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| **Agenda item: ADM 1** | **Document C25/65-E** |
| **16 May 2025** |
| **Original: English** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General |
| NEW REQUESTS FOR EXEMPTION FROM FEES FOR ORGANIZATIONS OF AN INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER |
| **Purpose**Each year, ITU receives requests from organizations of an international character seeking exemption from membership fees and other financial contributions to the Union based on reciprocity. These new requests are reviewed by the secretariat according to criteria established by the Council.**Action required by the Council**The Council is invited to **consider** the recommendations of the Secretary-General regarding new requests for exemption.**Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**Partnerships and international cooperation.**Financial implications**CHF 160K per year in exempted membership fees.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References***Document* [*C2000/28(Rev.1)*](http://www.itu.int/itudoc/gs/council/c00/docs/28rev1.html)*,* [*Council Resolution 925*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0141/en)*,* [*Council Criteria for Exemptions (Rev. 2017)*](https://www.itu.int/hub/membership/our-members/exempted-entities/) |

# 1 Background

1.1 Each year, ITU receives requests from organizations of an international character seeking exemption from membership fees and other financial contributions to the Union. These requests are considered as per the procedure established by the Council at its 2000 session (Document [C2000/28(Rev.1)](http://www.itu.int/itudoc/gs/council/c00/docs/28rev1.html)) and in accordance with No. 476 of the Convention and [Council Resolution 925](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0141/en), as well as criteria established by the Council, revised in 2017 (see point 1.5 below).

1.2 Exemption from fees is granted by the Council following an analysis of the relevant Bureaux and a recommendation by the Secretary-General. If approved, they become Sector Members or Associates under the terms of No. 231 of the Convention.

1.3 Currently, there are 137 exempted organizations of an international character. A full list is available here.

1.4 In Resolution 187 (Busan, 2014), the 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference instructed the Council to “review the practice and criteria for exempting entities from membership fees and, if necessary, make changes to tighten the criteria to help bring greater clarity, consistency and fairness between paying and non-paying members and to reduce the total of exempted entities.”

1.5 Council-17 approved revised criteria, available [here](https://www.itu.int/hub/membership/our-members/exempted-entities/exemption-criteria/). Since then, each Council has reviewed new applications according to these criteria.

1.6 This document addresses only new requests for fee exemption since the last Council.

# 2 New requests and recommendations

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| Organization | Sector | Recommendation |
| **Article19** | ITU-R | No |

“ARTICLE 19” is a charitable entity registered in the United Kingdom. They are an international association of organizations and individuals focused on freedom of expression. In the view of the secretariat, this entity does not meet the criteria established by the Council for fee exemption, as they are not a membership-based organization.

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| Organization | Sector | Recommendation |
| **ATSC The Broadcast Standards Association** | ITU-R | No |

ATSC, the Broadcast Standards Association, is an international, non-profit organization developing voluntary standards and recommended practices for multimedia broadcasting. ATSC guides the seamless integration of broadcast and telecom standards to drive the industry forward. ATSC was formed in 1983 by the member organizations of the Joint Committee on Inter-society Coordination (JCIC): the Consumer Technology Association (CTA), the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), the Internet & Television Association (NCTA), and the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE). As an international business association with primarily for-profit members, in the view of the secretariat, this entity does not meet the criteria established by the Council for fee exemption.

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| Organization | Sector | Recommendation |
| **The Cyber** **Institute** | ITU-RITU-TITU-D | NoNoYes |

The Cyber Institute is a nonprofit, international NGOheadquartered in New York dedicated to advancing cyber policy, education, and workforce development. The Cyber Institute has organizational members in six countries and individual members in more than 20 countries across several regions. In the view of the secretariat, this entity meets the criteria established by Council for fee exemption for ITU-D. However, there is insufficient reciprocity benefit demonstrated for ITU-R and ITU-T.

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| Organization | Sector | Recommendation |
| **Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO)** | ITU-D | Yes |

With 53 Member States, the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) is a specialized organization that operates under the aegis of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and is concerned with fields of education, science, culture and communication in Islamic countries to support and strengthen relations among Member States. The Organization’s headquarters are in Rabat. As an international organization of Member States, in the view of the secretariat, this entity meets the criteria established by the Council for fee exemption.

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| Organization | Sector | Recommendation |
| **South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO)** | ITU-T | Yes |

The South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO) is a Specialized Body of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). SARSO was established to achieve and enhance coordination and cooperation among SAARC member countries in the fields of standardization and conformity assessment. As a regional organization of Member States, in the view of the secretariat, this entity meets the criteria established by the Council for fee exemption.

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| Organization | Sector | Recommendation |
| **Space Generation Advisory Council** | ITU-RITU-TITU-D | YesNoYes |

The Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) was established in support of the [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) Program on Space Applications. It is a non-governmental, non-profit organization and network of students, young professionals, and alumni in the space industry that currently represents over 27,000 members across 165 countries. SGAC is an official Partner of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF). In the view of the secretariat, this entity meets the criteria established by Council for fee exemption for ITU-R and ITU-D. However, there is insufficient reciprocity benefit demonstrated for ITU-T.

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