

# ITU and Spam

Virtual conference, 30 March 2004

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## Importance of the fight against spam

- Enormous growth of spam since 2001 to 50% + of all emails  
– costing US\$ 20.5bn a year (UNCTAD)
- Like Internet itself, a global issue, affecting all – with risks of spammers 'offshoring' anywhere
- General lack of awareness and understanding
- *Need to tackle the issue internationally in a multi-pronged approach involving all stakeholders*

## Role of ITU and Member States

### 1. *Important considerations*

- Spam often only a new vehicle for old scams
- Cooperation is essential – including international organisations working on spam (OECD, EU, ICPEN,...)
- Spam regulators often *not* telecoms regulators
- ITU to help broaden co-operation and understanding.
- Member States to work bilaterally taking account of national regulations

## Role of ITU and Member States

### 2. *Possible cooperation between ITU Member States*

- Identify relevant contact points in administrations
- Support technical developments and promote their use
- Encourage sharing of information and best practice – the Australia/Korea MoU as a good example
- Promote consistent information to the public, business and government on how to avoid receiving and generating spam