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As always, we welcome your feedback and comments – just drop us a line at sales@itu.int
# Catalogue of ITU Publications

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- A reference document containing: a) the Constitution and the Convention as amended by plenipotentiary conferences; b) General Rules of Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings of the Union; c) the full text of the Optional Protocol on the compulsory settlement of disputes relating to the Constitution, the Convention and the Administrative Regulations; d) the full text of all decisions, resolutions and recommendations in force; e) a list of abrogated decisions, resolutions and recommendations.

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About ITU

Overview

ITU is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies – ICTs.

We allocate global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develop the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect, and strive to improve access to ICTs to underserved communities worldwide.

ITU is committed to connecting all the world’s people – wherever they live and whatever their means. Through our work, we protect and support everyone’s fundamental right to communicate.

Today, ICTs underpin everything we do. They help manage and control emergency services, water supplies, power networks and food distribution chains. They support health care, education, government services, financial markets, transportation systems, e-commerce platforms and environmental management. And they allow people to communicate with colleagues, friends and family anytime, and almost anywhere.

With the help of our global membership, ITU brings the benefits of modern communication technologies to people everywhere in an efficient, safe, easy and affordable manner.

ITU membership reads like a Who’s Who of the ICT sector. We’re unique among UN agencies in having both public and private sector membership. So in addition to our 193 Member States, ITU membership includes ICT regulators, many leading academic institutions worldwide, and some 700 tech companies.

In an increasingly interconnected world, ITU is the single global organization embracing all players in this dynamic and fast-growing sector.
Our vision
Committed to connecting the world

Virtually every facet of modern life – in business, culture or entertainment, at work and at home – depends on information and communication technologies (ICTs).

The global international telecommunications network is the largest and most sophisticated engineering feat ever created. You use it every time you log on to the web, send an e-mail or SMS, consult online navigation systems, listen to the radio, watch television, order something online, travel by plane or ship – and of course every time you use a mobile phone, smartphone or tablet computer.

Today, there are over seven billion mobile phone subscribers, well over 1.4 billion households with access to television, and tens of millions of new Internet users every year. Hundreds of millions of people around the world use satellite services – whether getting directions from a satellite navigation system, checking the weather forecast or watching TV or surfing the Net from isolated areas. Millions more use ITU video compression standards every day via their mobile phones, music players and cameras.

ITU is at the very heart of the ICT sector, brokering agreement on technologies, services, and allocation of global resources like radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbital frequencies, to create a seamless global communications system that’s robust, reliable, and constantly evolving.

• ITU makes phone calls possible: whether to the office next door, or to a friend or colleague in another country. ITU technical standards, protocols and international agreements are the essential elements underpinning the global telecommunication system.
• ITU coordinates the world’s satellites through the management of spectrum and orbital frequencies, bringing you television, vehicle GPS navigation, maritime and aeronautical communications, weather information and online maps, and enabling communications in even the most remote parts of the planet.
• ITU makes Internet access possible. Behind the scenes, through optical transport and broadband access networks, the vast majority of Internet connections are facilitated by ITU standards.
• ITU helps support communications in the wake of disasters and emergencies – through on-the-ground assistance, dedicated emergency communications channels, technical standards for early warning systems, and practical help in rebuilding after a catastrophe.
• ITU works with the industry to define the new technologies that will support tomorrow’s networks and services.
• ITU powers the mobile revolution, forging the technical standards and policy frameworks that make mobile and broadband possible.
• ITU works with public and private sector partners to ensure that ICT access and services are affordable, equitable and universal.
• ITU empowers people around the world through technology education and training, and engages with members from academia to build networks and tap the power of tomorrow’s innovators.
General Secretariat

The mission of the ITU General Secretariat is to provide high-quality and efficient services to the membership of the Union. The General Secretariat manages the administrative and financial aspects of the Union’s activities, including the provision of conference services, planning and organization of major meetings, information services, security, strategic planning, and corporate functions such as communications, legal advice, finance, personnel, procurement, and internal audit.

The General Secretariat is the unit responsible for ongoing management of the activities around the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process, including the annual WSIS Forum, and also manages activities in support of ITU Council and 4-yearly Plenipotentiary Conferences.

Radiocommunication

Satellites enable phone calls, television and radio programmes, navigation and online maps. Space services are vital in monitoring and transmitting changes in such data as ocean temperature, vegetation patterns and greenhouse gases – helping us predict famines, the path of a hurricane, or how the global climate is changing. The explosive growth of wireless communications, and particularly wireless broadband, demonstrates the need for global solutions to address the need for additional radio spectrum allocations and harmonized standards to improve interoperability.

ITU’s Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) coordinates this vast and growing range of radiocommunication services, as well as the international management of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbital frequencies. An increasing number of players need to make use of these limited resources, and participating in ITU-R conferences and study group activities – where important work is done on mobile broadband communications and broadcasting technologies such as Ultra HDTV and 3D TV – is becoming an ever-higher priority for both governments and industry players.

Standardization

ITU standards (called Recommendations) are fundamental to the operation of today’s ICT networks. For Internet access, transport protocols, voice and video compression, home networking and myriad other aspects of ICTs, hundreds of ITU standards allow systems to work and interoperate – locally and globally. For instance, the Emmy award-winning standard ITU-T H.264 and new gold standard H.265 are the world’s most popular standards for video compression. In a typical year, ITU will produce or revise upwards of 150 standards covering everything from core network functionality to next-generation services such as IPTV.

If your product or service requires any kind of international buy-in, you need to be part of the standardization discussions in ITU’s Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T).

Development

ITU’s Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) has a programme to offer you – whether you are interested in entering or expanding your presence in emerging markets, demonstrating global ICT leadership, learning how to put good policy into practice, or pursuing your mandate for corporate social responsibility. In an increasingly networked world, expanding access to ICTs globally is in everybody’s interest. ITU champions a number of major initiatives which encompass ITU’s internationally-accorded mandate to promote digital inclusion and bridge the digital divide. ITU also regularly publishes the industry’s most comprehensive and reliable ICT statistics, and an annual overview of global regulatory trends in this fast-evolving sector.
Why be a part of ITU?

The ICT industry is undergoing rapid change. **Strategic cooperation and understanding between all stakeholders** is vital when decisions can have huge political, social and financial consequences.

ITU offers a unique, neutral, global platform to come together and:

- **share ideas** and knowledge, and exchange best practice
- **agree on global technical standards** in a consensus-based, transparent and fair environment
- **engage directly** with governments, regulators and industry leaders
- establish fruitful **partnerships**
- exert **direct influence** in shaping your industry and the future
- ensure that your **products** are safe, reliable, globally compatible and future-proof
- benefit from the world’s most comprehensive, reliable **ICT statistics**
- gain access to top-level **ICT publications**
- profit from the **support** of highly-educated, international and multilingual staff
- plug into **local knowledge** through ITU’s regional and area offices.

**While continuing to address the needs of established players, ITU also recognizes and fulfills the needs of new market entrants.**
Global meeting place

ITU regularly hosts global and regional events and workshops that are open to members and sometimes also to non-members. Considered by many to be the global gathering place for the ICT sector, ITU is famous for events like **ITU Telecom World**, which brings together the most influential representatives of government and industry to exchange ideas and knowledge for the benefit of all. A strong new focus on small and medium enterprises is now making ITU Telecom a key platform for helping countries develop and nurture new local, regional and international business opportunities.

By connecting the world and fulfilling everyone’s fundamental right to communicate, we strive to make the world a better and safer place.

Developing skills and knowledge

‘Connecting the unconnected’ is not just a question of putting infrastructure in place. Networks have to be supported by effective regulatory strategies and policies and an understanding of future trends: technical, social and economic. ITU brings partners together to discuss these issues, share insights and best practice, and lay the groundwork for long-term industry growth. ITU publishes regular reports highlighting important developments and also has its own **ITU Academy** programme which trains technicians, regulators, administrators and local communities in how best to harness the power of ICTs.
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