About ITU Annual Reports

The ITU Annual Reports collection begins with the report for 1869. In fact, although the first International Telegraph Convention was signed in 1865, it was the second International Telegraph Conference in Vienna in 1868 that decided to establish a headquarters with a permanent secretariat. This secretariat, initially called the *Bureau international des administrations télégraphiques*, started operation on 1 January 1869 with three staff members. The 1869 report therefore mentions the work required to set up the new secretariat as well as detailing the accomplishments of the first year. The duty of the Director of the Bureau to prepare an annual report was added to the International Telegraph Convention in 1872.

In 1906, the Bureau (by then named the *Bureau of the International Telegraph Union*) was designated by the first International Radiotelegraph Conference in Berlin to act as the central administrative organ for a variety of administrative tasks arising from the new International Radiotelegraph Convention. A radiotelegraph section was established within the Bureau, and from 1906 to 1925, the Bureau published two separate reports each year: one for the telegraph section and one for the radiotelegraph section. In 1926, the two reports were merged to create a single annual report for the Union.

Following changes made to the structure and working methods of the Union by the 1947 International Telecommunication Conference in Atlantic City, the Bureau became the *General Secretariat of the International Telecommunication Union*, and the Director of the Bureau became the Secretary General. The duties of the new Secretary General included preparation of an annual report on the activities of the Union. In accordance with decisions on languages made by the same Conference, the Annual Report was published in English, French and Spanish after 1947.

In 2002, the Union stopped producing the Annual Report as a publication. A draft report on activities continues to be submitted each year to Council for information and approval. These draft reports are part of the Council documents and were not scanned and included in the collection of Annual Reports presented here on the History of ITU Portal.

Annual Report : publication timeline

1869- 1906	1907-1925	1926-1947	1948-2001	2002-present

Rapport de gestion
du Bureau international
des administrations télégraphiques
published in French only,
1869 - 1906

Rapport de gestion
de l'Union télégraphique
(section télégraphique)
published in French only,
1907 - 1925

Rapport de gestion
de l'Union télégraphique
(section radiotélégraphique)
published in French only,
1907 - 1925

Rapport de gestion
de l'Union télégraphique
- a single annual report
published in French only,
1926 - 1947

Annual Report
of the International Telecommunication
Union
published in English, French and Spanish,
1948 - 2001

Rapport annuel
de l'Union internationale des
télécommunications
publié en français, anglais et espagnole,
1948 - 2001

Informe anual
de la Unión Internacional de
Telecomunicaciones
publicado en inglés, francés y español,
1948 - 2001

Report on the activities of the Union
a document submitted to the ITU Council,
2002-present
(the Annual Report is no longer published)