ITU at a glance

Getting to know the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies

01 | *About us*

Who are we?

Who are we?

ITU is the United Nations **specialized agency for information and communication technologies** (ICTs)

Enabling a **connected world**

Who are we?

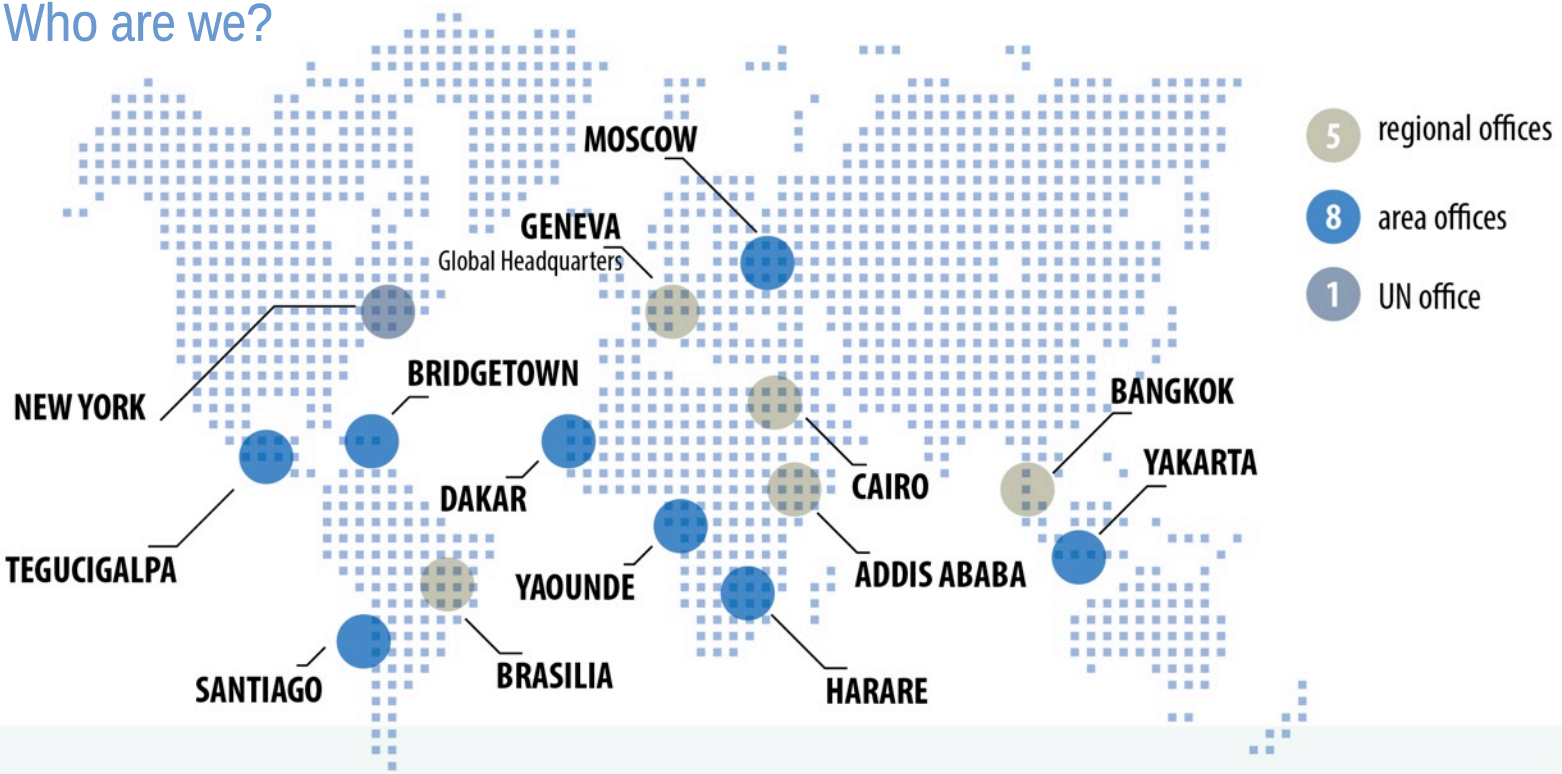
Our members

193 MEMBER STATES

+700 PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS

+150 ACADEMIA MEMBERS

Who are we?


MOSCOW
GENEVA
Global Headquarters
NEW YORK
BRIDGETOWN
BANGKOK
YAKARTA
DAKAR
CAIRO
TEGUCIGALPA
YAOUNDE
ADDIS ABABA
SANTIAGO
BRASILIA
HARARE
5 regional offices
8 area offices
1 UN office

02 | *How we got here?*

Timeline

International Telecommunications Union

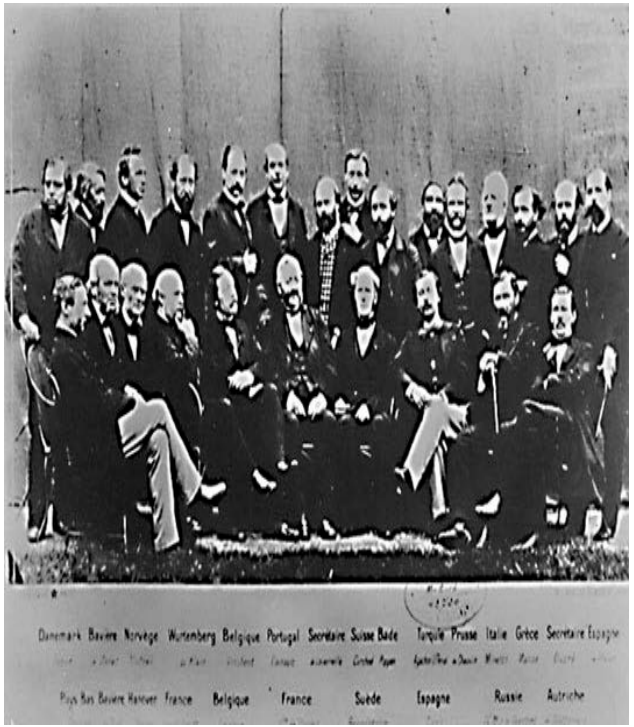
More than 150 years of history : founded on 17 May 1865 by 20 nations as The International Telegraphic Union

- common rules to standardize equipment to facilitate international interconnection,
- adopted uniform operating instructions which would apply to all countries,
- common international tariff and accounting rules.

Renamed as International Telecommunications Union (ITU) on 1934

Became UN agency on 1947

Originally placed at Berne, since 1948 sieged at Geneva



https://www.itu.int/en/history/Pages/ITUsHistory.aspx

02 *How we got here*

Timeline

1865
We were founded

1880
Invention of radio telegraphy

1906
First SOS
1st International Radiotelegraph Conference

1925
First TV broadcast

1934
New name: International Telecommunication Union

1957
Space age comms

Timeline

1990
World Wide Web

2010
Broadband Commission

2015
Let's celebrate!

1982
First mobile phone call

2003/5
WSIS/ Bridging the Digital Divide

2014
ICT innovation and Digital Inclusion

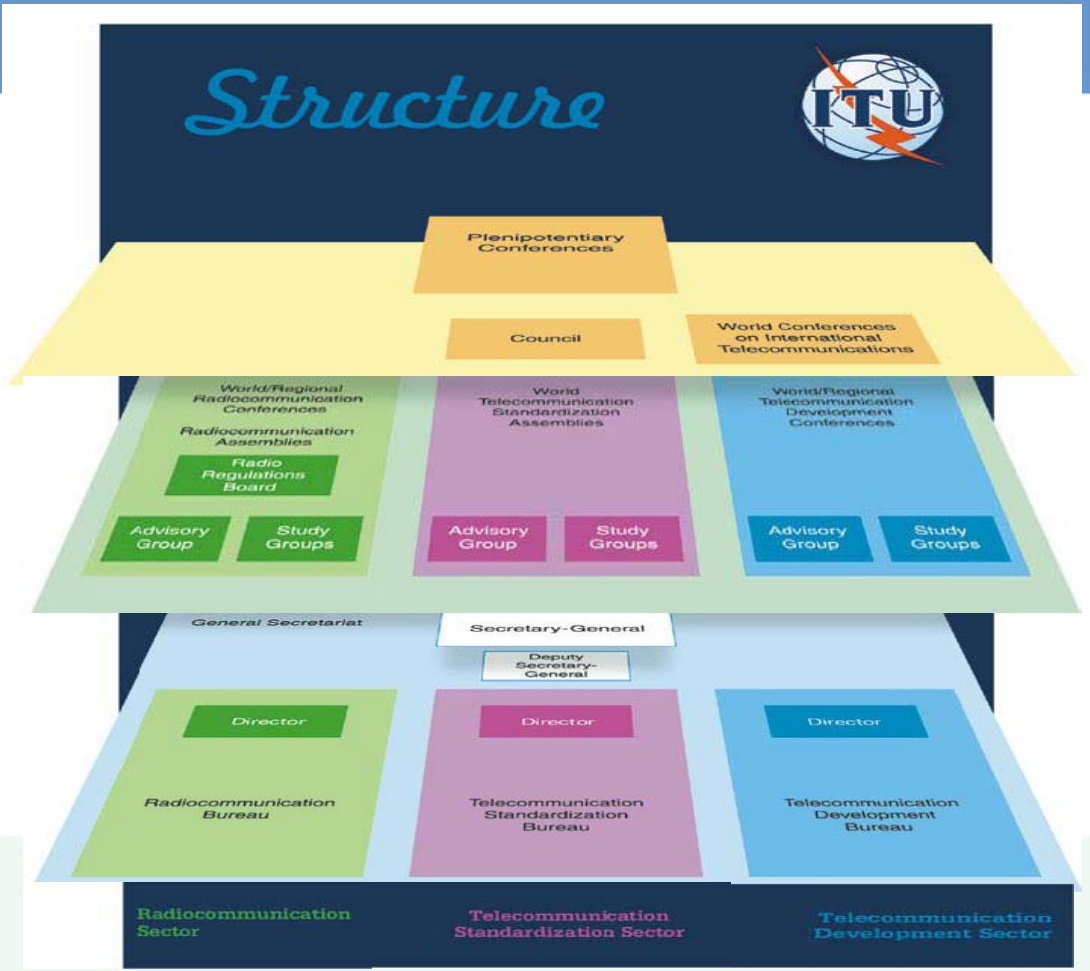
03 | *Meet us*

How are we organized

ITU Structure

ITU is devoted to facilitate international connectivity in communications networks, by:

- allocating global radio spectrum and satellite orbits,
- developing the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies seamlessly interconnect,
- striving to improve access to ICTs to underserved communities worldwide



ITU Legal Instruments

The Constitution:

- **basic instrument of the International Telecommunication Union, with the object of facilitating peaceful relations, international cooperation among peoples and economic and social development by means of efficient telecommunication services**

The Convention:

- **complements the Constitution**

The Administrative Regulations:

- **Radio Regulations** (and ist Rules of Procedure)
- **International Telecommunication Regulations**, which complement the Constitution and the Convention: establish general principles which relate to the provision and operation of international telecommunication services offered to the public as well as to the underlying international telecommunication transport means used to provide such services. They also set rules applicable to administrations

ITU Governance

ITU is governed by the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP) and the Administrative Council.

Plenipotentiary Conference, PP

Supreme organ of the Union. It is the decision making body which determines the direction of the Union and its activities. PP is held every 4 years:

- PP14: Busan, Korea, October 2014
- **PP18: Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 29/10 to 16/11 2018**
- PP22: 3Q 2022, venue tbd

https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18

Plenipotentiary Conferences, PP

PP-18 elected officials (from 01-01-2019 to 31-12-2022)

- Secretary General : Houlin Zhao, China (re-elected)
- Deputy-Secretary General: Malcolm Johnson, United Kingdom (re-elected)
- ITU Radiocommunications Bureau (BR): Mario Maniewicz, Uruguay
- ITU Standardization Bureau (TSB): Chaesub Lee, Korea (re-elected)
- ITU Development Bureau (BDT): Doreen Bogdan-Martin, USA

Radio Regulations Board:

- Americas: Chantal Beaumier, Canada; Fernando Borjón Figueroa, Mexico
- West Europe: Yvon Henri, France; Lilian Jeanty, Netherlands,
- East Europe, North Asia: Sahiba Hasanova, Azerbaijan, Nikolay Varlamov, Russia
- Africa: Elsayed Azzouz, Egypt; Hassan Talib, Morroco; Samuel Mandla Mchunu South Africa
- Asia: Akira Hashimoto, Japan; Tariq Alamri, Saudi Arabia; Doan Hoan, Vietnam

https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/home/electionResult

ITU Council

ITU Council acts as the Union's governing body in the interval between Plenipotentiary Conferences.

Council is conformed by Administrations elected during PP (less than 25% of State Members, i.e. 48 Members)
Its role is to consider broad telecommunication policy issues to ensure that the Union's activities, policies, strategies, and budget, fully respond to today's dynamic, rapidly changing telecommunications environment.

ITU Council meets every year (2Q; after the meetings of each sector Advisory Groups)

http://www.itu.int/en/council/Pages/default.aspx

ITU Council

New Council will be composed by (from 01-01-2019 to 31-12-2022):

- Region A (Americas): 9 seats; Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico, Paraguay, United States
- Region B (Western Europe): 8 seats; France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey
- Region C (Eastern Europe and Northern Asia): 5 seats; Azerbaijan, Czech Republic,, Poland, Romania, Russia
- Region D (Africa): 13 seats; Algeria, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda
- Region E (Asia and Australasia): 13 seats; Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Korea (Republic of), Kuwait, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates

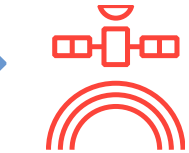
03 | *Meet us*

What we do

What we do

‘Committed to Connecting the World’

3 Sectors



ITU Radiocommunication

Coordinating radio-frequency spectrum and **assigning** orbital slots for satellites

ITU Standardization

Establishing global standards

ITU Development

Bridging the digital divide

04 | *Meet the sectors*

ITU-T
/STANDARDIZATION/

ITU - T

KEY ROLE

Crucial role in **defining operation and interoperability of technologies** that underpin global communications network

200 - 300 new global standards approved every year, with over 4,000 in use today

Standards enable global communications by ensuring ICT networks and devices **speak the same language globally.**

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

PKI

Public-key infrastructure, central to e-commerce

G.fast

New broadband standard designed to deliver access speeds of up to 1Gbit/s over existing telephone wires

H.264

The **Emmy award** winning **video codec** and its successor, H.265

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION ASSEMBLY (WTSA)

Sets the overall direction and structure for ITU-T, in every 4 years

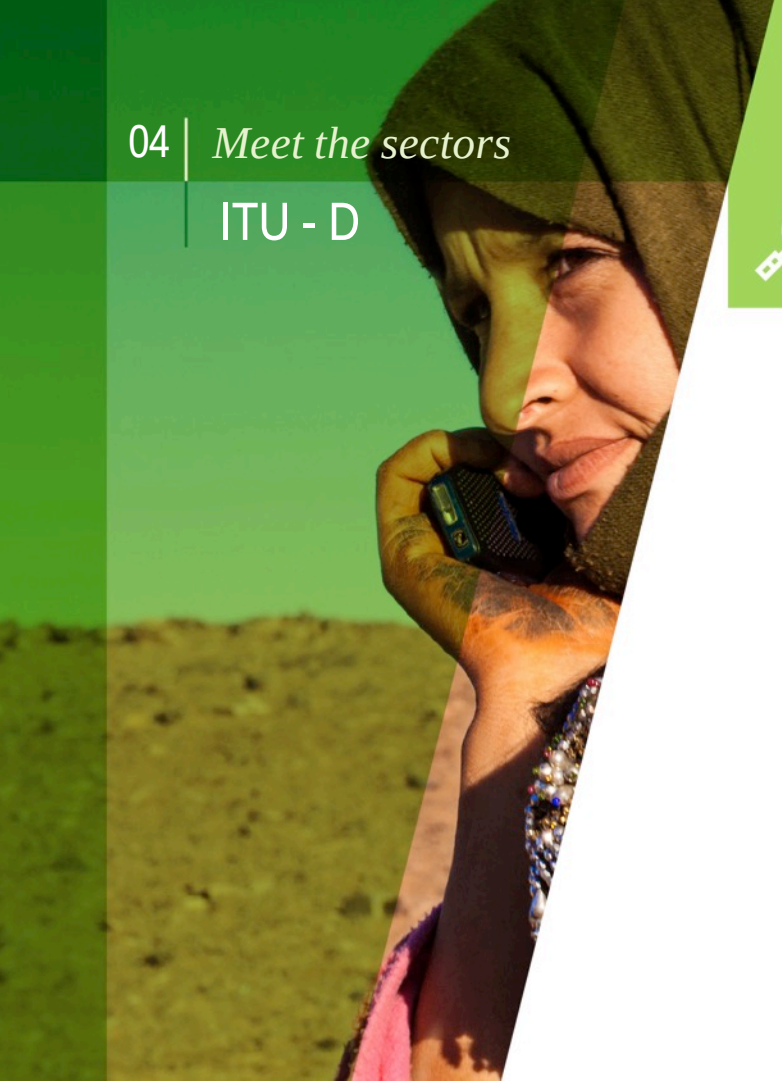
Draws up ITU-T **Action Plan**

Establishes ITU-T Study Groups and approves top **priorities, questions** and **work programme**

04 | *Meet the sectors*

ITU-D
/DEVELOPMENT/

ITU - D



KEY ROLE

Spread equitable and affordable **access to telecommunications** to help stimulate social and economic development

Human capacity-building in developing and least developed countries (LDCs)

Helps to ensure that people everywhere are empowered **to reap the benefits that connectivity delivers**

ITU - D

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

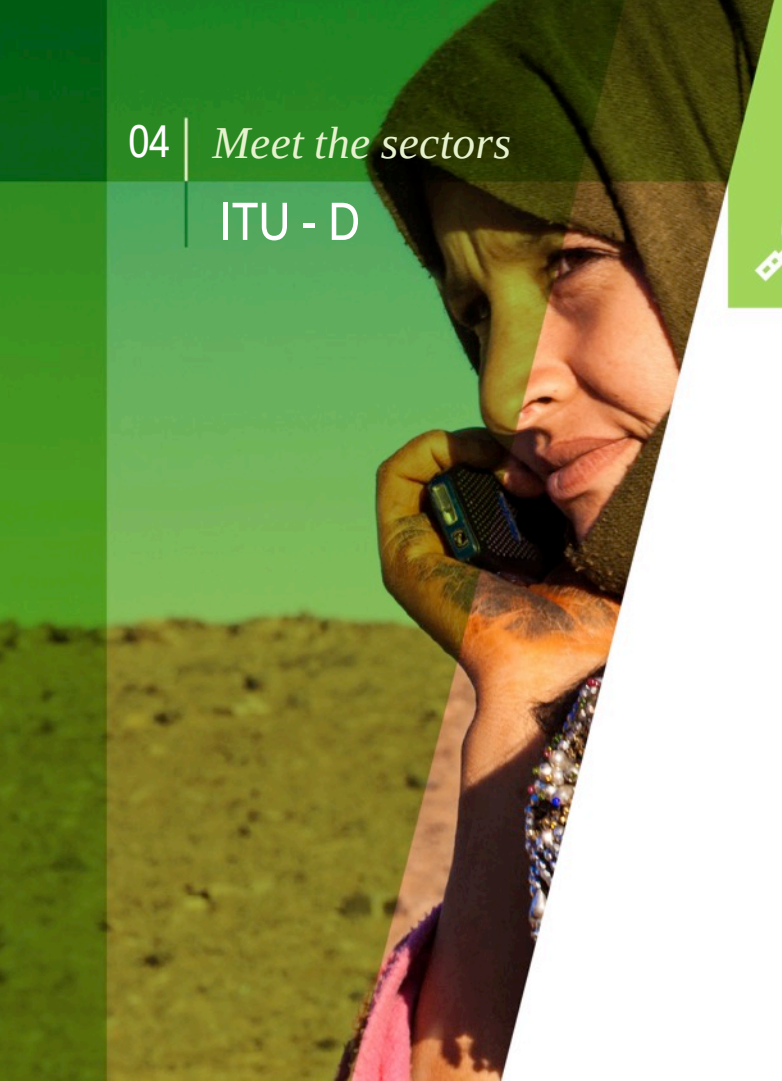
Measuring the **Information Society report**

Enhancing cybersecurity in LDCs – CIRT programme and cyber-drills

Standards enable global communications by ensuring ICT networks and devices **speak the same language globally.**

Helps bridge the gender divide and has equipped over **1M** women with digital literacy skills

ITU - D



WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (WTDC)

Sets the overall direction and structure for ITU-D, in every 4 years

Draws up ITU-D **Action Plan** and **Mandate**

Establishes **ITU-D Study Groups** and approves **top priorities**, **questions** and **work programme**

04 | *Meet the sectors*

ITU-R
/RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS/

ITU - R

KEY ROLE

OBJECTIVE: **to ensure interference free through the implementation and the efficient and timely update of the:**

- Radio Regulations and
- Regional Agreements,

Through the processes of the World and Regional radio Conferences

ROLE:

- Developing and updating international regulations on the use of spectrum and satellites orbits
- applying these regulations
- Managing and updating the International Frequency Register, MIFR
- Developing and adopting standards and best practices on the use of spectrum and satellites orbits
- Disseminating information on these regulations, standards and best practices

ITU - R

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

1906: first regulations governing radio (the Radio Regulations)
1912: (in respond to the Titanic tragedy) common wavelength for ships' radio distress signals, and SOS Morse Code.
1959: Extended the Table of Frequency Allocations to 40 GHz and new allocations to space research and radio astronomy services.
1964 &1966: adoption of an allotment plan for aeronautical mobile (R) service.
1994: 1st standard for Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB);
1985 & 1988: ruling the use of the geostationary-satellite orbit and the planning of space services
1995 & 1997: global framework for non-geostationary satellites
2000: initial specifications for IMT-2000 (also known as 3G); identifications of bands for IMT (900 MHz, 1.8 GHz and 2.6 GHz); regulatory conditions of bands to be used by HAPS (1.9/2.1 GHz)
2012: specifications for IMT-Advanced (commonly known as 4G)
2015: in respond to the missing flight MH370, allocation of bands to enable transmissions from aircraft to satellites, to increase future air safety (1087.7–1092.3 MHz in the Earth-to-space direction)