

Background Information.

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs):

From the pilot project to the new membership option

1) SME pilot project

The SME pilot project was initiated for interested ITU-T&D study groups (below) following ITU Council in 2017. Over 20 SMEs already participated in the SME pilot. The SME pilot is ongoing until the end of 2019.

ITU-T Study Groups of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T):

- Study Group 5 – Environment and circular economy;
- Study Group 11 – Signalling requirements, protocols and test specifications,
- Study Group 16 – Multimedia
- Study Group 20 – IoT, smart cities & communities

ITU-D Study Groups of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D):

- Study Group 1 – Enabling environment for the development of telecommunications/ICTs
- Study Group 2 – ICT services and applications for the promotion of sustainable development

More information at <https://www.itu.int/en/join/smes/Pages/default.aspx>

Interested SMEs could still send their expression of interest to participate in the pilot to membership@itu.int

Examples of SMEs contributions to ITU's work:

- **ASTEM (Japan)** contributed significant specifications for standards on accessible IPTV terminals and their testing (ITU-T Study Group 16);
- **Wayfindr (UK)** brought specifications for audio-based network navigation system for persons with vision impairment and its conformance testing (ITU-T Study Group 16); and,
- **Vaulto Technologies (Israel)** contributed a technical report on the abuse of SS7 vulnerabilities to commit financial fraud. Vaulto's work promoted a new work item to raise awareness and advance the adoption of mitigation measures among telecom operators and financial institutions around the world (ITU-T Study Group 11).

2) Membership: SMEs as Associates in the Sectors.

- New reduced fee membership option **will be implemented following the pilot project in January 2020.**
- **PP-18 Resolution 209 (Dubai, 2018)** encourages SMEs to participate as Associates in all three Sectors of the Union: Radiocommunication, Telecommunication Standardization and Telecommunication Development, with reduced fees. PP-18 decided that entities must be approved by their respective Member State as meeting national criteria for an SME. PP-18 decided that entities must also have fewer than

250 employees as well as annual revenues below a maximum determined by the ITU Council. Council 19 set this maximum annual revenue amount at CHF 15 million.

- The reduced fees will be set at **CHF 3,975** in the case of SMEs from developed countries, and **CHF 1,987.50** in the case of SMEs from developing countries, subject to ongoing review by the Council.

3) The application process for SMEs.

In order to apply for the SME reduced fee, the company will need to follow the steps below:

- 1.** Complete the online application form and submit it to the Secretariat. (The form will be available in September).
- 2.** Upon receiving the application, ITU will seek approval from the relevant Member State. In terms of eligibility for SMEs, each Member State determines which companies meet the established national criteria. In addition, as noted above, entities must also have fewer than 250 employees as well as annual revenues below a maximum of CHF 15 million.
- 3.** Once national approval has been obtained, ITU will issue the membership fee invoice (for one year of membership).
- 4.** Membership will be activated after payment has been received by ITU.