

# ITU

Committed to connecting the world





ITU Elected Officials, from left to right:  
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Mr François Rancy



# Welcome to ITU

ITU is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs). As such, it is responsible for the allocation of radio spectrum and satellite orbits, and for the standardization and development of ICTs worldwide. ITU is firmly committed to connecting all the world's people – wherever they live and whatever their means – and safeguarding everyone's fundamental right to communicate.

ICTs underpin everything we do in the modern world, and today each and every one of us is dependent on ICT networks and applications. They help manage and control everything from emergency services, water supplies, power networks and food distribution chains, to health care, education, government services, financial markets and local and international transportation.

Tremendous progress has already been made, with well over five billion mobile cellular subscriptions worldwide, and more than two billion of the world's people now having access to the Internet.

With the help of our membership we bring the benefits of modern communication technologies to everyone in an efficient, safe, easy and affordable manner.

We bring together all the players in this extraordinarily diverse industry – from well-established businesses to new market entrants and academia – to do the best possible job. Membership in ITU benefits everyone. And it provides ITU with improved leverage and reach, helping us achieve not just our own goals, but the greater goals of humanity.

It also brings a clear and rapid return on investment to our members, who benefit from ITU being a unique, neutral, global organization. ITU membership offers you unparalleled networking opportunities with the industry's top talent, and representatives from 192 governments, along with regulators, leading academic institutions and some 700 private-sector entities. That gives you an unrivalled opportunity to engage directly with the industry's decision-makers to influence the future shape of the ICT sector, to agree on new standards that will give you greater market reach, and to have your voice heard around the world.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Dr Hamadoun I. Touré**  
*Secretary-General, ITU*



# 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 standards in a consensus-based, transparent and fair environment;
- engage directly with governments, regulators and industry leaders;
- establish partnerships;
- have 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 ICT statistics;
- have access to top-level 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 fulfils the needs of new market entrants.

- Being a member of the only global, intergovernmental ICT organization helps you have your concerns heard – around the world.
- Being a member of ITU gives you unique access to top-level representatives from both government and industry.
- Being a member of ITU lets you take advantage of ITU's unrivalled track record in building consensus – representing a century and a half of experience.



# What does ITU do?

ITU has three main areas of activity organized in **'Sectors'** which work through conferences and meetings.

## 1. Radio-frequency allocation, satellite orbit management and access technologies

Satellites enable phone calls, television programmes, satellite 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, particularly to provide broadband services, stressed 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 orbits. 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.

## 2. Standardization

ITU standards (called Recommendations) are fundamental to the operation of today's ICT networks. Without ITU standards you could not make a telephone call or surf the Internet. For Internet access, transport protocols, voice and video compression, home networking, and myriad other aspects of ICT, hundreds of ITU standards allow systems to work – locally and globally. For instance, the Emmy award-winning standard ITU-T H.264 is now one of

the 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 acceptance, you need to be part of the standardization discussions in ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T).

## 3. 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.

## Major initiatives

ITU champions a number of major initiatives which encompass ITU's internationally-accorded mandate to 'bridge the digital divide', such as its *ITU Connect* events or *Connect a School, Connect a Community*. ITU also regularly publishes the industry's most comprehensive and reliable ICT statistics.

### • Climate change

ITU plays a vital role in enabling satellites to monitor key changes in the environment. And ITU is working on a methodology that will provide the ICT industry with a uniform way to report its own greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to promoting the adoption of much more efficient next-generation networks (NGNs) and solutions such as the universal charger for mobile devices, ITU is leading by example in adopting smart technologies to limit its own carbon footprint.



- **Emergency telecommunications**

ITU mobilizes partners and resources to provide immediate, on-the-ground help when disasters occur. ITU provides communication equipment to replace damaged local infrastructure, and helps countries rebuild ICT networks and services for the future. ITU has also published many standards to help support a rapid response when disasters occur, and its ongoing commitment in this area saves lives.

- **Cybersecurity**

ITU has a commitment not only to connect the world, but also to connect it safely and responsibly. This means helping to create a safe and secure online environment for everyone.

ITU achieves this in large part through its Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA), which is conducted in close partnership with Malaysia's IMPACT programme, as well as through the Child Online Protection (COP) initiative. ITU standards for public key encryption have allowed the rise of e-commerce, and identity management is also now a focus of ITU's work.

- **Accessibility**

In order to truly bridge the digital divide, all people should be able to have easy, affordable and equitable access to communication technologies, regardless of geographical location, social circumstances or physical disability. ITU promotes this principle in all areas of its work.

- **Broadband**

Many goals for a better society, including the Millennium Development Goals, will not be achieved without innovative approaches in sectors such as health, education, food production and distribution, energy, and transportation. All will rely increasingly on advanced ICT infrastructure and applications. ITU is working with a range of partners to expand the fixed and wireless broadband networks and services that will underpin social and economic progress in every country in the 21st century. In 2010, together with UNESCO, ITU launched the Broadband Commission for Digital Development.





# Membership

ITU membership represents a cross-section of the global ICT sector, from the world's largest manufacturers and carriers to small, innovative players working with new and emerging technologies. Now membership is also open to academia.

Founded on the principle of international cooperation between governments (**Member States**) and the private sector (**Sector Members, Associates** and **Academia**), ITU is the premier global forum through which parties can work towards consensus on a wide range of issues affecting the future direction of the industry.

In October 2010, ITU officially opened its work to **academia, universities** and their associated **research establishments** for a trial period of four years.

## Cost of membership

Member States and Sector Members pay in contributory units and, above a minimum amount, may freely choose their annual contribution. For organizations that have a specific focus, it is also possible to participate in the work of a single study group as an Associate. Academia, universities and their associated research establishments benefit from preferential rates, as do Sector Members from some developing countries.



### Minimum annual contributory amounts

Standardization / Radiocommunication Sectors	
Sector Members	31,800*
Sector Members from developing countries (per capita income not exceeding USD 2,000)	3,975**
Associates	10,600
Academia and research establishments	3,975
Academia and research establishments from developing countries	1,987.50

Development Sector	
Sector Members	7,950
Sector Members from developing countries	3,975
Associates	3,975
Associates from developing countries	1,987.50
Academia and research establishments	3,975
Academia and research establishments from developing countries	1,987.50

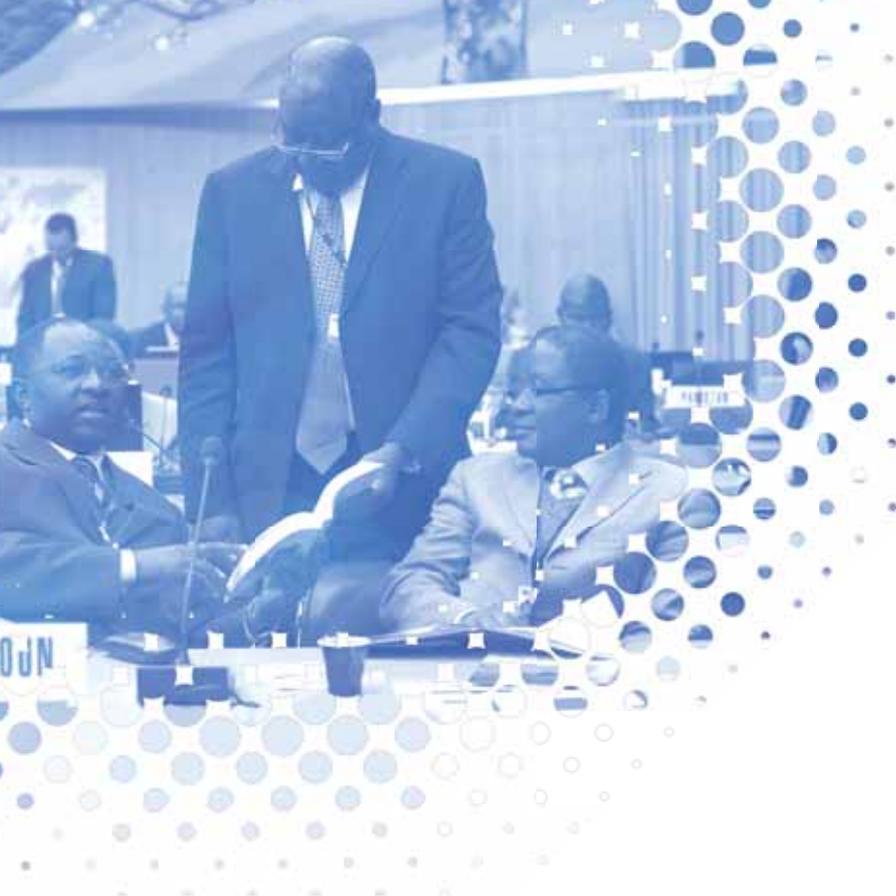
\* all amounts in CHF

\*\* not yet a Sector Member and not a subsidiary of a multinational corporation with headquarters in a developed country

**Contact. Commit. Connect.**

**Become a member of ITU. [www.itu.int/members](http://www.itu.int/members); [membership@itu.int](mailto:membership@itu.int)**





## Study groups

Much of the work at ITU is done in study groups which comprise diverse expertise. Each study group has a specific focus and participants work together to define the frameworks that will ensure optimum functioning of all services, both existing and future. The main output of a study group is the establishment of technical standards or guidelines (Recommendations).

Many study group experts represent competing commercial interests – yet within the walls of ITU, differences are put aside in order to cooperatively develop systems, share best practice, and formulate principles and guidelines that will serve the interests of the industry as a whole. By providing a neutral platform for global consensus, ITU offers a vital and efficient service to an industry that is already a main driver for social and economic development.

## Focus groups and other meetings

Focus groups provide an effective forum for members and non-members alike to address urgent, market-oriented industry issues that lie outside the mandate of existing study groups.

Seminars organized by ITU attract high-level speakers and are an effective opportunity to learn

more about a particular topic, while ITU workshops offer an invaluable forum for peer-to-peer exchange of ideas. Workshop outcomes can become inputs to study groups.

These events, which are organized all over the world, are a very useful introduction to ITU's work.



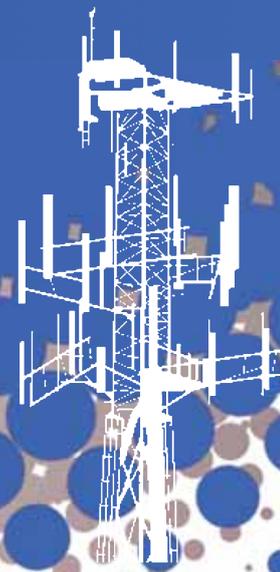
# Global meeting place

In addition to member-only events and meetings, ITU regularly hosts global and regional events and workshops that are open 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.

**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. Infrastructure has 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 use the power of ICTs.





# Committed to connecting the world . . .

Today there are billions of mobile phone subscribers, close to five billion people 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 television from isolated areas. Millions more use video compression every day in mobile phones, music players and cameras.

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

All of this is thanks to ITU and its membership.

- ITU makes phone calls possible: whether to the office next door or to a friend in another country. ITU standards, protocols and international agreements underpin the global telecommunication system.



- ITU coordinates the world's satellites through the management of spectrum and orbits, bringing you television, satellite navigation directions, weather information and online maps, and enabling communications in even the remotest parts of the planet.
- ITU makes Internet access possible. The majority of Internet connections are facilitated by ITU standards.
- ITU enables communications to continue working during disasters and emergencies.
- ITU supports and guides the ICT industry in building tomorrow's networks.
- ITU powers the mobile revolution. Standards for transport networks, among others, 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 ICT education and training.





# A brief history of ITU

ITU was founded in Paris in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union. It took its present name in 1934, and in 1947 became a specialized agency of the United Nations. Although its first area of expertise was the telegraph, the work of ITU now covers the whole ICT sector, from digital broadcasting to the Internet, and from mobile technologies to 3D TV. An organization of public-private partnership since its inception, ITU currently has a membership of 192 countries and some 700 private-sector entities. ITU is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and has twelve regional and area offices around the world.



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### UN liaison office:

**ITU is a specialized agency of the United Nations and maintains a liaison office with the UN in New York.**

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