ITU at a glance

ITU – Radiocommunication Bureau
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1865
2015

International Telecommunication Union

- ✓ Oldest International Organization
- ✓ It was founded in 1865, 17th May
  - ✓ We are celebrating 150 years of the ITU
- ✓ Current ITU membership is composed of:
  - ✓ 193 Member States
  - ✓ 566 Sector Members
  - ✓ 165 Associates
  - ✓ 84 Academia
  - ✓ Staff of over 100 nationalities

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

4 regional offices,
8 area offices
**HQ in __Geneva__,
Switzerland**

MOSCOW

GENEVA

BRIDGETOWN

TEGUCIGALPA

DAKAR

CAIRO

BANGKOK

YAOUNDE

ADDIS ABABA

JAKARTA

SANTIAGO

BRASILIA

HARARE

History - International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

✓ Is closely related to the evolution of telegraphy, started towards the end of the 18th century;

✓ In 1858, the first transatlantic telegraph cable was laid;

✓ Problem when cables crossed national boarders, because messages had to be stopped and translated into the particular system of the next jurisdiction;

✓ To overcome this issue, regional agreements began to forge. In Europe, 20 states gathered in Paris to create a framework to standardize telegraphy equipment, set uniform operation instructions and lay down common international tariff and accounting rules;

✓ On **17th May 1865**, the first International Telegraph Convention was signed in Paris by its twenty founding members and the **International Telegraph Union** (the first incarnation of ITU) was established to supervise subsequent amendments to this agreement.
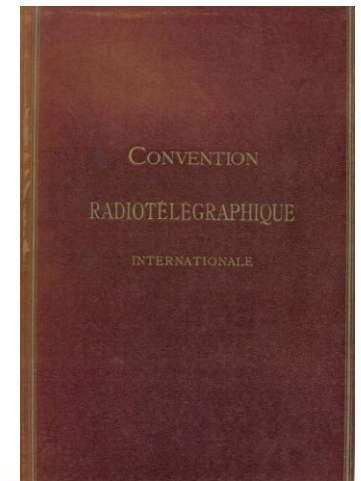
History - International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- ✓ The next major development was a decade later with the discovery of telephones - the possibility to speak to another person over a long distance;

- ✓ The question arose, how to communicate if you couldn't reach the person via a wire, for instance on a ship;

- ✓ In 1896 wireless telegraphy was born - the first type of radiocommunication;

- ✓ As for telegraphy, problems occurred with international connection;

- ✓ The German government called for a Preliminary Radio Conference in Berlin, with the aim of establishing international regulations for radiotelegraph communications.
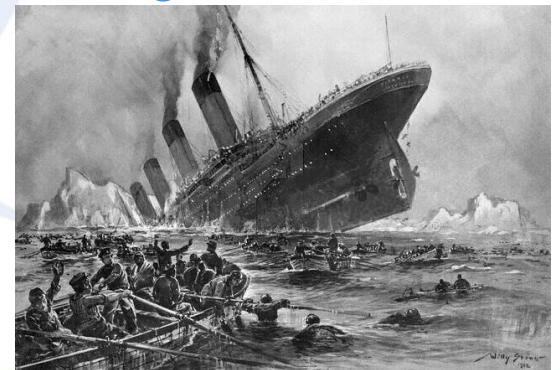
History - International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

✓ This preparatory event was followed in Berlin, in 1906, by the first International Radiotelegraph Conference, attended by 29 representatives from 29 nations.

✓ It produced the International Radiotelegraph Convention – the original Radio Regulations and gave birth to the **International Radiotelegraph Union - 17th May 1906**

✓ This conference was the first to acknowledge the scarce nature of the radio-frequency spectrum and to produce the first allocation of frequency bands:

   ✓ Frequencies from 500 to 1 000 kHz for public use in the maritime service

   ✓ The band 188 – 500 kHz for military and naval stations

✓ The conference also established "SOS" as the international maritime distress call – one of the first steps in emergency communications.

History - International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- ✓ The sinking of the Titanic in April 1912 served to heighten awareness of the importance of radiocommunication and of regulating spectrum usage;

- ✓ The rescue operations having been hampered by the mutual interference caused by a large number of radio stations using the same frequencies at the same time;

- ✓ A few months later in London, 1912 during The International Radiotelegraph Conference:

  - ✓ Agreed on a common wavelength for ships' radio distress signals;

  - ✓ Every ship was instructed to maintain radio silence at regular intervals during which operators were to listen for distress calls.

History - International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

✓ The use of radio grew rapidly;

✓ To improve the efficiency and quality of operation, the third International Radiotelegraph Conference was held in Washington in 1927. The conference:

  ✓ Expanded the table of frequency allocations (to 60 000 kHz), to include within its frequency bands, broadcasting and a number of other services;

  ✓ Decided to establish the International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR) "for the purpose of studying technical and related questions having reference to radiocommunications". The Committee thereafter played an active part in the development of radio technologies and standards.
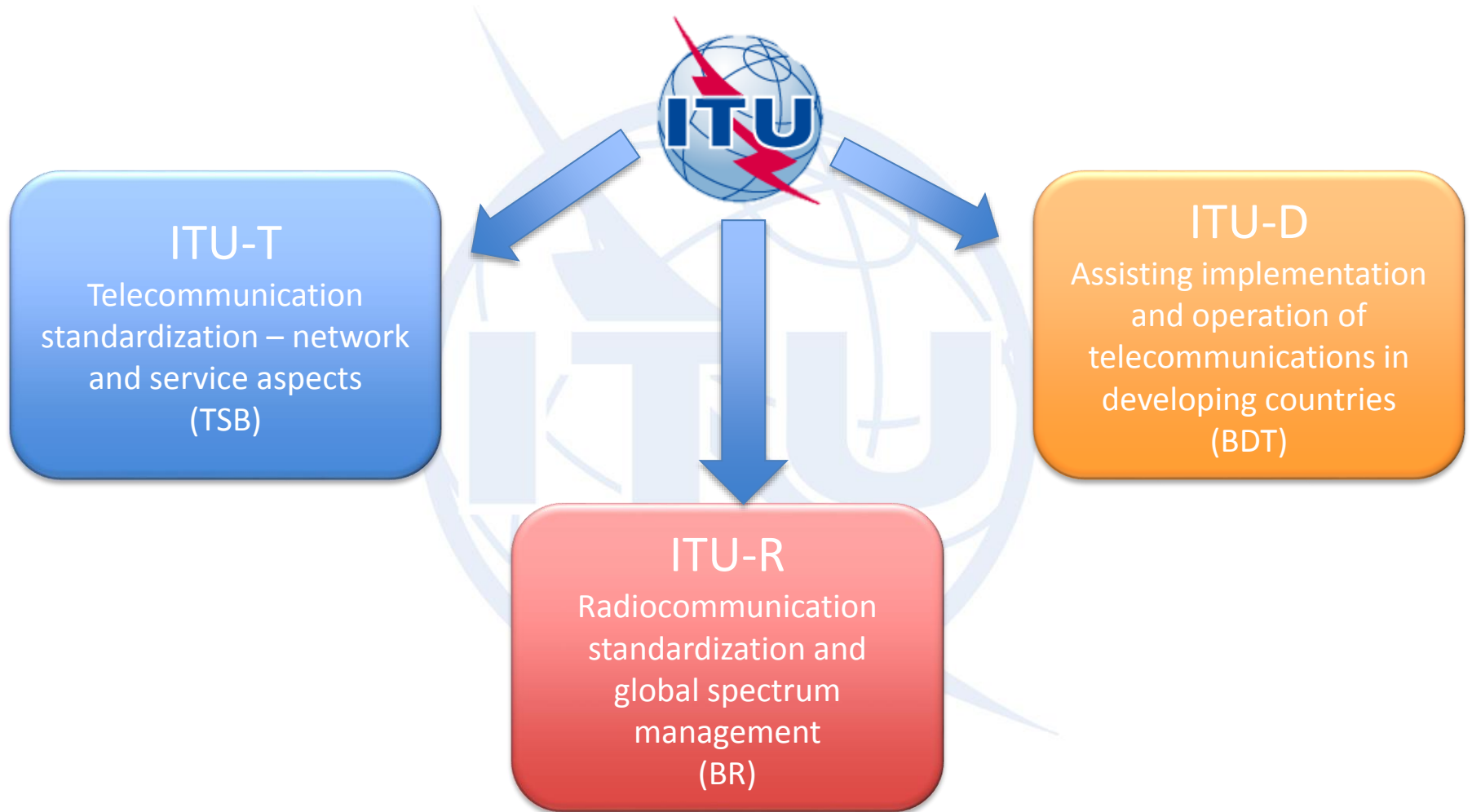
History - International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

✓ In 1932, in Madrid, an International Telegraph Conference was held concurrently with an International Radiotelegraph Conference, with the decision being taken to merge into a single organization to be known as the **International Telecommunication Union**;

✓ The following instruments were adopted:

  ✓ A single convention embracing the three fields of telegraphy, telephony and radio;

  ✓ Three distinct sets of administrative regulations:

    ✓ Telegraph Regulations;

    ✓ Telephone Regulations;

    ✓ Radio Regulations.

History - International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

✓ During the Conference held in Atlantic City in 1947, the International Frequency Registration Board (IFRB) was established;

✓ An agreement between ITU and the newly created United Nations recognized ITU as the specialized agency for **Information and Communication Technologies** (ICT);

✓ In 1992 the structure of the ITU changed:

  ✓ Three sectors;

  ✓ The International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR) and International Frequency Registration Board (IFRB) were merged;

  ✓ The CCIR and IFRB secretariats were merged to form the Radiocommunication Bureau.

ITU Structure

ITU-T
Telecommunication
standardization – network
and service aspects
(TSB)

ITU-D
Assisting implementation
and operation of
telecommunications in
developing countries
(BDT)

ITU-R
Radiocommunication
standardization and
global spectrum
management
(BR)

ITU Basic Texts

✓ ITU is ruled by their basic legal instruments, which are international treaties and therefore binding for all signatory states;

✓ These legal instruments are:

  ✓ The Constitution of the International Telecommunication Union;

  ✓ The Convention of the International Telecommunication Union;

  ✓ The Administrative Regulations governing the use of Telecommunications:

    ✓ International Telecommunication Regulations – ITRs;

    ✓ Radio Regulations (RR) - including the Rules of Procedures (RoP);

  ✓ Optional Protocol on the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes relating to the Constitution, Convention and Administrative Regulations.
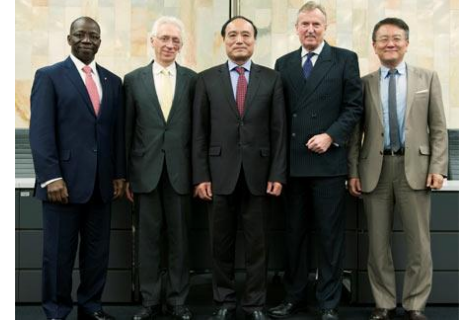
ITU Governance

✓ ITU is governed by the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP) and the Administrative Council;

✓ Plenipotentiary Conference:

  ✓ Supreme organ of the Union. It is the decision-making body which determines the direction of the Union and its activities;

  ✓ Held every 4 years

    ✓ PP14 : Busan, Korea, October 2014

    ✓ PP18 : United Arab Emirates

Plenipotentiary Conference

PP main Functions

- ✓ Review ITU Basic Texts;

- ✓ Review the Strategic Plan and Budget;

- ✓ Elect the ITU Officials:

    - ✓ Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General;

    - ✓ The three directors of the ITU Bureaux;

- ✓ Elect the ITU Council;

- ✓ Elect the Radio Regulation Board;

ITU Council

- ✓ ITU council acts as the Union's governing body in the interval between Plenipotentiary Conferences;

- ✓ Composed of administrations elected during PP - less than 25% of State Members - 48 Members;

- ✓ Meets every year (last meeting May 2015);

- ✓ Its role is to consider broad telecommunication policy issues to ensure that the Union's activities, policies, strategies and budget fully respond to today's dynamic and the rapidly changing telecommunications environment.

Radio Regulation Board (RRB)

- ✓ Composed of 12 members elected during PP;
  - ✓ Perform their duties independently and on a part-time basis;
- ✓ Meets 3 – 4 times a year to:
  - ✓ Ensure the correct and accurate application of RR and RoP;
  - ✓ Approve these RoP which are used by the ITU-R;
  - ✓ Consider matters referred to the BR that cannot be solved by applying the RR and RoP;
  - ✓ Makes recommendations to unresolved cases of harmful interference based on the research reports;
  - ✓ Advise the WRC and RA;
  - ✓ Consider appeals against decisions taken by the BR regarding frequency assignments.

ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R)

- ✓ Plays a vital role in the global management of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits:

  - ✓ Limited natural resources which are increasingly in demand from a large and growing number of services;
  - ✓ Among these services there are also those that are used to ensure safety of life on land, at sea and in the air;

- ✓ The mission of ITU-R is to ensure that the spectrum is used in a rational, equitable, efficient and economical way.

ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) - Objectives

- ✓ To ensure interference-free operations of radiocommunication systems:
    - ✓ Through the implementation of the Radio Regulations and Regional Agreements;
    - ✓ Efficient and timely update of these instruments through the process of World Radiocommunication conferences;
    - ✓ By establishing Recommendations to assure the necessary performance and quality in operating radiocommunication systems;
- ✓ Seeks ways and means to conserve spectrum and ensure flexibility for future expansion and new technologies.

Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

✓ The BR is the executive arm of ITU-R. The BR is headed by an elected Director responsible for the coordination of the work of the Sector, managing professional and administrative teams of BR;

✓ Provides administrative and technical support to WRCs, RAs, ITU-R SG, including WPs and Task Groups;

✓ Applies the provisions of the Radio Regulations and various Regional Agreements;

✓ Records and registers frequency assignments and maintains the Master International Frequency Register – MIFR;

✓ Provides advice to Member States on the equitable, effective and economical use of the spectrum and assists in resolving cases of harmful interference;

✓ Provides technical information, organizes seminars on national frequency management and radiocommunications and works closely with the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (BDT).

Thank you for your attention !

ITU – Radiocommunication Bureau
Questions to brmail@itu.int or brtpr@itu.int