Cybersecurity Recommendations on Broadcasters' Use of Cloud-based Services](#) (October 2020).

- **NABA-TC Ad Spot Metadata**

Regular monthly teleconferences were held until Harold Geller's request for a hiatus in October. Work is expected to resume in 2021.

- **NABA Resilience and Risk Committee COVID-19 Teleconference Roundtables**

The committee held monthly teleconferences from February to November to discuss the pandemic and what organizations were doing to continue to operate while maintaining a safe and efficient work environment.

- **NABA Radio Committee**

Regular teleconferences have taken place. Additionally, they held a Music Rights webinar in conjunction with the NABA Legal Committee to explore the differences in music rights (particularly for streaming) across North America. An ad hoc group of lawyers specializing in this area and radio people will follow up on some of the themes.

- **NABA-RC Hybrid/Metadata Working Group**

The NABA-RC Hybrid Radio and Metadata working groups were combined into one group chaired by Jeff Detweiler (Xperi). The goal of the group is to educate broadcasters about the benefits of Hybrid Radio and the need for Metadata.

- **NABA-RC In-car User Experience Working Group**  
The In-car User Experience Working Group has been working with the WorldDAB to develop a North American version of their User Experience guidelines under the leadership of David Layer (NAB).
- **NABA Legal Committee**  
Monthly teleconferences were held to continue advancing the LC's agenda, including WIPO and country regulatory reports.
- **ATSC Working Group**  
A Working Group in collaboration with ATSC was formed to help broadcasters in the U.S. and other countries/regions to understand the potential of ATSC 3.0 that best serves their respective regional interests, which could lead to the wider adoption of next generation advanced television.

## **EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- **Future of Radio and Audio Symposium (FRAS) Virtual Sessions (May 14)**  
The FRAS, originally scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> in partnership with the NAB at their Vegas Show, pivoted into two virtual sessions during the NAB Show Express: [Overview: NABA Radio Committee 2020 Projects](#) and [Radio In Car User Experience](#).
- **[A Note from the Director-General on Broadcasting in Pandemic Times \(May & September\)](#)**  
NABA Director-General Michael McEwen distributed a note of encouragement to the NABA membership, highlighting the innovative solutions members implemented to continue broadcasting during unprecedented times.
- **[NABA-TC Webinars \(May – November\)](#)**  
The NABA-TC held the following webinars. Each webinar required planning calls with the TC executives, panelists, and logistics team prior to the events. Attendance was excellent as was the feedback. Webinars included:
  - COVID-19 (May 21)
  - Spectrum (June 11)
  - ATSC 3.0 (July 10)
  - 5G (August 26)
  - Cybersecurity (September 30)
  - Deepfakes (November 16)
- **[Joint Statement on DHS Proposal on I-Visas \(October\)](#)**  
A proposal to change the way the U.S. manages visas for foreign journalists threatens to seriously jeopardise the operations of foreign bureaus and journalists based in the U.S., ultimately constraining journalistic freedom. NABA, along with many other organizations, urged the Department of Homeland Security to drop this proposal.
- **Spectrum Policy Issues for Satellite-IMT Sharing of C-Band (October)**  
Comments concerning the proposed reallocation of C-Band satellite downlink spectrum to mobile use (including 5G/IMT) in Brazil and potentially other South American countries.
- **NABA response to the ISED Consultation on 3800 Band (October)**  
Comments in response to the Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) consultation into future use of the 3650-4200 MHz band (C-Band).

## **WBU COMMITTEE WORK**

- **WBU WIPO Broadcast Treaty Working Group (BTWG)**

The group continued to meet regularly as progress is being made towards a potential Diplomatic Conference in late 2021 or 2022, even during the pandemic.

- **WBU Technical Committee**

A virtual meeting was scheduled on December 14<sup>th</sup> and work continues among the Unions by sharing documents and information on technical activities and developments.

- **WBU Secretaries and Directors General**

They met virtually and continue to provide guidance on several issues, including:

- [Statement of Commitment by WBU – Implementation of the Global Media for DRR Project \(May\)](#)  
A statement welcoming and accepting the United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) invitation to implement the Global Media for Disaster Risk Reduction (GMDRR) project.
  - [WBU Statement Calling for Commitment to Media Freedom and Independence in Times of Crisis \(July\)](#)  
A statement urgently calling for guaranteed commitments on protecting media independence, safeguarding journalists from interference and preserving freedom of expression during national, regional, or global crises.
  - [WBU Statement of Support for ABS-CBN \(July\)](#)  
A statement standing with ABS-CBN, the Philippines' largest television broadcaster, after the Philippine House of Representatives vote to shut down permanently its free television and radio services.
- [WBU-IMCG Virtual Webinars \(July / November\)](#)  
WBU-IMCG's in-person forums were also cancelled due to the pandemic and the planning team pivoted to produce four virtual webinars. Each webinar required several calls with the Planning Team and panelists leading up to the event. Attendance was excellent as was the feedback. Webinars produced:
    - Lessons Learned by Int'l Broadcasters During COVID-19 (July 22)
    - How Vendors Coped During the Pandemic (July 23)
    - 5G for Broadcasters (November 12)
    - The Truths Behind 5G and C-Band (November 23)