



CxO ROUNDTABLE

7 October 2026, New Delhi, India

COMMUNIQUE

High-level industry executives (CxOs) met with the senior management of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau to exchange views on industry priorities and related standardization activities at India Mobile Congress in New Delhi, India, 7 October 2026, hosted by India's Department of Telecommunications.

The technical foundations essential to trusted artificial intelligence (AI) again dominated the debate. CxOs considered the ongoing transition towards an AI-native society, where AI increasingly becomes an embedded operating layer across social and economic infrastructure. They discussed areas where ITU could provide leadership on the required standards in collaboration with other relevant standards bodies, notably for network performance and resilience, environmental sustainability, and security and trust.

Discussions concluded with an invitation from NTT to host the 2027 CxO Roundtable at the NTT R&D Forum in Tokyo, Japan.

Optical networks

Optical networking innovation should continue prioritizing performance, environmental sustainability and resilience, leading CxOs to highlight the importance of the strategic vision set out by the ITU standards framework for [international optical networks towards 2030 and beyond \(ION-2030\)](#). The framework emphasizes the mutual empowerment of optical networks and AI.

CxOs discussed how photonic communications technology could provide foundations for optical quantum computers.

They noted the growing importance of connectivity among quantum computing, AI, data centres and network resources, and highlighted the potential of advanced photonic infrastructures, including all-photonic networking concepts, to support future interconnected quantum computing systems.

CxOs encouraged continued dialogue on future architectures and interoperability, and supporting international collaboration, as technologies mature.

Holistic optimization

AI calls for holistic infrastructure optimization, especially as the energy demands of AI continue highlighting the need for telecom, power and data centre infrastructure to evolve in unison.

Cross-domain collaboration will keep growing in importance as AI infrastructure increasingly spans multiple data centres, cloud platforms, network operators and national boundaries. CxOs added that open, interoperable connectivity would be a key enabler for infrastructure operated independently to work together efficiently and securely.

CxOs noted that realizing an AI-native society will require coordinated evolution of telecommunications, AI computing, data, energy and trust frameworks at global scale.

They encouraged ITU standards to provide enablers for the AI technology stack in areas such as network APIs, access to data and control functions, sustainability, and security and resilience.

CxOs also recognized the value of inclusive discussions around guardrails and accountability on the [AI for Good](#) platform.

Trusted AI agents

In view of the new [ITU Focus Group on Trust and Identity for Humans and Agent AI](#), CxOs explored the importance of verification that tasks performed by AI agents were authorized.

The ITU Focus Group is leading pre-standardization work on trusted digital identity and supporting trustworthy and accountable behaviour of AI agents throughout their lifecycle.

CxOs encouraged ITU to map existing work and coordinate standards development for already-executed actions of autonomous agents to be independently verified and linked to delegated authority across organizational and network domains.

Non-terrestrial networks

Terrestrial and non-terrestrial networks are increasingly part of the same connectivity ecosystem.

CxOs noted that devices or services could support service continuity across terrestrial and non-terrestrial access while minimizing network and operational fragmentation, subject to applicable regulatory requirements.

Recognizing that standards could support this integrated connectivity, CxOs encouraged ITU to build on its standards work on fixed-mobile-satellite convergence, identify remaining standards gaps, and promote coordination across standards bodies.

Considering the new dynamics of device roaming, CxOs noted that interoperability includes more than only technology interoperability. CxOs explored new questions emerging around accountability for regulatory compliance across terrestrial, multi-network and non-terrestrial connectivity.

Resilient networks

CxOs discussed innovations key to resilience in areas including distributed fibre-optic sensing for networks to detect changes in their environment, trustworthy AI in disaster scenarios, and Internet of Things (IoT) networks for supply chains.

CxOs encouraged ITU to map and meet standards needs for reliable AI decisions when disasters impact data flows and network capabilities as well as AI-assisted reallocations of network resources and other recovery functions.

CxOs also explored the value of resilient connectivity with a case study from the ports and shipping industries, where data silos currently create challenges to end-to-end supply chain connectivity.

IoT network resilience is critical for the modern supply chain. Ports and cargo vessels, for example, rely on uninterrupted, real-time data to prevent costly bottlenecks and safety hazards.

CxOs discussed how resilience could be bolstered with pre-tested fallback to back up networks, multi-network and non-terrestrial connectivity, and potentially the emergency prioritization of IoT safety data traffic.

The participating organizations were:

1Finity; Ericsson; eSIM Go; KDDI; Lightstorm; Management Company Elixir; Mozark; Net Feasa; NTT; OQ Technology; Sateliot; SkyFive; Sterlite Technologies; Türk Telekom.