

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Membership

A guide for industry & academia





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About ITU



ITU at a glance

- **The UN specialized agency for digital technologies:** Driving innovation and global connectivity to build a better digital future for all
- **A global presence:** Headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**, with regional offices around the world
- **A unique public–private platform:** Comprising **194 Member States** and **over 1,000 companies**, universities, research institutes, and international and regional organizations
- **A legacy of global leadership:** **Established in 1865**, ITU is the oldest UN agency, connecting the world since the dawn of the telegraph



A global presence

ITU maintains offices around the world to support its members and activities

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Regional offices |  Area offices |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">. Brasilia. Addis Ababa. Cairo. Geneva. Moscow. Bangkok | <ul style="list-style-type: none">. Tegucigalpa. Santiago. Bridgetown. Dakar. Yaounde. Harare. Jakarta. New Delhi |
|  UN office |  Headquarters |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">. New York | <ul style="list-style-type: none">. Geneva |



ITU's Leadership Team

The top five officials of the ITU were elected by Member States during the organization's 21st Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22) in September and October 2022.



Doreen Bogdan-Martin
ITU Secretary-General



Tomas Lamanauskas
ITU Deputy Secretary-General



Mario Maniewicz
Director,
Radiocommunication
Bureau



Seizo Onoe
Director, Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau



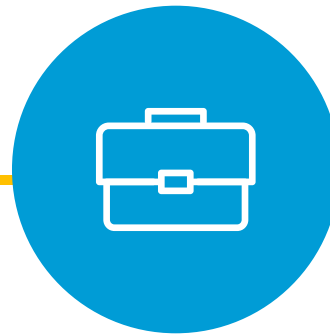
Cosmas Zavazava
Director, Telecommunication
Development Bureau

Our membership



A unique public–private platform

ITU brings together a global, multi-stakeholder membership collaborating to address digital issues.



ITU membership is growing and diversifying to reflect the changing digital ecosystem

A growing and diverse membership: Reflecting the rapidly changing digital technologies ecosystem, ITU welcomes organizations of all sizes and sectors.

A truly global community: Members from around the world bring diverse regional perspectives to ITU's work.

Full list of members is available [here](#)



Why join ITU?



Advantages

Members have the opportunity to actively participate in ITU's work and decision-making processes

Network

- Engage with regulators, policy-makers, and over 20,000 technology leaders from industry, academia, and beyond.
- Share experiences and learn from peers across the global digital technologies' ecosystem.

Influence

- Contribute to digital policymaking and help shape the decisions and frameworks that will influence your organization, the economy, and society for years to come.
- Help develop international standards and best practices.



Why join ITU?

Visibility

- Increase recognition on the global digital technologies stage.
- Participate and contribute to global and regional conferences and debates.

Insights & Skills

- Benefit from up-to-date statistics, studies, first-source information, and member discounts on ITU publications.
- Participate in training, capacity-building programs, and specialized seminars.

Partnerships

- Collaborate with governments, policy and technology experts, and recognized business leaders worldwide.
- Accelerate market adoption aligning products and services with international standards.
- Contribute to impactful social initiatives that drive meaningful change in communities and society.



ITU's work



Our work spans **three areas** – known as *ITU Sectors*:



Radiocommunication



Standardization



Development

Radiocommunication

The [ITU Radiocommunication Sector](#) enables international collaboration to ensure the rational, equitable, efficient and economical use of the radio-frequency spectrum by:

- Coordinating the global use of radio frequencies to prevent harmful interference between countries and services
- Maintaining the Master International Frequency Register (MIFR), the global record of radio frequency assignments used by countries for terrestrial and space radiocommunication services
- Organizing the World Radiocommunication Conference to update the Radio Regulations
- Developing Recommendations, Reports and Handbooks that serve as international technical standards for radiocommunication systems
- Providing software tools and training for national spectrum management



Radiocommunication

6 Study Groups

SG1

Spectrum
management

SG3

Radio-wave
propagation

SG4

Satellite
services

SG5

Terrestrial
services

SG6

Broadcasting
service

SG7

Science
services

More information on ITU-R Study Groups is available [here](#)



Radiocommunication

Key conferences & activities

- **World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs):** Revise the Radio Regulations, the international treaty governing the use of radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits.
- **Radiocommunication Assemblies (RAs)** Define the structure and programme of radiocommunication studies and provide the technical basis for WRCs. They also approve ITU-R Recommendations and manage the Study Groups.



Standardization

The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector
focuses on:

- Developing consensus based international **technical standards** for the interconnection and interoperability of digital technologies
- Bridging the **standardization gap** between developed and developing countries
- Fostering cooperation among national, regional and international **standards bodies**



Standardization

10 Study Groups

SG2

Operational aspects

SG3

Economic and policy issues

SG5

Environment, EMF, climate action & circular economy

SG11

Protocols, testing & combating counterfeiting

SG12

Performance, QOS & QOE

SG13

Future networks

SG15

Transport, access and home

SG17

Security

SG20

IoT, digital twins, and smart cities

SG21

Multimedia, content delivery and cable TV

More information on ITU-T Study Groups is available [here](#)



Standardization

Key conferences & activities

- **ITU WTSA**: Held every four years, defines the next period of study for ITU-T (Sector Members only).
- **ITU Global Standards Symposiums (GSS)**: Provides a high-level forum for discussion and coordination open to all.
- **ITU CxO roundtables**: Bring together c-level executives to discuss emerging digital technologies standardization topics and how ITU-T can better serve the private sector.
- **Key initiatives**: Bridging the standardization gap (BSG), AI for Good global summit, Digital currency global initiative, and more.



Development

The [ITU Telecommunication Development Sector](#) works to **close the digital divide** and drive digital transformation:

- Leveraging the power of digital technologies - policy & regulation, statistics, projects, training
- For economic prosperity, job creation, digital skills development, gender equality and diversity, sustainable and circular economies, and for saving lives
- Prioritizing those **most in need**:
 - People in developing countries
 - Marginalized communities everywhere



Development

2 Study Groups

SG1

Universal and
meaningful connectivity
for bridging the
digital divide

SG2

Digital
transformation

More information on ITU-D Study Groups is available [here](#)



Development

Key conferences & activities

- **ITU WTDC**: Brings countries together to set the strategies and objectives for the development of telecommunication/digital technologies, providing future direction and guidance to the ITU-D.
- **ITU GSR**: A platform for regulators, private sector and other stakeholders to share insights and promote affordable, safe, and trusted connectivity.
- **IAGDI CRO**: A private sector-led group that brings together innovative business, technological, policy and regulatory perspectives from the industry and private sector across diverse sectors, to contribute to the joint development work with ITU's 194 Member States.
- **Tech Talks**: Industry led sessions where ITU D members present technological trends, digital development work, and explore partnership opportunities.
- **Other engagement platforms:** [Early Warnings for All](#), [Cyber for Good](#), [G5 Accelerator](#), [GovStack](#), [ITU Academy](#), and more.



Types of membership



Types of membership

ITU membership is organized by sector. Organizations may join one or more Sectors, either as a Sector Member or as an Associate.



Sector member



Associate



Academia

Sector Members

- Full membership rights
- Participate in all activities within their chosen Sector (s)
- Contribute orally and in writing, and take part in consensus-based decisions
- Take on leadership roles, including chairing Study Groups
- Attend treaty-making conferences (as observers in non-advisory capacity), and participate in sectoral conferences and assemblies
- Get the opportunity to attend ITU Council as observers.

Further details on participation rights for ITU members can be found [here](#)



Associates

Streamlined membership limited to a single study group of choice

- Participate in one Study Group within a single Sector
- Contribute orally and in writing on specific topics
- Do not hold leadership roles or take part in Study Group decision-making

Further details on participation rights for ITU members can be found [here](#)



Associates with Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) reduced fees

ITU offers reduced fees for SMEs that wish to participate as Associates. To be eligible, companies must:

- **Be approved by their respective Member State** as meeting national SME criteria.
- **Have fewer than 250 employees** and **annual revenues below CHF 15 million.**

Exclusions: Subsidiaries or affiliates of a company that does not qualify for reduced fees are not eligible.

Note: This applies only to ITU-R and ITU-T as the associate reduced fees for SMEs are the same as the standard ITU-D associate fees



Academia

Colleges, institutes, universities, and their associated research establishments involved in telecommunications/digital development can join ITU as Academia Members:

- Contribute to Study Groups and their subgroups across three ITU sectors
- Participate in Sectoral Conferences and Assemblies, Sector Advisory Groups and their subgroups
- Get free access to ITU publications
- Can have representative(s) appointed as rapporteurs, associate rapporteurs & co-rapporteurs (depends on Sector) in Study Groups
- Do not hold leadership roles in Study Groups
- Do not participate in Treaty-making Conferences

Further details on participation rights for ITU members can be found [here](#)



Academia

Key activities and opportunities

- **Sector participation:** Contribute to ITU study groups, working parties and sector activities.
- **Research collaboration:** Opportunities to collaborate with ITU on capstone projects and joint research initiatives.
- **ITU Journal on Future and Evolving Technologies:** Participation in an international, peer-reviewed journal covering communications, networking, and their policy, regulatory, economic and societal implications. Open to unpublished research throughout the year.
- **ITU Kaleidoscope Conferences:** Forward-looking academic conferences bringing together academia, industry and research institutions to exchange knowledge and identify emerging digital trends.



How to join: key information



Membership fees

Sector	Sector Member	Associate	Academia (Participate in all 3 sectors for one fee)
ITU-R (Radio- communication)	CHF 31'800 CHF 3'975 ¹	CHF 10'600 CHF 3'975 ³ CHF 1'987.50 ⁴	CHF 3'975 CHF 1'987.50 ²
ITU-T (Standardization)	CHF 31'800 CHF 3'975 ¹	CHF 10'600 CHF 3'975 ³ CHF 1'987.50 ⁴	
ITU-D (Development)	CHF 7'950 CHF 3'975 ²	CHF 3'975 CHF 1'987.50 ²	

- Membership fees vary by **membership type** and the organization's **location** and **nature**.
- Minimum rates are shown above; larger organizations may contribute more based on their global reach and industry role.

1. Developing Countries with annual per capita income <2,000.00 USD (UNDP), not yet joined either or both Sectors and shall not be subsidiaries of a multinational corporation with HQ in a developed country.
2. Developing Countries*
3. Small and Medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from Developed Countries
4. Small and Medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from Developing Countries*

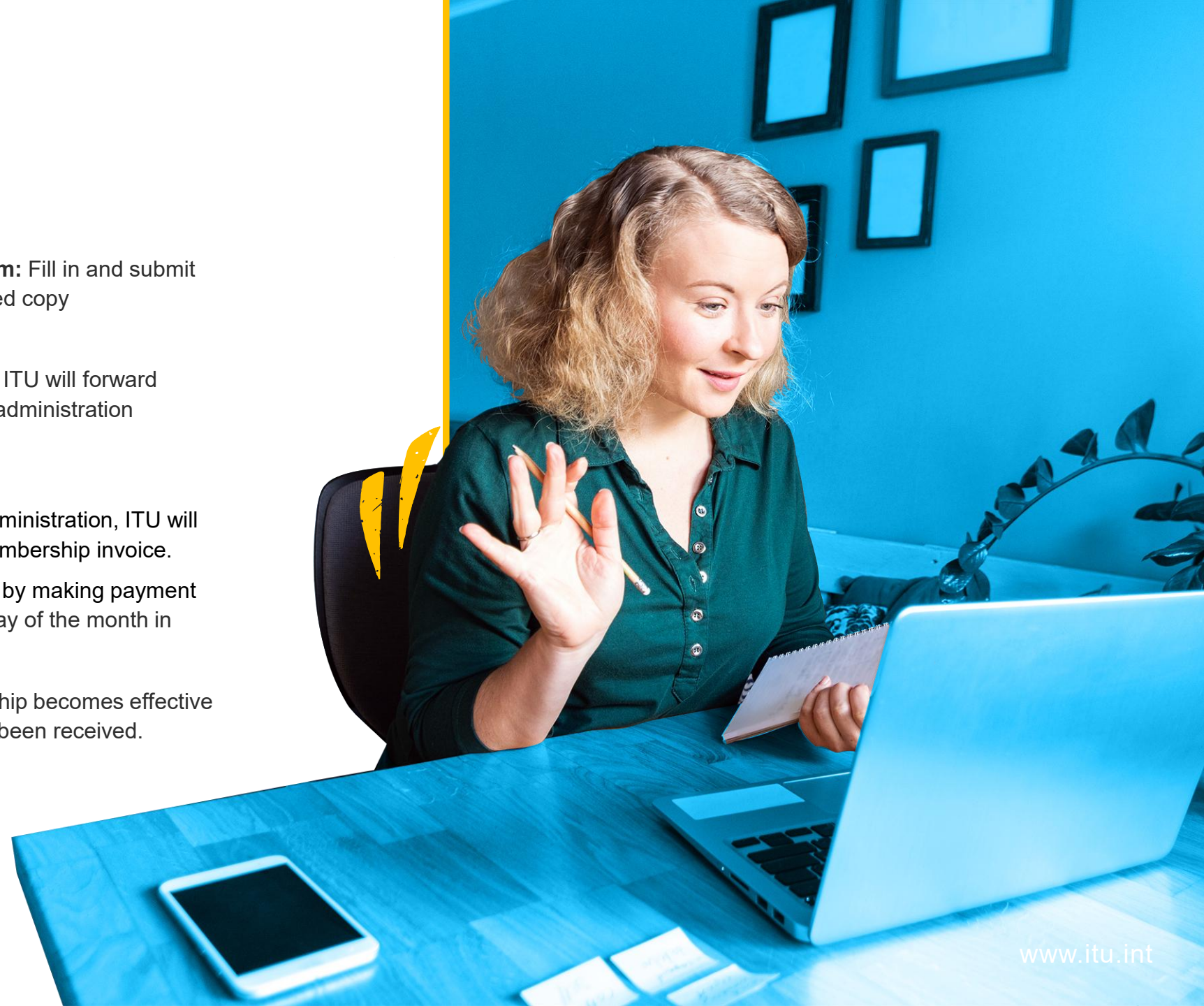
*Please contact the membership team (membership@itu.int) for the list of developing countries

Note: Academia membership is open only to colleges, institutes, universities, and their associated research establishments involved in digital development.

Application process

1. **Complete and submit the application form:** Fill in and submit the online [Application Form](#), then email a signed copy to membership@itu.int
2. **Obtain national administration approval:** ITU will forward the signed application to the relevant national administration for approval
3. **Pay the membership fee**
 - Once approval is granted by the national administration, ITU will provide the organization with the annual membership invoice.
 - Organizations can activate the membership by making payment of the annual fee, calculated from the first day of the month in which the membership becomes effective *
4. **Membership confirmation:** ITU membership becomes effective once both the approval and payment have been received.

* In the second year, the fee will be prorated to reflect this advance payment.



**We look forward
to welcoming you!**

membership@itu.int

www.itu.int

