

Effective participation by developing countries in the work of the ITU

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6th Sub-regional telecom
meeting for Cambodia,
Lao PDR and Vietnam,
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Note: The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ITU or its membership. Dr Tim Kelly can be contacted by e-mail at Tim.Kelly@itu.int



Agenda

- **History**
- **ITU structure, purposes and objectives**
- **The three Sectors**
 - ⇒ **Radiocommunication (ITU-R)**
 - ⇒ **Telecommunication Standardization (ITU-T)**
 - ⇒ **Development (ITU-D)**
- **How Study Groups work**
- **Strategies for effective participation**
- **Participating without being present**



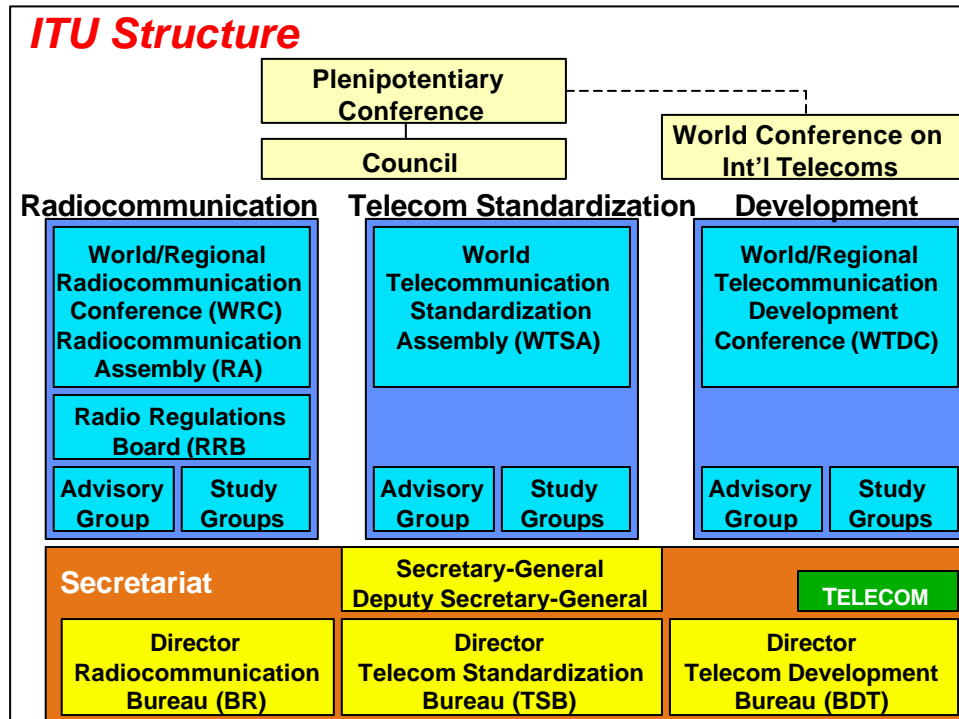
The ITU in brief


- UN specialised agency, concerned with the development of telecommunication networks and services worldwide
- 134 years old
- 189 Member States; 575 Sector Members
- Around 700 staff, more than 70 nationalities
- 2000 budget = 169m SFr (US\$ 110m)
- Secretary-General: Yoshio Utsumi (Japan)
- Deputy Sec-General: Roberto Blois (Brazil)
- Website: <http://www.itu.int>



Membership

- Cambodia joined on 10 April 1952
- Lao PDR joined on 3 April 1952
- Vietnam joined on 24 September 1951
- Regional organisations which are ITU Sector Members include:
 - ⇒ Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU)
 - ⇒ Asia-Pacific Satellite Communications Council (APSCC)
 - ⇒ Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)



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According to the International Telecommunication Constitution (Geneva, 1992), the role of the ITU is:

- International co-operation in telecommunications
- To provide technical assistance
- To promote technical development
- To extend the benefits of telecoms
- To promote telecoms for peaceful use
- To harmonise national policies
- To promote telecoms in co-operation with other national and regional bodies



But what does the ITU actually do?

- Spectrum allocation and registration
- Co-ordination of national spectrum planning
- International telecoms standardization
- Collaboration in international tariff-setting
- Co-operation in telecoms development assistance
- Measures for ensuring safety of life
- Policy reviews, information exchange
- Extension of universal access



International Treaties

- **Constitution and Convention of the ITU**
 - ⇒ Two complementary treaties, containing mainly housekeeping details but also some longstanding international commitments (e.g., Common Carrier tradition)
 - ⇒ Major update in 1992; minor updates in 1994 & 1998
- **International Telecom Regulations**
 - ⇒ Thin (10 Articles) treaty concerning mainly accounting practices. Last update 1988
- **Radio Regulations**
 - ⇒ Thick (>10'000 pages) treaty governing use of radio spectrum. Updated every WRC.



Development

- World Telecom Development Conference (Valletta, March 1998)
- Study Groups
- Valletta Action Plan
- Telecommunication Indicators reports and databases
- Technical co-operation
- Regional and area offices
- Director: **Hammadoun Touré (Mali)**

ITU-D Study Groups

SG1: Telecom Development Strategies and Policies

11 study questions covering, interconnection, Universal Access/Service, introduction of new technologies, regulatory impact of convergence, investment, tariff policies, use of Internet, telecoms and socio-cultural development, technology transfer, public sector broadcasting.

SG2: Development, harmonisation, management and maintenance of telecom networks and services

7 study questions covering co-operation with ITU-T & ITU-R, communications for remote and rural areas, digital broadcasting, broadband communications, telemedicine, human resource management, preparation of handbooks.

..... **also**

Regional and area offices

Gender Issues Task Force

Workshops and seminars associated with six programmes of the Valletta Action Plan



ITU-D priorities (Strategic plan)

- Respond effectively to requests for assistance
- Develop and mobilise resources
- Create partnership arrangements
- Promote partnership between public and private sectors
- Strengthen the regional presence
- Collaborate with private sector in implementing the Valletta Action Plan
- Improve working methods



Radiocommunications

- World Radio Conference
 - ⇒ Istanbul, May-June 2000
- ITU-R Recommendations
- Stewardship of radio frequency & satellite orbits
 - ⇒ Radio Regulations
 - ⇒ Master International Frequency Register
- Safety of life services (Maritime, Aeronautical etc)
- Director: Robert Jones (Canada)

ITU-R Study Groups

SG1: Spectrum management

SG3: Radiowave propagation

SG4: Fixed satellite service

SG7: Science services

SG8: Mobile, radiodetermination, amateur and related satellite services

SG9: Fixed service

SG10: Broadcasting service (sound)


SG11: Broadcasting service (television)

..... **also**

SC: Special Committee on Regulatory/Procedural matters

CCV: Coordination committee for vocabulary

CPM: Conference Preparatory Meeting



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ITU-R in figures

- **World Radio Conference (WRC) is the major event, attracting >2'000 delegates**
- **1997 WRC generated 8 million pages of documents**
- **More than 1'500 technical specialists participate in work of Study Groups**
- **Satellite co-ordination**
 - ⇒ **Advance publication (18 cases per week)**
 - ⇒ **Co-ordination (9 cases per week)**
 - ⇒ **Plan activities (5 cases per week)**
- **Terrestrial networks (>1'100 cases per week)**



S **Standardization**

- **World Telecom Standardization Assembly**
 - ⇒ **Canada, Sept.-Oct. 2000**
- **ITU-T Recommendations**
- **Stewardship of international numbering plan**
 - ⇒ **Country Codes**
 - ⇒ **Universal International Freephone**
- **Global Information Infrastructure**
- **Director: Houlin Zhao (China)**

ITU-T Study Groups

- SG2: Network and service operation**
- SG3: Tariff and accounting principles**
- SG4: TMN and network maintenance**
- SG5: Protection against electromagnetic effects**
- SG6: Outside plant**
- SG7: Data networks and Open Systems communications**
- SG8: Characteristics of telematic systems**
- SG9: TV and sound transmission**
- SG10: Languages and software**
- SG11: Signalling requirements and protocols**
- SG12: End-to-end transmission performance of networks**
- SG13: General network aspects**
- SG15: Transport networks, systems and equipment**
- SG16: Multimedia services and systems**



ITU-T in figures

- Several thousand participants in Study Group (mainly technical experts)
- 270 study group questions (dating from Geneva WTSC, 1996)
- Some 2'500 Recs in force (55'000 pages)
- Approx. 245 Recs targeted for 1999
- Average approval time: 9 months (min: 5)
- Three top priorities:
 - ⇒ IP-based networks
 - ⇒ IMT-2000 (3rd generation mobile systems)
 - ⇒ Accounting rate reform



Gen. Secretariat

- Plenipotentiary Conferences
 - ⇒ Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakech 2002
- World Telecommunication Policy Forum
 - ⇒ Oct. 1996, GMPCS
 - ⇒ March 1998, Trade in Telecom Services
- ITU Council
- ITU News
- Support services (e.g. IS, languages)
- ITU TELECOM



ITU Strategic Plan, 2000-03

- Strengthen the multilateral foundations of international telecommunications
- Promote global access to the GII and global participation in the GIS
- Co-ordinate international action to manage scarce telecommunication resources
- Provide information enabling Member States to draw maximum benefit from technical, financial and regulatory change
- Improve ITU efficiency and effectiveness

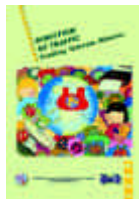
New Telecom Indicators publications



**World
Telecommunication
Development
Report:
Mobile cellular**



**Challenges to the
Network: Internet
for development**



**Direction of
Traffic: Trading
Telecom Minutes**



**Trends in Telecom
Reform:
Convergence and
Regulation**

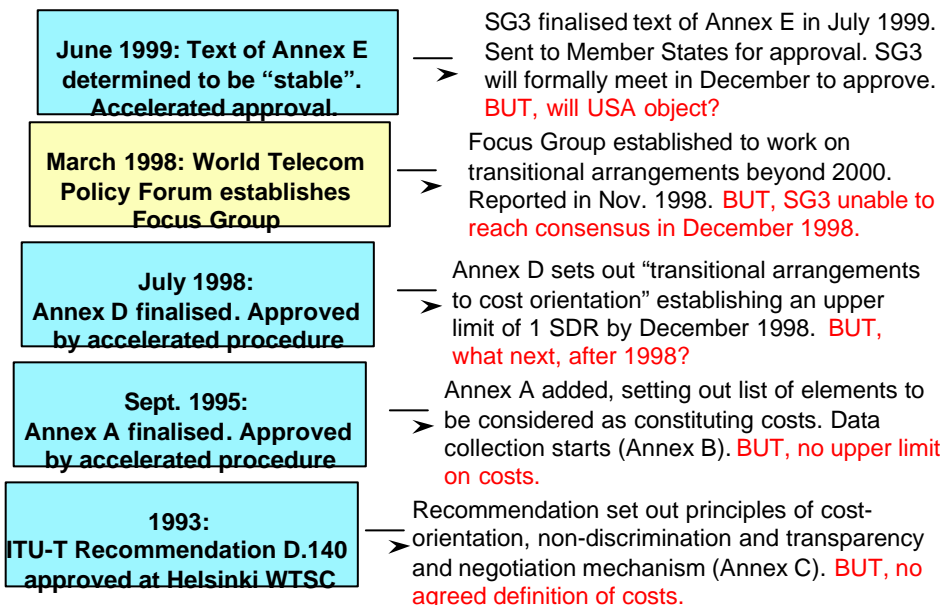
For more information: <http://www.itu.int/ti>



How Study Groups work

- World Conference/Assembly defines Study Group questions, elects chairs
 - ⇒ input from Members and Advisory Groups
- Study Group allocates tasks to Working Parties, Focus Groups, rapporteurs
 - ⇒ Focus Groups permit accelerated working
 - ⇒ Drafting done primarily by electronic working methods, using mailing lists, drop boxes etc
- Working Party prepares text for approval
- Member States approve Recommendation
 - ⇒ Accelerated approval, by correspondence, or
 - ⇒ Approval at next World Conf/Assembly

An example: ITU-T Recommendation D.140 (accounting and settlement rates)



Participating effectively ...

Motivation **Examples of meetings/events/strategies**

Desire to influence ITU strategy and major treaties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominate candidates for elected position, RRB or Council • Participate in Plenipotentiary, WRC • Participate in sectoral advisory groups (e.g., RAG, TSAG, TDAG)
Influence telecoms sector strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominate candidates for Study Group chairs, vice-chairs, rapporteurs • Participate in Study Groups, Working Parties, Focus Groups • Participate in regional events
Gain training and int'l exposure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominate candidates for fellowships • Participate in TELECOM events • Participate in workshops, seminars



Effective participation in the ITU

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Strategies for ...

.. effective participation *.. achieving results*

- Be selective: don't try to cover everything
- Study the Operational Plan for each sector to identify priorities
- Use website and mailing lists to gather information
- Use Geneva-based missions and request briefing sessions
- Work closely with regional and area offices
- Work out objectives ahead of attending meetings
- Select participants carefully (give preference to experts!)
- Co-ordinate strategies at national and especially regional level
- Seek compromises not optimal outcomes



Participating without being present ...

- **Make full use of ITU publications**
 - ⇒ 80% discounts available for LDCs
 - ⇒ Free subscriptions to electronic products for telecom training centres
- **Make full use of website for documents**
 - ⇒ Request TIES (Telecom Information Exchange Services) access to documents
 - ⇒ Identify focal points to receive & circulate documents on specific topics
- **Join and contribute to email lists**
- **Follow Internet Broadcasts**
 - ⇒ Live or recorded (e.g., PP-98, Council, Telecom)