In the face of rapidly-evolving technology, a well-steered policy and a well-designed legal framework are critical to fostering an environment for secure e-services to flourish in developing countries. Both buyers and sellers in cyberspace seek the confidence that their electronic transactions are secure.

Often this requires a review of a multiplicity of underpinning laws in domains like Digital Certification, Digital Signatures, Electronic Contracts, Applicable Law and Jurisdiction, Copyrights, Consumer and Privacy Protection and ISP Liability. ITU’s E-Strategy Unit provides policy guidance and assistance to developing countries to help them adopt appropriate national (and regional) policies and strategies for the introduction of new technologies and services.

It also has a role in facilitating the legal and institutional mechanisms to create the environment for providing cost-effective services. Through an agreement with Goodwin Procter LLP ITU has assisted countries like Mongolia in establishing the legislative framework for e-services. The law firm will evaluate the existing laws and then propose changes to enable secure e-transactions to take hold. Governments and legislators then make the necessary amendments and enact the new laws.

Seminars, training workshops and conferences, both internal and external, are the most effective means of transferring expertise, sharing insights and building local capacity in security and trust technologies on a large scale. At many venues, the E-Strategy Unit has laid the groundwork for e-commerce implementation by raising awareness of potential legal, policy and regulatory hurdles to e-services, while also demonstrating trust technologies for e-business. In addition, Fundandina in Venezuela has also been the site of more than 27 courses and seminars created with input from ITU.

In cooperation with AFRALTI, ITU’s regional Centre of Excellence for Eastern and Southern Africa, handbooks have been published on IP networking support for a Global Information Infrastructure in Africa. Also available is a Guide on Managing and Developing Network Connections and Interconnections to National Internet Nodes.

Among the highlights in this domain are:

- More than 30 developing countries – WISeKey 2000: Demonstrated PKI and addressed policy, legal and technology issues with the assistance of over 30 leading technology providers.
- Pacific ICTs Communication Authority Assistance in technology strategy and legal domains for e-services.
- Asociación de Empresas de Telecomunicaciones de la Comunidad Andina (ATEI): Provided technical assistance to harmonize the legal texts for the Andean Community Member States (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela).
- Ministry of Postal and Telecommunications of Cameroon: Participated actively in consultations to define a national policy for e-transactions and ICTs: Provided guidance on an action plan for expanding Internet and e-commerce and proposed recommendations for concrete actions to be undertaken by the Government of Cameroon.
- Moroccan ministries, business and industry: Provided guidance and recommendations to the Government of Morocco to establish a national framework for e-commerce.
- Tunisian Internet Agency: Recommended policies and strategies aimed at facilitating e-business in the Arab region. Provided the creation of an Arab e-commerce working group.
- Algerian Ministry of Post: Provided policy assistance and technology strategy on a project to establish a technology park for the use of new technologies such as certification and electronic transactions.
- Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OEC): Recommended policy initiatives to boost e-commerce in the sub-region.
- Nigerian Communication Commission: Proposed technology strategy for stimulating e-commerce.
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry in the Sub-Saharan Union: Proposed policy and strategies aimed at addressing e-business challenges in the Arab region. This led to the Ottawa Declaration.
- Cambodia, Laos PDR and Viet Nam: Provided advice and guidance to senior telecommunication officers on the development of e-commerce.
- Burundi: Defined and proposed ICT policy framework.
- Mauritania: Assisted the Secretariat of E-Rat as on means of technologies (SENT) in National ICT Policy and Strategy.
- African region: Advocacy in removing current policies related to management and allocation of IP addresses. Provided guidelines for the creation of a Regional African Internet Registry and a regional IP backbone.

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Our Partners
Partnerships are critical for the development of sustainable, cost-effective service-based e-applications and secure transaction technology. Three agreements have been signed so far:

- Fundandina: This partnership led to an operational electronic commerce centre in Venezuela, generated new alliances with other major players from the Latin American region, several operational ICT projects, a centre for training and development providing ICT training and more than 90 Internet portals.
- WISeKey and World Trade Centre: An agreement with WISeKey and its industry partners and trade communities of the World Trade Centres to expand secure e-transactions for all sectors.
- Goodwin Procter LLP: Free legal assistance is provided to ITU Member States who request it to establish the legislative framework for e-services. The Washington-based law firm will evaluate the country’s requirements and present a report on procedures, guidelines and laws to be created or modified.

A NEW INCLUSIVENESS

ITU has recently launched a new and broader framework for collaboration in building trust and secure infrastructure in developing countries through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) called World e-Trust. This multilateral framework is intended to enable more actors to participate and for developing countries to work hand-in-hand with technology providers and play a more active role in building the global information society and in creating digital opportunities.
The E-Strategy Unit makes available secure and low-cost solutions from a consortium of public key infrastructure providers enabling developing countries to establish infrastructure for digital certification and value-added e-services. It has sponsored a variety of projects in various countries, including: technology and application development; and project coordination for a national e-commerce initiative in several African countries. Currently being expanded to other African countries with other partners.

In progress

Bulgaria

Focus plan and implementation plan (2002-2003) for customer and business government services.

Burkina-Faso

Chambre de commerce, d’industrie et d’artisanat (CCIA)

Will deliver e-services based on digital certificates.

Completed

Morocco

Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications


Security and application development have helped evolve appropriate solutions for the particular needs of participating developing countries. E-Strategy has also been a catalyst in the creation of the B2B e-marketplace, www.trusteportal.com.
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Often this requires a review of a multiplicity of underpinning laws in domains like Digital Certification, Digital Signatures, Electronic Contracts, Applicable Law and Jurisdiction, Copyrights, Consumer and Privacy Protection and ISP Liability. ITU's E-Strategy Unit provides policy guidance and assistance to developing countries to help them adopt appropriate national (and regional) policies and strategies for the introduction of new technologies and services.

It also has a role in facilitating the legal and institutional mechanisms to create the environment for providing cost-effective services. Through an agreement with Goodwin Procter LLP ITU has assisted countries like Mongolia in establishing the legislative framework for e-services. The law firm will evaluate the existing laws and then propose changes to enable secure e-transactions to take hold. Governments and legislators then make the necessary amendments and enact the new laws.

Seminars, training workshops and conferences, both internal and external, are the most effective means of transferring expertise, sharing insights and building local capacity in security and trust technologies on a large scale. At many venues, the E-Strategy Unit has laid the groundwork for e-commerce implementation by raising awareness of potential legal, policy and regulatory hurdles to e-services, while also demonstrating trust technologies for e-business. In addition, Fundandina in Venezuela has also been the site of more than 27 courses and seminars created with input from ITU.

In cooperation with AFRLATI, ITU's regional Centre of Excellence for Eastern and Southern Africa, handbooks have been published on IP networking support for a Global Information Infrastructure in Africa. Also available is a Guide on Managing and Developing Network Connections and Interconnections to National Internet Nodes.

Among the highlights in this domain are:
- More than 30 developing countries – WiSeWorld2000
- Determined use of e-government and e-commerce in the legal and technology issues with the assistance of over 50 leading technology providers.
- E-commerce and Goodwill: Engineering Authority Assistance in technology strategy and legal domains for e-services.
- Association of Empresas de Telecomunicaciones de la Comunidad Andina (AETCA) provided technical assistance to harmonize the legal texts for the Andean Community Member States (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela).
- Ministry of Post and Telecommunication of Cameroon Participated actively in consultations to define a national policy for e-transactions and ICPs. Provided guidance on an action plan for expanding Internet and e-commerce and proposed recommendations for concrete actions to be undertaken by the Government of Cameroon.
- Morocco ministries, business and industry Provided guidance and recommendations to the Government of Morocco to establish a national framework for e-commerce.
- Tunisian Internet Agency Recommended policies and strategies aimed at facilitating e-business in the Arab region. Fostered the creation of an on-line commerce working group.
- Algerian Ministry of PTT Provided policy assistance and technology strategies on a project to establish a technology park for the use of new technologies such as certification and electronic transactions.
- Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECSC) Recommended policy initiatives to boost e-commerce in the sub-region.
- Nigerian Communication Commission Proposed a technology strategy for stimulating e-business.
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry in the Sultanate of Oman Proposed policy and strategies aimed at addressing e-business challenges in the Arab region. This led to the Oman Declaration.
- Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam Provided advice and guidance to senior telecommunication officials on the development of e-commerce.
- BSNdani Dheca and proposed ICT policy framework.
- Mauritius Assisted the Secretary of Post on national ICT Policy and Strategy.
- African region Advocacy in revising current policies related to management and allocation of IP addresses. Provided guidelines for the creation of a Regional African Internet Registry and a regional IP backbone.

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Our Goal
To foster the deployment of secure, cost-effective and sustainable IP-based infrastructure and value-added services in developing and least developed countries worldwide.

Our Strategy
- To integrate the development of IP infrastructure with the roll-out of cost-effective and secure value-added e-services for the government, business, commerce, education and health sectors.
- Enable public and private sector entities to participate in developing the core infrastructure through the use of value-added e-services.
- Encourage the participation of various types of partners through a technology-neutral and non-exclusive framework for global deployment.

Our Activities
- Technology Implementation: Coordinating the deployment of IP infrastructure together with value-added services (e.g. IP Telephony) as well as the integration of voice and data for various sectors.
- Capacity Building: Facilitating the development of local capacity through human resources development in IP and e-services technologies.
- Policies and Strategies: Providing guidance in the adoption of appropriate policies, strategies and the legislative environment for e-services deployment.
- Partnerships and Alliances: Encouraging beneficial partnerships and alliances with and between various types of public and private sector entities.

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Partnerships are critical for the development of sustainable, cost-effective service-based e-applications and secure transaction technology. Three agreements have been signed so far:
- Fundandina: This partnership led to an operational electronic commerce centre in Venezuela, generated new alliances with other major players from the Latin American region, several operational ICT projects, a centre for training and development providing ICT training and more than 90 Internet portals.
- WISeKey and World Trade Centre: An agreement with WISeKey and its industry partners and trade communities of the World Trade Centres to expand secure e-transactions in 100 developing countries has attracted several leading technology providers, who have contributed software, hard-ware, services and consultancy to develop public key infrastructure, applications and services in several countries.
- Goodwin Procter LLP: Free legal assistance is provided to ITU Member States who request it to establish the legislative framework for e-services. The Washington-based law firm will evaluate the country’s requirements and present a report on procedures, guidelines and laws to be created or modified.

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ITU has recently launched a new and broader framework for collaboration in building trust and secure infrastructure in developing countries through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) called World-e-Trust. This multilateral framework is intended to enable more actors to participate and for developing countries to work hand-in-hand with technology providers and play a more active role in building the global information society and in creating digital opportunities.