Introduction to the work of ITU

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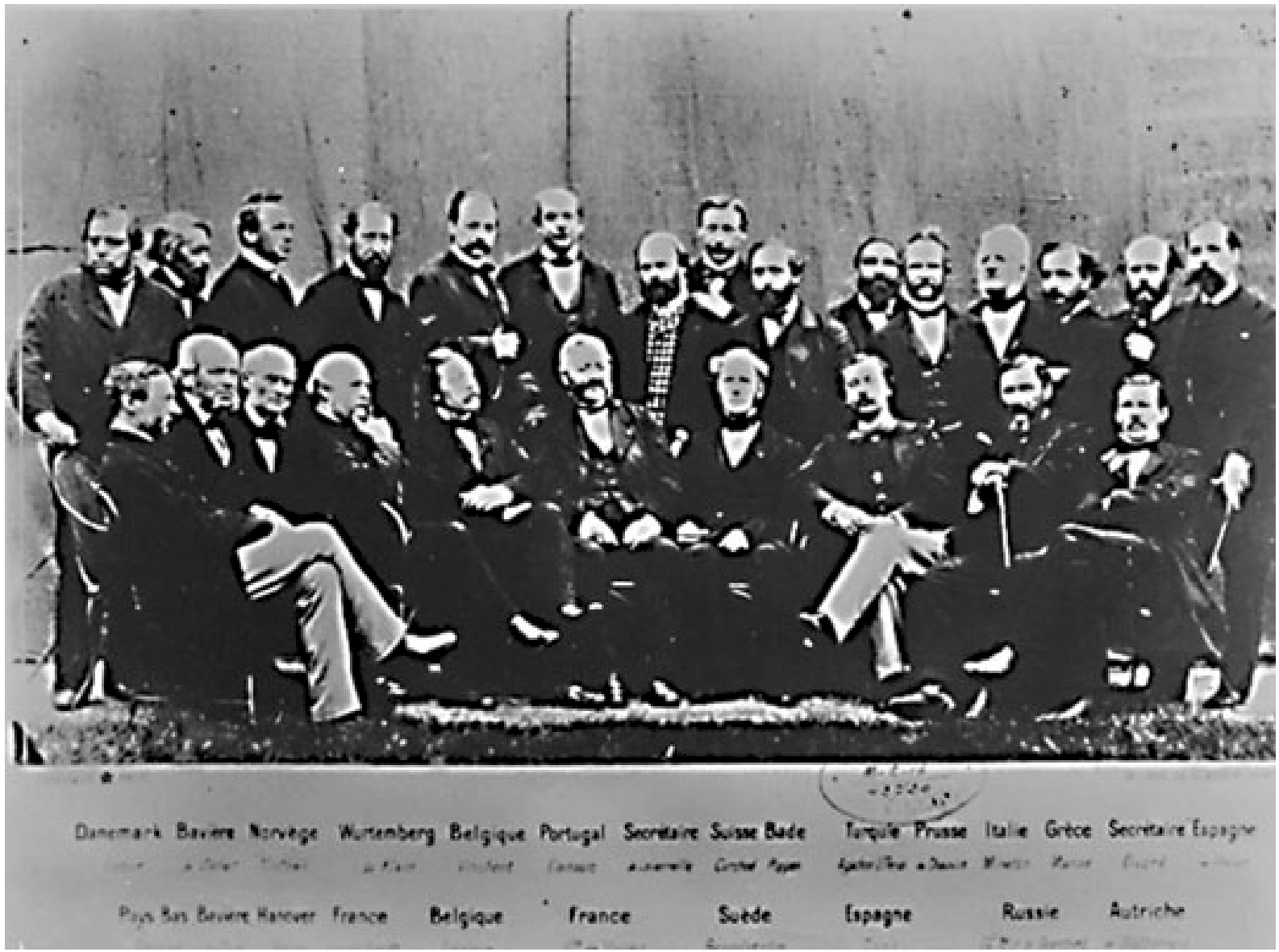
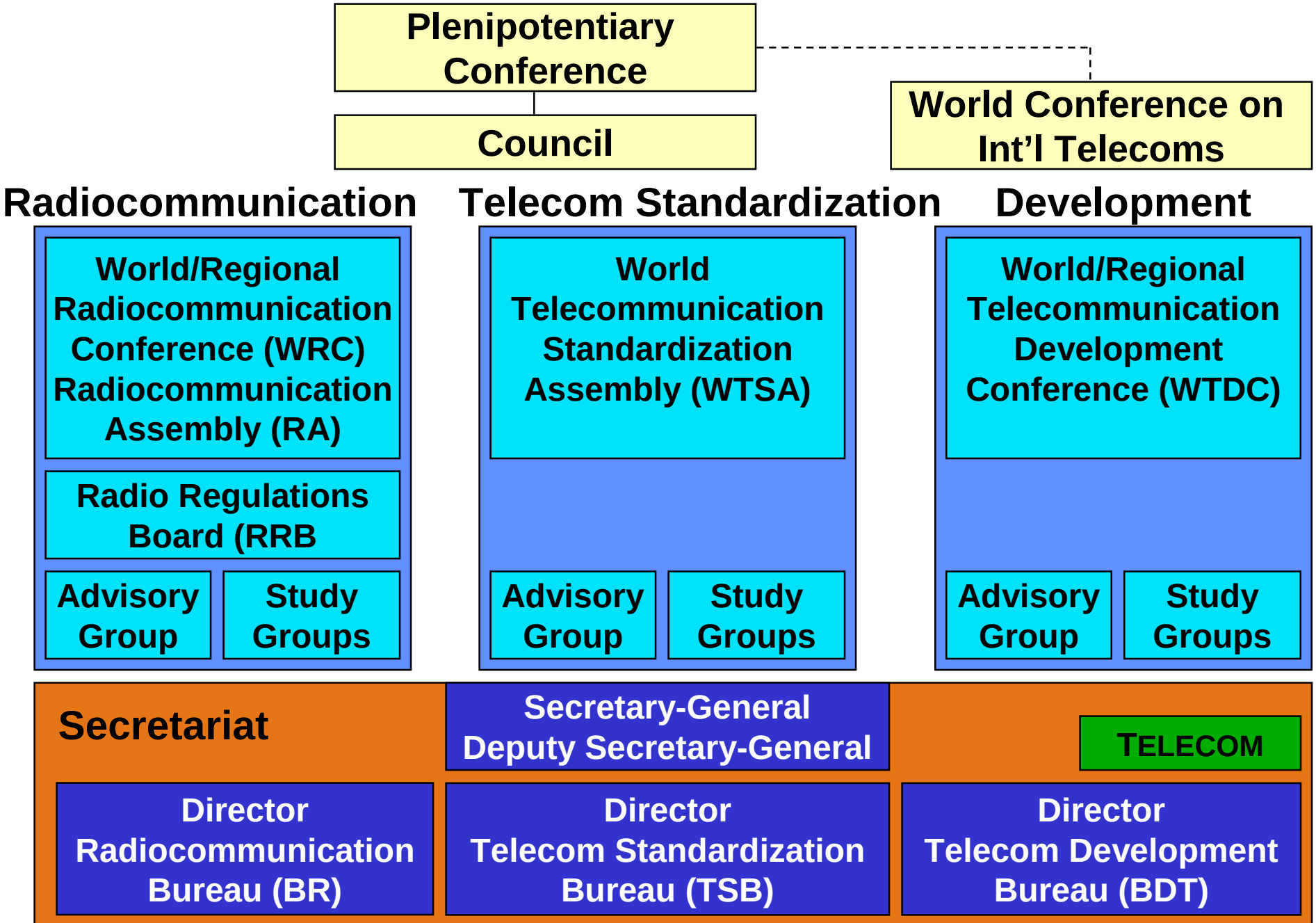
ITU: Founded on 17 May 1865



ITU in brief

- UN specialized agency, concerned with the development of telecommunication networks and services worldwide
- 137 years old
- 189 Member States; 600+ Sector Members
- Around 790 staff / 83 nationalities
- 2002 budget = *circa* CHF172m (USD 115m)
- Secretary-General: Yoshio Utsumi (Japan)
- Deputy Sec-General: Roberto Blois (Brazil)
- Website: http://www.itu.int

ITU structure



ITU Membership

- **189 Member States**
- **More than 650 Sector Members**
  - **Members belong to the three Sectors (not ITU directly)**
  - **Different categories of Sector Members, such as:**
    - "Recognized operating agency" (e.g.BT, AT&T)
    - "Scientific or industrial organization" (e.g. manufacturers:Cisco)
    - "Other entity" (e.g. regulatory bodies, consultancies: FCC)
    - "Regional and other international organizations" (CITEL, APT)
- **New category of "Associates"**
  - **Small and medium-sized enterprises, individuals or others participating only in one or two different Study Groups**
- **Efforts to involve non-Members**
  - **For instance, through "free Recommendations" scheme**
  - **Cost-recovery introduced for certain activities**

Who pays what?

- **ITU has 189 Member States plus 600+ Sector Members and Associates**
  - **Each chooses to pay a certain number contributory units e.g. US = 30, Malawi 1/16**
  - **For Member States, 1 unit = CHF 315'000**
  - **For Sector Members, 1 unit = CHF 63'000**
  - **For Associates, 1 unit = CHF 10'500**
  - **Main budget = CHF 172m in 2002, of which:**
  - **CHF 113m (65.7%) from Member States**
  - **CHF 22m (12.8%) from Sector Members & Associates**
  - **CHF 14m (8.1%) from sale of publications**
  - **CHF 15m (8.7%) from cost recovery, interest, etc**
  - **CHF 4m (2.3%) from funds-in-trust (for dev't)**

According to the International Telecommunication Constitution (Minneapolis, 1998), the role of ITU is:

- International cooperation in telecommunications
- Technical assistance to LDCs
- To promote technical development
- To extend the benefits of telecoms
- To promote telecoms for peaceful use
- To harmonize national policies
- To promote telecoms in cooperation with other national and regional bodies

But what does ITU actually do?

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

International Treaties

- **Constitution and Convention of 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 Telecommunication Regulations**
  - Thin (10 Articles) treaty concerning mainly accounting practices. Last update 1988 – under review in 2002
- **Radio Regulations**
  - Thick (>10’000 pages) treaty governing use of radio spectrum. Updated every WRC

Development

- World Telecom Development Conference (Istanbul, March 2002)
- Study Groups
- Valletta Action Plan
- Telecommunication Indicators reports and databases
- Regulatory assistance
- Technical cooperation
- Regional offices
- Director: Hammadoun Touré (Mali)

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)

Standardization

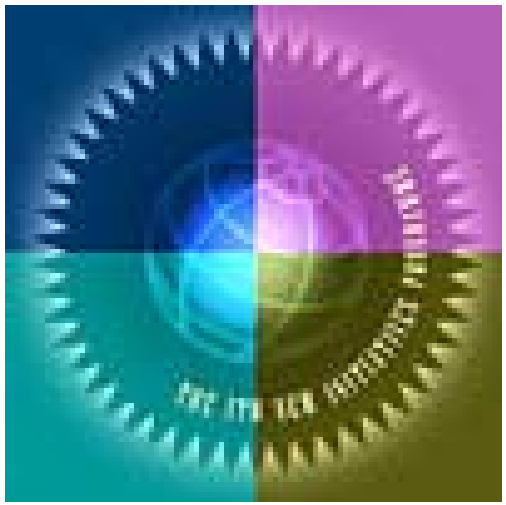
- World Telecom Standardization Assembly
  - Montreal, Sept-Oct 2000
- ITU-T Recommendations
- Stewardship of international numbering plan
  - Country codes
  - Universal International Freephone
  - ENUM
- Collaboration with the Internet community (e.g.IETF, ICANN)
- Director: Houlin Zhao (China)

Gen. Secretariat

- Plenipotentiary Conferences
  - Minneapolis, 1998; Marrakesh 2002
- World Telecom Policy Forum
  - March 2001, IP Telephony
- New Initiatives Programme
- ITU Council
- ITU News
- Support services (e.g. IS, languages)
- ITU TELECOM

ITU New Initiatives Programme

- **Launched in 1999**
- **Workshops**
  - **Electronic Signatures and Certification Authorities**
  - **IP Telephony**
  - **Fixed-to-Mobile Interconnection**
  - **Regulatory implications of Broadband**
  - **Licensing of 3G Mobile**
  - **Multilingual Domain Names (ITU/WIPO)**
  - **Critical Network Infrastructures (May 2002)**
  - **Competition Policy in Telecoms (Nov 2002)**
- **Country case studies**
- **Internet Policy**
  - **ENUM**
- **Web publishing**



".. New topics of a regulatory, policy or other nature of high-current interest …"
Council Decision 496

Website: www.itu.int.osg.spu.ni/

What is ITU doing right now?

- Internet policy
  - e.g. network security
- ITU Internet Report 2002: Internet for a Mobile Generation
- Competition policy
- Lead role in organizing WSIS
  - World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, 2003 and Tunis, 2005)
  - Website: www.itu.int/wsis/

What are the next topics?

- **Preferred workshop topics for 2003 (responses of Member States and Sector Members):**

1) Promoting broadband networks
2) Interaction and convergence of radiocom services
3) Mobile overtakes fixed: What next?
4) Interconnection in a digital world
5) Emergency response services
6) Billing in a converging world
7) Reliability of ICT networks
8) Management of IDNs and IDAs
9) Funding of telecom regulators
10) Spam

Is this ITU's job?

- **Mobile uses spectrum, unlike fixed**
  - **IMT-2000 led to more efficient use of spectrum**
- **Convergence requires new standards**
  - **e.g. VoIP; IMT-2000; ENUM**
- **Regulatory approaches need to be adapted to a new market constellation:**
  - **For successful 3G licensing**
  - **To encourage network growth**
  - **Universal access will not be attained by market forces alone – policy-makers need guidelines**
- **ITU is the recognized international body dealing with standards, spectrum and regulatory issues**
- **ITU remains an independent, neutral body**

Challenges in the new telecommunication world

- **Mobile is overtaking fixed**
  - **LDCs have fastest growth in mobile (e.g. Africa)**
  - **Mobile Internet and multimedia applications (e.g. SMS)**
  - **Lower-income populations: access to telecoms**
- **Convergence**
  - **Pushing traditional telecom operators into Internet and broadcasting (e.g. AT&T)**
  - **Global marketplace**
- **ICTs and the digital divide – information "haves" and "have-nots"**
- **Competition – deregulation**
  - **New policies needed (e.g.Broadband bill in the US)**

A few Web addresses:

http://www.itu.int

http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/gender/

http://www.itu.int.osg.spu.ni/