Our initiatives

ITU is involved in a wide range of initiatives, sometimes determined by governments' needs, or shaped by industry concerns. While serving both groups impartially, ITU also takes a leading role in providing direction and leadership. Below are a few of ITU's main current initiatives.

Bridging the digital divide

A key priority lies in bridging the so called digital divide by building information and communication technology infrastructure, connecting remote and underserved areas, promoting adequate capacity building and strengthening regulatory frameworks to create an enabling environment for increased investment in telecommunications and ICT. ITU was the lead organizer of the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and is the initiator of the *Connect the World summits.*

Cybersecurity

Developing confidence in the use of cyberspace through enhanced online security is critical in an increasingly networked world. Achieving cybersecurity and cyberpeace are amongst the most critical concerns of the information age, and ITU is developing concrete strategies to tackle these issues through its landmark Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA).

Emergency communications

When disaster strikes, ITU provides support and expertise so that communications can be up and running again as quickly as possible. While both developing and developed countries are equally vulnerable to natural disasters, poorer nations are hardest hit because of their already fragile economies and lack of resources. At the same time, ITU promotes the smart use of ICTs to help prevent disasters in the first place.

Climate change

Greenhouse gases (GHG) and their effect on climate change appear unequivocal. ITU promotes the strategic use of ICTs to reduce GHGs and foster sustainable development. And, as the pre-eminent global body for standards, ITU is also promoting the use of more energy-efficient devices and networks and the development of technical standards to limit and reduce the power requirements of ICT equipment and services.

Next-generation networks

The move to next generation networks (NGN) represents an investment of billions of dollars. And the world's manufacturers of telecoms equipment, network and service providers and administrations have entrusted ITU to see that this move is managed as smoothly and as efficiently as possible. So far, the transition to NGN has been a successful exercise in global cooperation, involving regional and international standards organizations and some of the most important players in the global economy. The global standards that support NGN will stimulate innovation as well as enable interoperability, protecting current and future investment.

About ITU Telecom events

ITU also organizes Telecom events, such as ITU Telecom World 2009, held here in Geneva. As a global ICT showcase and high-level networking opportunity, ITU Telecom events are unique. Industry and policy-makers alike come together to meet, explore the latest trends and technologies — and get business done.

Committed to connecting the world for over 140 years

Founded in Paris in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union, ITU took its present name — the International Telecommunication Union — in 1934 and, in 1947, became a specialized agency of the United Nations. Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.