

Overview of the International Telecommunication Union

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Areas To Be Covered

- Historical perspective
- United Nations Specialized Agencies
- The International Telecommunication Union
- Instruments of the Union
- ITU History and Structure
- ITU Core Sectors

Telecommunications Timeline

1837	Telegraph (Wheatstone/Cooke & Morse)
1854	Short-distance wireless telegraphy
1866	Successful trans-Atlantic telegraph cable
1876	Telephone patent
1901	Wireless telegraphy—St. Johns/Cornwall
1907	Commercial trans-Atlantic radiotelegraph
1957	Artificial Earth satellite

Regulatory Timeline

1865	International Telegraph Union
1906	Radiotelegraph Conference Radio Regulations
1927	International Radio Consultative Committee
1934	International Telecommunication Union
1945	United Nations Charter

The United Nations

- U.N. Charter ratified 24 October 1945
- Fifty-one charter members
- General Assembly
- Security Council
- Specialized Agencies
- www.un.org

United Nations Specialized Agencies

- International Maritime Organization
- International Civil Aviation Organization
- International Monetary Fund
- World Meteorological Organization
- World Health Organization
- International Telecommunication Union
- Nine other specialized agencies

The ITU

- The leading United Nations agency for information and communication technologies
- Mission: bringing the benefits of information and communications technology (ICT) to all the world's inhabitants
- 193 Member States
- 700+ Sector Members and Associates
- www.itu.int

Instruments of the Union

- Constitution of the International Telecommunication Union
- Convention of the International Telecommunication Union
- Administrative Regulations
 - International Telecommunication Regulations
 - Radio Regulations

ITU History

- Founded in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union
- Interconnection of telegraph systems across international borders
- First radiotelegraphy conference and Radio Regulations in Berlin in 1908
- Renamed the International Telecommunication Union in 1934

Structure of the ITU

- Plenipotentiary Conference
 - The primary governing body
- Council
 - Acts on behalf of the Plenipotentiary Conference
- Core Sectors
- General Secretariat

(CS Article 7)

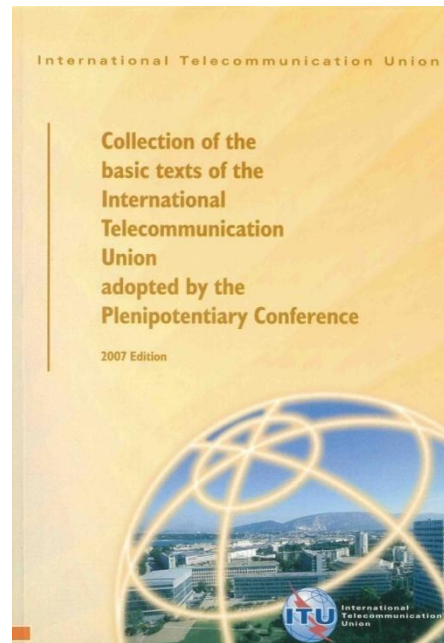
ITU Plenipotentiary Conference

- Supreme organ of the ITU
- Meets every four years
- Amends the Constitution and Convention
- Elects officers, sets budgets, establishes structure and operating rules, and establishes policies

(CS Article 8, CV Article 1)

Collection of Basic Texts

- ITU Constitution
- ITU Convention
- General Rules
- Optional Protocol
- Decisions
- Resolutions
- Recommendations



ITU Council

- Established in 1947 as Administrative Council
- Meets annually, acting on behalf of the Plenipotentiary between Conferences
- Elected subset of the ITU Members
- Council membership shall not exceed 25% of the number of Member States (currently 48 Members)
- Equitable distribution of Council seats among the five world regions (Americas, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia & Australia)
- Sets final agenda for World Radiocommunication Conferences

(CS Article 10, CV Article 4)

ITU Core Sectors

- Radiocommunication Sector (ITU–R)
- Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU–T)
- Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU–D)

Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU–T)

- Standards in the form of ITU–T Recommendations
- Focus on wireline issues
- Organizations
 - World telecommunication standardization assemblies
 - Telecommunication standardization study groups
 - The Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

(CS Articles 17-20, CV Articles 13-15)

Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D)

- Promotes the development, expansion and operation of telecommunication networks and services, particularly in developing countries
- Works in cooperation with the Radiocommunication and Telecommunication Standardization Sectors
- Organizations
 - World and regional telecommunication development conferences
 - Telecommunication standardization study groups
 - The Telecommunication Development Advisory Group

(CS Articles 21-24, CV Articles 16-18)