



Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

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Note by the BDT Director

**PARTICIPATION OF SECTOR MEMBERS IN THE ITU-D SECTOR  
CURRENT SITUATION AND FUTURE CHALLENGES**

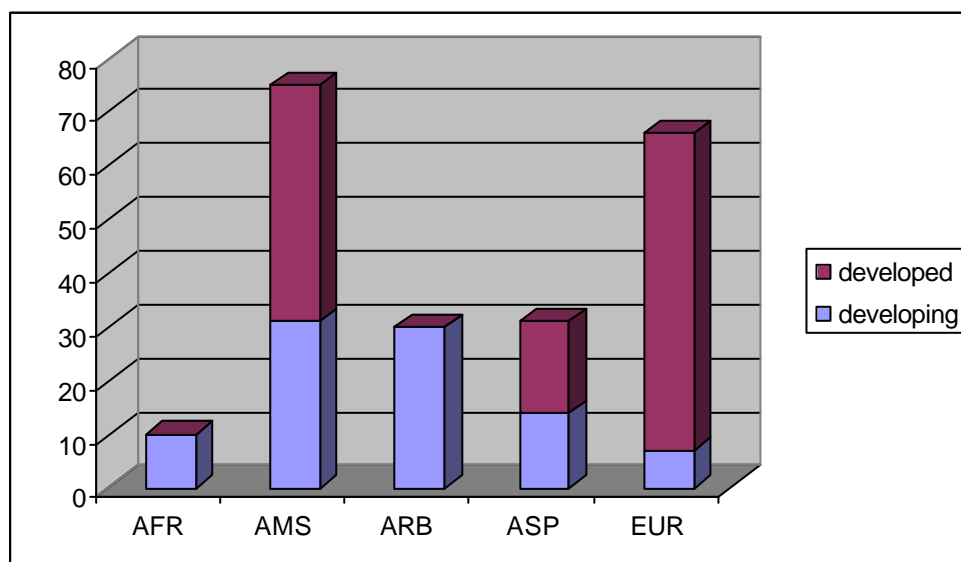
**1. Current situation**

**1.1 Composition of ITU-D Sector Members**

The total number of Sector Members of ITU- D as of 31 August 2000 is 238. Between January and August 2000, 37 new Sector Members joined the ITU-D Sector, 12 from Arab States, 11 from the Americas, 6 from Europe, 5 from Asia, 2 from Africa and 1 new Sector Member is an international organization.

119 ITU-D Sector Members are from developed countries and 93 are from developing countries. 26 ITU-D Sector Members are international or regional organizations.

**Distribution of ITU-D Sector Members by regions**



The total number of Sector Members participating in all three ITU Sectors is 631. Some ITU Sector Members participate in several Sectors. ITU-R has 265 (53 from developing countries) and ITU-T has 409 Sector Members (74 from developing countries). Out of 238 ITU-D Sector Members 128 participate also in one or both other Sectors. 110 are only ITU-D Sector Members.

The distribution of ITU-D Sector Members by categories can be seen in the following table :

		<b>Total</b>	Developing countries	Developed countries	International organizations
<b>CV 229 ROA</b>	Recognized Operating Agencies	<b>108</b>	59	49	
<b>CV 229 SIO</b>	Scientific or Industrial Organizations	<b>65</b>	12	53	
<b>CV 229 FDI</b>	Financial or Development Institutions	<b>2</b>	1	1	
<b>CV 230 OE</b>	Other Entities dealing with telecommunication matters	<b>37</b>	21	16	
<b>CV 231, CV 260, CV 261</b>	International organizations, regional organizations, etc.	<b>26</b>	-	-	26
<b>Total</b>		<b>238</b>	93	119	26

As far as the provision of different telecommunication services is concerned, roughly one third of ITU-D Sector Members provide local telephone services (73), long distance services (79), international services (79) and data services (78). Mobile telephone services are provided by 66 ITU-D Sector Members and mobile data services are provided by 48 ITU-D Sector Members. 75 ITU-D Sector Members are Internet providers.

A list of ITU-D Sector Members is available in the Global Directory publication and in the Global Directory on-line on the ITU website: <http://www.itu.int/GlobalDirectory/>. More detailed information on ITU-D Sector Members can be found on the ITU-Development website: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D-Events/SectorMembers/> with indication of services provided, contact names, direct link to the Sector Member's homepage, etc. At present, 121 Sector Members have a direct link from this site to their homepage.

## **1.2 Participation of Sector Members in ITU-D activities**

The concept of ITU Sector membership enables private entities and international organizations to actively take part in the wide-ranging activities of the Sector as identified in the Operational Plan.

The composition of the ITU-D Sector Members brings with it different interests, requirements and needs. Some Sector Members look for a source of information, some the creation of business opportunities whilst others expect above all assistance. Nevertheless, all the different expectations have in the end one common basis – the development of telecommunications throughout the world.

The analysis of the participation in ITU-D meetings made in 1999 and in the first half of 2000 has shown which meetings interest Sector Members the most. Out of 99 meetings organized in the year 1999, ITU-D Sector Members participated in 45 meetings. Out of 204 Sector Members in 1999, 92 Sector Members did not participate in any meeting. A survey of Sector Members' satisfaction, which is under preparation pursuant to the recommendations of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the TDAG subgroup dealing with private sector issues, may help us to further analyse this issue.

### **1.3 Participation of non-governmental organizations**

Relations between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are defined in various UN Resolutions establishing a consultative relationship between the UN and NGOs. The relations of specialized agencies with NGOs vary from a simple consultative status to comprehensive arrangements accommodating NGOs in various categories (UNESCO, FAO).

With regard to ITU, there are no provisions specifically mentioning a relation between ITU and NGOs. However, the rights and possibilities given by the ITU Constitution and Convention are wider and far more permissive than a consultative status, which gives limited rights. Pursuant to Article 19 of the ITU Convention, NGOs can participate under CV 231 as “regional and other international telecommunication, standardization, financial or development organizations”.

The ITU Strategic Plan 1999-2003, in the part concerning strategic orientation and specifically in the part concerning goals for the ITU-D, stresses the importance of cooperation with international and regional organizations and with NGOs dealing with telecommunication matters.

At present there are 16 Sector Members in this category. The greater part of these are non-profit organizations.

## **2. Issues concerning Sector membership dealt with by Council 2000**

### **2.1 Associates**

The Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998) introduced the concept of Associates as a way for small entities or organizations to participate in the work of ITU. It is up to each Sector (assembly and/or conference) to admit Associates as partners in their activities.

The ITU Council 2000 decided upon the following conditions:

#### **Admission procedure**

The same admission procedure as that prevailing for Sector Members will be applied for Associates, taking into account each Associate's specific profile.

#### **Financial contributions**

The amount of the financial contribution will be based upon the contributory unit for the Sector Member and be calculated at 1/3 of 1/2 unit for Associates participating in the work of ITU-T and R Study Groups, at 1/2 of 1/8 unit for Associates participating in the work of the ITU-D Study Groups and at 1/2 of 1/16 unit for Associates from developing countries participating in the work of the ITU-D Study Groups.

#### **Denunciation**

The same denunciation procedure as for Sector Members will be applied. In the event of discontinuation of the study group in which the Associate participates, the Associate could participate in another study group of its choice prior to any denunciation on its part.

The Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-2000) in May 2000 decided to admit the participation of Associates in the activities of the Sector and determined the rights of Associates in ITU-R.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-2000 in October 2000) and the **World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-2002 in March 2002) still need to make similar decisions concerning ITU-T and ITU-D.**

## Exemption from payment for organizations of an international character

Over the years, there have been a number of cases where ITU Council has exempted certain organizations of an international character from financial obligations in defraying the expenses of ITU conferences and meetings (including Sector membership contribution). This has been done so far by amendments to Council Resolution 925. Council, at its 2000 session, decided on the criteria and guidelines as well as on the procedure for possible granting of exemption in accordance with CV 476.

Organizations concerned should meet the following criteria:

- be an organization of international character dealing with telecommunications;
- be non-profit-making;
- have members whose participation in ITU activities would be beneficial to the aims of the Union;
- allow ITU to be represented at and participate in the organization's meetings free of charge;
- allow ITU access to relevant documentation.

With regard to the procedure, each application for exemption shall be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary-General. It shall be presented to the Council for consideration, accompanied by evidence justifying the application.

The Secretary-General will examine the request for exemption according to the criteria above and will report to the forthcoming session of the Council. If the application for exemption is approved by the Council, it will take immediate effect from the date of the Plenary meeting at which the decision is taken.

The exemption shall be valid only until the following Plenipotentiary Conference. Organizations already exempted from payment will be required to resubmit an application for a new period of exemption prior to the following Plenipotentiary Conference.

**As far as the ITU-D Sector Members are concerned, out of 26 organizations of an international character, 19 are exempted from payment of contributions.** Recently another **seven** organizations have presented their requests for exemption. These requests will be treated in accordance with the above-mentioned criteria.

### **3. Future Challenges**

The BDT will continue focusing on requirements of countries and companies and on the corresponding improvement of our products and services.

To achieve this, the following measures will be taken:

- Promotion campaign to increase ITU-D Sector membership,
- Establish closer liaison with ITU-D Sector Members,
- Improved reporting on ITU-D activities.

Among some steps already taken or under preparation, the following actions may be mentioned: Sector membership promotion campaign in connection with regional preparatory meetings, posting of a "Status report on the implementation of the Operational Plan 2000" and a "Report on ITU-D activities 2000 by keywords" on the web, presentation of some ITU-D activities and projects in the Global Knowledge database, and preparation of a survey of Sector Members' satisfaction.