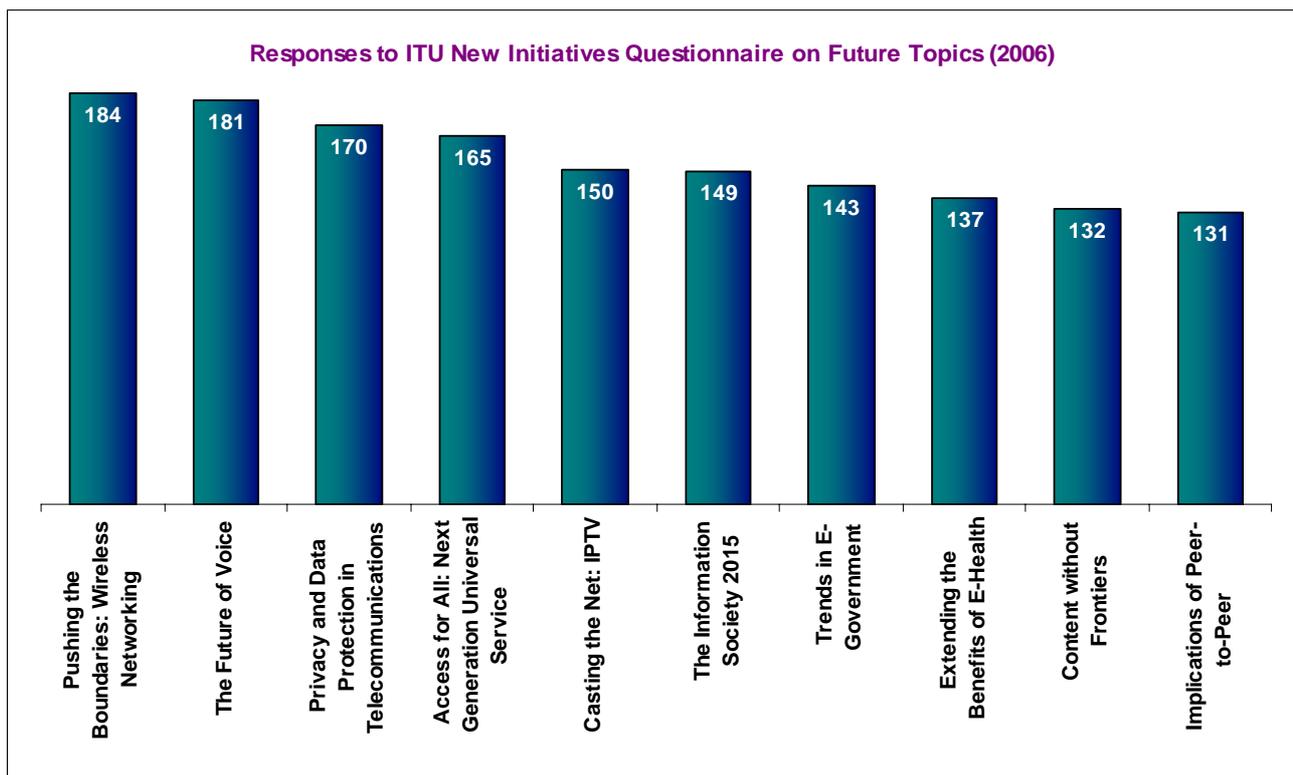


Results of Questionnaire on Possible Topics for New Initiatives Workshops in 2006

A questionnaire on future topics under the ITU New Initiatives Programme was sent to Member States and Sector Members on 16 December 2005. It was also available for response on the website of the Strategy and Policy Unit (www.itu.int/ni) until 21 March 2006. A total of 72 responses were received. The list of topics can be found in Annex A to this document.

The results, set out below, were calculated by allocating 3 points to a subject given a high priority ranking, 2 points for a medium ranking and 1 point for a low priority ranking. These rankings will be used to determine which workshops are carried out in 2006 and 2007, within the available resources.

Rank	Workshop Topic	Number of Votes
1	<i>Pushing the Boundaries: Wireless Networking</i>	184
2	<i>The Future of Voice</i>	181
3	<i>Privacy and Data Protection in Telecommunications</i>	170
4	<i>Access for All: Next Generation Universal Service</i>	165
5	<i>Casting the Net: IPTV</i>	150
6	<i>The Information Society 2015</i>	149
7	<i>Trends in E-Government</i>	143
8	<i>Extending the Benefits of E-Health</i>	137
9	<i>Content without Frontiers</i>	132
10	<i>Implications of Peer-to-Peer</i>	131



ANNEX A

Proposed Topics in the 2006-2007 ITU New Initiatives Questionnaire

1. The Future of Voice

Voice services remain the principal driver of growth in broadband and wireless markets and will probably continue to drive future growth in telecommunications. Still, changes in technologies and markets are taking place quickly and the future of voice services remains an area of fervent debate. How are voice services transforming and what does this mean for users, providers and the telecommunications industry as a whole? How will fixed, mobile, and internet-based phone services converge? How does messaging and gaming fit in? Are voice services of the future most likely to be billed by the minute, packet, or flat rate? Will this story end with all voice communications being given completely free, bundled into broadband or other packages? This initiative examines the rapidly changing landscape of the voice market.

2. Casting the Net: IPTV

IPTV is an emerging technology that is being deployed by telecommunication companies over copper or fibre networks to enhance the television experience currently provided over cable or broadcast. Typical services include an Electronic Program Guide (EPG), internet and video on-demand services. Operators require new network management systems to deliver quality of service and manage these applications, as well as new Customer-Relationship Management (CRM) and billing applications, which must be interfaced with existing back-office systems. To date, business, technical and regulatory challenges have delayed the full-scale deployment of IPTV and the policy and regulatory controversies that are bound to arise when it finally takes off. What will be the impact of IPTV on telecom companies and other players in the market? Will IPTV simply replicate triple-play products or can it help rebuild telecom companies' market standing? Is IPTV a risky strategy for all? This initiative takes a close look at the technological, business and regulatory realities behind telco moves into IPTV.

3. Pushing the Boundaries: Wireless Networking

Technologies for wireless local area networks (WLAN), newer metropolitan area networks (such as WiMax) and high-speed mobility networking (such as Mobile-Fi, IMT-2000 and systems beyond IMT-2000) make vast amounts of information available through mobile media and are transforming the way in which we work and live. Such technologies also offer promising solutions for underserved areas and developing countries. Given that the number of mobile subscribers surpassed fixed subscribers in the world in 2002, can we expect the trend towards mobile voice to continue for data services? How large a role will fixed-wireless networking play in the data networks of the future? Which types of technology are most likely to dominate and what services will they inspire? Which business models are likely to succeed in the short and longer term?

4. Privacy and Data Protection in Telecommunications

Personal information carried over telecommunication networks is increasing at a staggering rate. In an increasingly mobile world, where portable technology is a central element in our everyday lives, personal data is now passed through the airwaves. The use of camera phones and "moblogging", as well as the rise in unsolicited communications (e.g. spam), has caused concern, among policy-makers, private companies and users alike. Emerging technologies such as Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags will only exacerbate concerns. In 2000, the International Working Group on Data Protection in Telecommunications (IWGDPT) proposed "Ten Commandments" to protect privacy in the internet world. Since then, concerns over data protection and privacy concerns have continued to grow, and in September 2005, the International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners called for the adoption of a universal convention on data protection and the right to privacy. How can a user's privacy and personal data be protected from abuse? What is the role of the public sector in this context, and can user education help? What special measures are needed to protect the privacy of the vulnerable and children in particular? This initiative explores a number of emerging issues in privacy and data protection.

5. The Information Society in 2015

The next decade will witness innovation and growing convergence between the largely unregulated computing and consumer electronics industries and the more heavily regulated communications and media industries, posing new challenges for policy design and regulation. "The Information Society in 2015" initiative considers future scenarios for technological convergence, the disaggregation of sector-specific infrastructure from services and content, and the impact of global connectivity, content and service providers. This initiative, based on possible scenarios, will consider how national, regional and international policy and regulatory frameworks need to adapt. It will also consider whether shifts in future policy and regulatory regimes are likely to be led by individual users, industry groups or by government mandate—or by a combination of approaches.

6. Trends in E-Government

E-government programmes affect the social, political and economic fabric of a country. National e-government programmes have progressed steadily around the world since 2001, with governments whose web presence previously consisted of one or two static web pages now offering richer and citizen-centric content. Despite numerous creative initiatives however, most national e-government programmes still focus on information, rather than interactive services. The sophistication with which countries are using the internet to deliver quality information varies with the state of a country's telecommunications infrastructure, its human capital, security concerns, political will and the commitment of national leadership. How can developing countries overcome these challenges? What are their implications of new ICTs being used by governments to deliver services, e.g. RFID and biometric technologies? This initiative considers the latest trends in the provision of E-government services.

7. Access for All: Next Generation Universal Service

Regulations governing the provision of universal services in basic telecommunications exist in most countries. However, as the internet and other data services become socially and economically essential, should universal service obligation (USO) be extended to the provision of these services? A number of countries are debating whether to introduce universal service obligations for the provision of broadband and mobile services. In terms of internet access, which services and minimum speeds might form part of a USO? Should mobile services fall under USO schemes? What are the competitive implications of supporting high-speed access through such a scheme? Are there better incentives for extending services to rural and remote areas? On what basis should universal service funds now be collected? This initiative considers the difficult and politically-charged questions in providing access for all.

8. Content Without Frontiers

Convergence is setting two regulatory cultures on a rapid collision course: the highly-interventionist regulatory culture of broadcasting and less interventionist (at least with regard to content) culture of telecommunications. Currently, draft audio-visual policy legislation in both the European Union and the United States is grappling with whether and, if so, how current rules for broadcasting should be applied in an always-on broadband environment. These are complex challenges: the regulation of audio-visual industries is culturally embedded and tied to national regulatory regimes consistent with cultural and religious values. Issues that must be addressed include advertising, content diversity, licensing, quality, decency and protection from abusive uses. Is it possible to regulate content in a converged always-on broadband world? Will voluntary codes of conduct be sufficient? Where broadband platforms and global service providers show declining respect for national boundaries, what would become of public broadcasting, support for national content production and community standards? What are the implications for trade in cross-border audio-visual services? This initiative explores a future world of content without frontiers and how audio-visual policy and regulation may need to respond.

9. Extending the Benefits of E-Health

Mobile and broadband networks, ubiquitous computing and the internet, promise to revolutionize the way in which healthcare is delivered. In fact, many changes are already underway. Empowering patients, the electronic management of medical records, and remote delivery of medical services are some of the key benefits of online health systems. What is the potential of these services in both developed and developing countries? Given the rapid spread of mobile phones across the world, mobi-health (or m-health) is increasingly seen as a key channel for addressing the healthcare needs of underserved areas, and for improving and personalising healthcare delivery as a whole. What can be done to accelerate the take-up of e-health and mobi-health services? What are the emerging strategies of firms (hospitals, bio-medical firms, pharmaceutical firms) now entering this market? Which new technologies and devices (for example, RFID, sensors, mobile and PDA handsets) hold the most promise for health care? What are main challenges and obstacles faced by governments, healthcare providers and patients, in the transition to an increasingly online healthcare environment?

10. Implications of Peer-to-Peer

A peer-to-peer (or P2P) computer network is a network that relies on the computing power and bandwidth of the participants in the network, rather than concentrating resources and control of the network in a few central servers. P2P networks typically connect nodes using largely ad hoc connections. Such networks are useful for many purposes, such as sharing files (of audio, video, data or anything in digital format), the exchange of real-time data (including telephony traffic, e.g. Skype). A few examples include networks such as Kazaa, Gnutella and Freenet. This initiative considers the implications of growth in P2P networks and in particular, how this impacts infrastructure provisioning and content distribution.