
Session 9

World Conference on International Telecommunications 2012 (WCIT 12)

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Makhtar Fall
Head RME Division ITU / BDT/ IEE



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BACKGROUND

- The current version of ITRs was adopted in 1988 in Melbourne, Australia, by the WATTTC
- The previous version (1973) was made up of two separate treaties:
 - the Telegraph Regulations, and
 - the Telephone Regulations.



IMPORTANCE OF ITRs

- Establish general principles relating to the provision and operation of international telecommunication;
- Facilitate global interconnection and interoperability;
- Underpin harmonious development and efficient operation of technical facilities;
- Promote efficiency, usefulness, and availability of international telecommunication services;
- Treaty-level provisions are required with respect to international telecommunication networks and services;



IMPORTANCE OF ITRs

- The international telecommunication environment has significantly evolved, both from the technical and policy perspectives, and that it continues to evolve rapidly;
- Advances in technology have resulted in an increased use of IP-enabled infrastructure and relevant applications, presenting both opportunities and challenges for ITU Member States and Sector Members; and
- As technology evolves, Member States are evaluating their policy and regulatory approaches to ensure an enabling environment.



WHY REVISE?

- The current version of the ITRs has not changed since 1988. At that time :
 - there were very few countries with a liberalized market,
 - most operators were a monopoly regime, under government or state control,
 - significant changes since then in the telecom environment such as liberalization and the introduction of competition, privatization of incumbents, Internet connectivity, and bilateral tariff and operator agreements all accompanied by rapid and ubiquitous technological change.



Preparatory process/work

- The PP (Marrakesh, 2002) adopted Resolution 121, instructing the ITU Council to establish a working group to study the ITRs and to prepare a report to the 2005 session of Council for transmission to the PP06.
- Following the report of the working group, PP06, after considering a number of input documents from Member States, adopted [Resolution 146](#).
- Pursuant to Resolution 146, and to discussions that took place in ITU-T, the Director of TSB has created an expert group to review the ITRs.



Preparatory process/work

- This ITU-T Expert Group held four meetings between October 2007 and June 2009. Having considered the [report](#) of the expert group, Council 2009 adopted Council [Resolution 1312](#), thus creating the Council Working Group to Prepare for the World Conference on International Telecommunications in 2012 (CWG-WCIT12). Its task was to draw up a consolidated report on all ITR issues, which is to be used to support the work of WCIT-12.
- Following a report of the CWG-WCIT12, the Council 2010 adopted Council Resolution 1317 to fix the dates for the WCIT 12 and the agenda.
- The working group also reported to the Plenipotentiary Conference 2010, which adopted Resolution 171 (Guadalajara) to guide the future work of the group.



OUTCOMES OF CWG-WCIT12

- CWG-WCIT12 held three meetings in 2010 and one in April 2011.
- Last meeting established and published the latest version of the compilation of all proposals.
- The structure of the WCIT-12.
- Dates of future meetings and work-plans.



WORK PLAN CWG-WCIT12

- 27-30 Sept 2011
Discussion of proposals presented in the compilation of proposals, and any new proposals; also review the first draft of the report to WCIT-12
- 27-29 Feb 2012
A first draft of the future ITRs and progress the report to WCIT-12
- 23-25 April 2012
A second draft of the future ITRs and progress the report to WCIT-12
- 20-22 June 2012
Final draft of the future ITRs and finalize report to WCIT-12



Highlights of on-going discussions (1/3)

- Are the ITRs still relevant?
- What core principles should guide discussions?
- Do provisions belong elsewhere?
 - Constitution/Convention
 - ITU-T Recommendations
- Should provisions be added to cover new issues?

Highlights of on-going discussions (2/3)

- Main views after PP:
 - Provisions are still valid and required, minor changes can be made
 - Many provisions are obsolete or are already covered adequately in other ITU instruments
 - New provisions are needed, to cover new areas and to strengthen certain areas

Highlights of on-going discussions (3/3)

- Examples of new and existing issues:
 - Security in use of ICTs and spam
 - Emergency telecommunications services and telecommunications for disaster relief
 - Misuse of numbers
 - Application of certain ITU-T Recommendations
 - Quality of service
 - Right of access/non discrimination
 - Taxation
 - Provisions regarding accounting
 - Market-based costing
 - How to make it easier to revise in the future?

REGIONAL PREPARATION

- It is expected regional preparation to take place back-to-back with the WTSA regional preparations.
- Some regions may organize their own regional preparatory meetings and invite ITU to participate.
- For some regions, ITU would organise a preparatory meeting in collaboration with the regional organisation.
- It is suggested that the regional meetings take place in the February-May 2012 timeframe.



EXPECTATIONS OF WCIT 12

- WCIT present key opportunities to increase good collaboration between countries.
- Help countries to reach new levels of economic and social development by means of efficient telecom services.
- Make ITRs relevant, and valuable to the full membership, so that they address and alleviate the many concerns that are out there.



USEFUL INFORMATION

- 11th GSR, Armenia City, Colombia 21-23 September 2011: www.itu.int/ITU-D/treg/Events/Seminars/GSR/GSR11/index.html
- 12th FTRA-2011 , Kigali, Rwanda, 13-15 June 2011: www.itu.int/ITU-D/afr/events/FTRA/2011/
- ITU Executive-level training for Heads of Regulatory Authorities; Geneva, 27-28 June 2011: www.itu.int/ITU-D/finance/work-cost-tariffs/events/tariff-seminars/Geneva-11/
- ITU Workshop on taxation of telecommunications services and related products; Geneva, Switzerland, 1-2 September 2011



For more information

- CWG-WCIT12:
www.itu.int/council/groups/cwg-wcit12/index.html
- 2007 Background document:
www.itu.int/md/T05-ITR.EG-INF-0002/en
- BDT/IEE/ RME:
www.itu.int/net/ITU-D/index.aspx



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Thank you
makhtar.fall@int.int



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