INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

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ABSTRACT

International Telecommunications Union (ITU) is a specialized agency for Information and Communications Technology with 193 member states and its headquarters is Geneva. ITU has three sectors that are the Radiocommunication sector (ITU-R) that is used to ensure the rational, equitable, efficient and economic use of the radio-frequency spectrum by all radiocommunication services, including those using the geostationary-satellite orbit, the Development sector (ITU-D) that is used to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs that is Cyber security and manage disaster for emergency telecommunications and Standardization sector (ITU – T) that is used to develop the international standards that encompasses all fields of electronic communications from one core network that function and broadband to next generation services like IPTV. ITU's instruments are the Constitution of the ITU, the Convention of ITU and the Administrative Regulations. The member states are bound to abide by those provisions of the Constitution, the Convention and the Administrative Regulations. Through its Anniversary of 150 years ITU remains a vital tool for the evolution of the telecommunication sector on a range of important technical and policy issues, including global allocation of the radio frequency spectrum allocation, the development of technical standards management and capacity building in developing countries[i].

INTRODUCTION

International Telecommunications Union is the United Nations specialized agency for Information and Communication Technologies[ii], ITU has started with 20 participating member states, in the year of 2002 it had 189 member states, and currently it has 193 member states and over 800 Sector Members, Associates and Academia members from the Information and Communication Technology sector. The headquarters of ITU is Geneva Switzerland and it has twelve regional and area offices around the world. In the year of 2015 ITU made a 150 years anniversary of its innovation. Before the existing of ITU there was International Telegraph Union which was began as comprehensive specialized UN agency committed to protect lives in emergencies, supporting developing countries in the project and developing technical standards for Information Communication Technology services, helping regulators and policy-makers around the world and facilitating the management of threatened resources. It was instituted by the Plenipotentiary Conference in Malaga-Torremolinos in 1973 as Resolution 46[iii].

There are different reasons that made the European Union establish the ITU. The first reason was political reflections originated multilateral telegraph regulation. The second reason was the International Telegraph Convention was preceded by over 100 international telegraphs bilateral agreements concluded between continental European governments governing the operation of their telegraph systems, a good example of bilateral agreements was a treaty concluded in 1848 between the Kingdom of Prussia and Hanover, dealing with technical cooperation issues relating to the Prussian telegraph line bridging Hanoverian territory.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ITU)

ITU is an independent, largest and oldest worldwide organization which is used to guide the development of telecommunication, information and communication technology (ICT) around the world. It is used to allocate the global radio spectrum and satellite orbits, develop and ensure technical standard, network and technology interconnect and improve access to Information and communication technology. ITU is the center of advances in communication from telegraph through the modern world of satellites, internet and mobile phones for a century and a half since 1865.

On 17th May, 1865 the representatives of twenty Continental European governments signed the International Telegraph Convention in Paris which set the foundations for the International Telegraph Union. When International Radiograph Conference met decided to merge the Telegraph Convention of 1865 and the Radiotelegraph Convention of 1927 into a single convention embracing three fields of telegraphy, telephony and radio. The new International Telecommunication Convention established at the Madrid Conference setting its purposes, compositions, structure and functions as the Union's charter and constitution.

In 1850, the German Austrian Telegraph Union (GATU) was established in Dresden which were led by Prussia, in 1852 a Convention was initiated by Belgium signed by Paris brought together Prussia and France and, in the year of 1855, the West European Telegraph Union (WETU) was established in Paris under the leadership of French Government. While in 1885 Union began to draw up international legislation governing telephony and in the same year ITU produced the Missing Link Report (Maitland Report) that highlighting the imbalance in access to telecommunications between developed and developing countries and the first International Radiotelegraph Conference in Berlin produces the first regulations (today called the Radio regulations) in 1906 and in 1947 ITU becomes the specialized United Nations (UN) agency for telecommunications and headquarters are moved from Bern to Geneva,

In 1934 the Union changes the name of International Telegraph Union to be International Telecommunication Union for the purpose of reflecting its full range of responsibilities in recognition of the technical evolution of telecommunication technology. The first technical standards for television were released in 1949 and in 1966 ITU begin to collaborate with the UN Development Program (UNDP) to promote the expansion of networks around the world while the ITU secretariat (Bureau) was established with just three members of staff in Bern, Switzerland in 1969. ITU holds an Extraordinary Administrative Conference for space communications in 1963 while in 1971 the ITU Telecom World starts with the success of TELECOM 71 in Geneva.

The global expansion of the Internet owes much to technical standards from ITU from the early days of modems to today's broadband which was formed in 1989 and in 1992 ITU makes spectrum allocations for the first time to serve the needs of Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite (GMPCS), the establishment of the high-level World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF) was in 1994 with the aim of encouraging the free

exchange of ideas and information on policy issues while bridging the digital divide was confirmed as a priority of ITU at the Plenipotentiary Conference in Marrakesh.

In the year of 1993 ITU agrees radio frequency spectrum allocation for 2G mobile telephony and in 2008 ITU advanced the standard for high definition television, video conferencing and 3G mobile multimedia. The ITU become the international cooperation among private companies, stakeholders and government and in its Plenipotentiary Conference of 2014 set out its vision of 2020 that bind member states to ensure the growth and development of ICT with the aim of benefiting everyone on the planet and in 2015 the review and revise the Radio Regulations, the international treaty governing the use of radio - frequency spectrum and the geostationary satellite and non-geostationary satellite orbits was planned.

ITU is a core of the ICT sector, it allocate global resources like radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbital position through the management of spectrum and orbits, it create global communications system to reliable and continuous, it makes internet access possible, ITU helps support communications in the wake of disasters and emergencies through on-the-ground assistance, dedicated emergency communications channels, technical standards for early warning systems, and practical help in rebuilding after a catastrophe[iv].

The ITU is composed of any State which is a member of the Union as a Party to any International Telecommunication Convention prior to the entry into forces of the Constitution and the Convention. Any other State, a Member of the United Nations, which accedes to this Constitution and the Convention in accordance with Article 53 of this Constitution. Any other State, not a Member of the United Nations, which applies for membership of the Union and which, after having secured approval of such application by two-thirds of the Members of the Union, accedes to this Constitution and the Convention in accordance with Article 53 of this Constitution. If such application for membership is made during the interval between two Plenipotentiary Conferences, the Secretary-General shall consult the Members of the Union: a Member shall be deemed to have abstained, it has not replied within four months after its opinion has been requested[v].

The role of ITU is to organize the organizing agency of the World Summit on the Information Society as well as organize TELECOM activities. The mission of ITU are to facilitate universal access to the people who are living in different areas with ITU support they can communicate in equitable and in peaceful manner and sustain the growth and development of telecommunications and information networks. The ITU vision is to connect business, culture

and entertainment by using information and communication technology in the area of work or even at home.

The purpose of ITU are to maintain and extend international cooperation between all Members of the Union for the improvement and rational use of telecommunications of all kinds, to promote and to offer technical assistance to developing countries in the field of telecommunications, and also to promote the mobilization of the material and financial resources needed for implementations, to promote the development of technical facilities and their most efficient operation with a view to improving the efficiency of telecommunication services, increasing their useful and making them, so far as possible, generally available to the public, to promote the use of telecommunication services with the objectives of facilitating peaceful relations[vi].

ITU is guided by the Constitution and Convention which came into force provisionally on 1st March, 1993 and came into force definitively on 1st July, 1994 in accordance with Article 58 which says that:

> *'This Constitution and the Convention shall enter into force on 1st July, 1994 between Members having deposited before that date their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession'.*

ITU Constitution and Convention is used as an International treaty related to the law of nations, signed and ratified by all member states. The Constitution and Convention was enacted with the aim of replacing the International Telegraph Convention which was used before the establishment of ITU.

The machinery that is used by the ITU is the Constitution of the International Telecommunication Union, the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union and the Administrative Regulations[vii]. In the case of contradiction between a provision of the ITU Constitution and a provision of the Convention or of the Administrative Regulations, the Constitution shall prevail and in case of irregularity between a provision of the Convention and a provision of the Administrative Regulations, the Convention shall prevail[viii].

The Constitution (CS) and Convention (CV) and their respective Annexes are those adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference in Geneva (1992)[ix], incorporating the amendments adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference in Kyotto (1994)[x], the Plenipotentiary Conference in Minneapolis (1998)[xi], the Plenipotentiary Conference in Marrakesh (2002)[xii], the

Plenipotentiary Conference in Antalya (2006)[xiii] and the Plenipotentiary Conference in Guadalajara (2010[xiv]). The CS and CV have not been amended by the Plenipotentiary Conference in Busan, 2014[xv] and the Plenipotentiary Conference in Dubai (2018)[xvi].

International Telecommunication Union stands as guardian of a historic convention and a single platform to build a connected society for social good, it provides unified framework for technical cooperation and coordination which proved beneficial to its members, it strength control over the international development and operation of the first global telecommunication technology on the aspects of trade, public spheres and diplomacy.

ITU also connects the world to the most advanced and innovative means of communication from the day of telegraph to the days of Internet and mobile broadband that can allow to be in touch at anytime, anywhere with different people, as well as it simplifies the regulation of international telegraph and provides a broad framework for technical cooperation and common standards. ITU membership has attempted to deliver telecommunications and universal access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) to encourage peace, harmony and economic prosperity after experiencing the challenges of the first and second World Wars and Cold War.

In the year of 2006, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and Caribbean Telecommunication Union (CTU) organized the Regional Radiocommunication Seminar of spectrum management in International and national levels and procedures associated with the recording of frequency assignments in the Master International Frequency Register (MIFR) for the Americas (RRS-16-Americas) held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Also, the seminar reviewed the modifications of the Radio Regulations (RR), WRC and ITU –R Resolutions which were decided by the last World Radio Conference (WRC-15) and Radiocommunication Assembly (RA – 15).

During the time of seminar the current regulatory framework for international frequency management and the ITU-R Recommendations, best practices concerning the use of spectrum for terrestrial and space services and development of ICT on the frequency notifications of services were discussed as well as accessibility of software and electronic publications on the Radiocommunication Bureau to the Administrations of Member States and the ITU-R Sector Member were offered.

The outcome of WRC-15 and of the RRS -16 – Americas are to work on the Regional Challenges and Opportunities for Spectrum Harmonization and addressed the Agenda of WRC-19 of current status of the switchover of Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT), Digital dividend (DD), Regional Status in harmonization and its future bands, emerging concepts and technologies in spectrum utilization (this includes Dynamic Spectrum Access and Whitespace technologies) and C-B and based and other satellite services.

The State through its sovereign right should regulate its telecommunication regarding the growing importance of telecommunication for the purpose of preserving peace, social and economic development of all states. The ITU's member state should follow the ITU Constitution and Convention as the basic instruments with the aim of facilitating international cooperation among member states peoples, facilitate peaceful relations in the side of economy and social development through the efficient telecommunication services. The ITU has three sectors which are organized into three main areas of activities which are known as Radiocommunication sector, Standardization sector and Development sector.

The Radiocommunication Sector of the ITU (ITU-R)

The ITU Radiocommunication sector is one of the most important sectors of the International Telecommunication Union especially in the global management of the radio frequency and satellite orbits that guarantee the protection of life on land, at sea and in the skies. It is used to ensure the interference –free operation of radiocommunication system worldwide. Also it is used to ensure rational, equitable, efficient and economical use of the radio frequency spectrum and coordinate efforts to eliminate harmful interference as well as effect allocation and allotment and the registration of radio frequency and GSO orbital position.

The functions of the Radiocommunication Sector are to ensure the rational, equitable, efficient and economic use of the radio-frequency spectrum by all radiocommunication services, including those using the geostationary-satellite orbit, subject to the provision of Article 44 of the ITU Constitution and carrying out studies without limit of frequency range and adopting recommendation matters[xvii].

The ITU-R is regulated by the Radio Regulations (RRs) that is the international intergovernmental treaty, the Regulations are used to arrange for the framework of the use of the radio frequency spectrum and satellite orbits. This Regulation is also used to incorporate the decisions of the World Radiocommunication Conference which includes all Appendices,

Resolutions and Recommendations, but the decisions of a world radiocommunication conference of a radiocommunication assembly and of a regional radiocommunication conference shall in all circumstances be in conformity with ITU Constitution and the Convention[xviii].

The approval of Rules of Procedure, which include technical criteria, in accordance with the Radio Regulations and with any decision which may be taken by competent radiocommunication conferences[xix]. The recommendations of the ITU-R help to provide details on the use of spectrum in its performance and quality in operating radiocommunications systems as well as ensure the flexibility for future expansion, new technological developments and the equitable use of the geostationary satellite orbit.

Every three to four years ITU-R is revised the development of technologies and the consequence convergence of services and technologies at the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), normally World radiocommunication conferences convened every two years[xx]. In the year of 2012 in Geneva the world Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12) revised various things like future proposals for 700 MHz band, protection of new European global navigation system (GALILEO), new allocation for the amateur service, streaming of satellite regulations to bring some clarity to the international rules applied and identified spectrum for the safe operation of unmanned aircraft systems.

The World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) met in Geneva in the year of 2015 and discussing the ICTs future innovation, establishing the RA-15 for technical performance requirements for radio systems to maintain IMT-2020, allocating the spectrum for broadband satellite systems while coordinating procedures to make more effective use of spectrum and satellite orbits for advanced communication among both operated and non-operated space vehicles, strengthening the use of on-board digital transmissions and automatic identification system on vessels for improved the safety of navigation.

The World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-19) met in Egypt in 2019 from 28th October to 22nd November, with the aim of improving traffic management, public transportation systems, road safety, train safety and railway traffic control, (ICT) to make the world's cities safer and 'smarter'[xxi].

The new ITU Recommendation – harmonization of frequency bands for evolving Intelligent Transport System (ITS) applications under mobile service allocations[xxii], starts out by laying

out some important context regarding the need to harmonize radio-frequency spectrum for Intelligent Transport System for instance, it mentions the "need to integrate various technologies, including radiocommunications, into land transportation systems"[xxiii]. The new Recommendations also recognizes that harmonized spectrum and international standards facilitate worldwide deployment of evolving ITS radiocommunications and provide for economic of scale in bringing evolving ITS equipment and services to the public[xxiv].

The Standardization Sector of the ITU (ITU – T)

The Standardization Sector of the ITU is another sector of ITU that is used to develop the international standards that encompasses all fields of electronic communications from one core network that function and broadband to next generation services like IPTV. The mission of the ITU-T is to provide a unique worldwide venue where industry and government work together to foster the development and use of interoperable, non-discriminatory and demand-driven international standards[xxv]. ITU-T E.164 provides the structure and functionality of telephone numbers, and without it we would not be able to communicate internationally[xxvi]. In recent years SG2 has worked on ENUM, an Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) protocol for entering E.164 numbers into the Internet domain name system (DNS)[xxvii].

The World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly (WTSA) defines general policy, working methods and procedures for ITU-T. WTSAs are convened every four years and determine, inter alia, the strategy, policies and work programme of the ITU telecoms sector[xxviii]. The last WTSA took place in November 2012 in Dubai (WTSA-12) whereby the establishment of an ITU-T Strategic and Structural Review Committee, An unsuccessful proposal for ITU to become an IP Address Registry, Telecommunications or ICTs and climate change, further facilitation for developing countries to become engaged in standardisation issues and Review of study group activities were discussed[xxix].

ITU-T developed a number of early standards in Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) such as ITU-TG799.1 Recommendations which specify the functions and characteristics of VoIP gateways and ITU-T H.323 Recommendations adopted in 1996 (used in videoconferencing and the delivery of voice, video and data over IP networks). The 2003 Recommendation ITU-T H.235 provides protocols for VoIP and videoconferencing calls to be authorized and securely

routed, while protected against security threats through real-time multimedia encryption and PKI certificates.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) hosted the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-16) in Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia, from 25th October to 3rd November, 2016[xxx]. This background paper on the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) is intended to provide the Internet Society community and interested parties with an outline of the objectives and key issues to be addressed at WTSA 2016[xxxi].The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly is held every four years and defines the next period of study for ITU-T. WTSA-20 will take place in Hyderabad, India, 17th – 27th November, 2020 preceded by the Global Standards Symposium on 16 November 2020[xxxii].

The Development Sector of the ITU (ITU-D)

The Development Sector of the ITU is also an important sector of ITU, it perform its activities as an executing agency that implements projects through the United Nations, the main functions of ITU-T are to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs that is Cyber security, to manage disaster for emergency telecommunications, to promote the right of people across the world to communicate through access to infrastructure, information and communication services, to connect the standard gap in developing countries and to connect the unconnected by 2015.

The main objectives of the Development sector of ITU are to link the digital boundary created by the rapid expansion of information and communication technologies (ICTs) through the World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC) and to promote international cooperation and partnerships that can sustain and strengthen telecommunication infrastructure and institutions in developing countries.

ORLD Telecommunication Development Conferences (WTDCs) give the ITU Telecommunication Sector (ITU-D) Members the opportunity to debate the latest trends in telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs) and to establish the priorities of the Development Sector. The first World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) was convened in Arusha, Tanzania, from 27th to 30th May, 1985 with the aim of discussing a range of issues relevant to the development of telecommunications,

particularly in the developing regions of the world. The Missing Link Report adopted the Arusha Declaration on World Telecommunication Development. The Arusha Declaration called on governments and other stakeholders to work to ensure that, there would be telephone within 'easy reach' of 'virtually the whole of mankind' by the early of the 21st century.

Since 1985 there were other six World Telecommunication Development Conference that were convened in different areas, that were in Argentina, Malta, Turkey, Qatar, India and United Arab Emirates. The Conference which was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 21st to 29th March, 1994, aimed to review progress in telecommunication development since The Missing Link Report and to address the serious imbalance in world telecommunications development. The conference which was held in Valletta, Malta on 23rd March to 1st April, 1998 aspired to emphasize the need of reflecting gender balance and the needs of youth and indigenous people, emergency telecommunication and to enhance participation of the private sector in the activities of ITU-D and facilitate the creation of partnerships between governments and private enterprises.

The conference which was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 18th to 27th March, 2002, intended to adopt new work programs to be implemented by Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), focused on regulatory reform, new technologies, e-strategies and e-services and applications, economic and finance, human capacity building and special assistance to LDCs and evaluating e-readiness and making informed national policy, legislation and regulation choices for ICT development. The conference which was held in Doha, Qatar on 7th to 15th March, 2006, recognized the success in the implementation of the Buenos Aires, Valletta and Istanbul Action Plans.

The conference which was held in Hyderabad, India on 24th March to 4th June, 2010 acknowledged that, together with development partners and other stakeholders ITU had made great, strides to enhance universal access and shape the emerging global information society, the Declaration noted that the level of access to telecommunications or ICT had improved across the world.

And the World Telecommunication Development Conference which was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 30th March to 10th April, 2014 organized the 'Broadband for Sustainable Development' to underline ITU's commitment to leverage broadband as a catalyst to meet the goals of sustainable development. The Dubai Action Plan aimed to foster international cooperation, applications and services, to enhance climate change adaptation and mitigation

and disaster management efforts through telecommunications and ICTS, to enhance confidence and security in the use of ICT and the roll-out of relevant applications and services, to build human and institutional capacity, promote digital inclusion and provide concentrated assistance to countries in special need and to foster an enabling environment conducive to the development of ICT networks.

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17) convened in **Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 9th to 20th October, 2017** following the kind invitation of the Government of Argentina and the approval by the Council with the concurrence of a majority of the Member States of ITU[xxxiii], the theme of WTDC-17 was **"ICT for Sustainable Development Goals" - ICT④SDGs**[xxxiv]. WTDC-17 forum represents a unique opportunity for the international community to gather together and discuss the future of the telecommunication and information and communication technologies sector and its contribution to social and economic development[xxxv].

ITU CONSTITUTION AND CONVENTION

The International Telegraph (later Telecommunication) Convention, today the Constitution and Convention of ITU, is the basic treaty that establishes the legal basis for the Union and defines its purpose and structure[xxxvi]. The Constitution (CS) and Convention (CV) and their respective Annexes are those adopted by the Additional Plenipotentiary Conference (Geneva, 1992), incorporating the amendments adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998), the Plenipotentiary Conference (Marrakesh, 2002) and the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006)[xxxvii].

The margin numbers of the CS, CV and Annexes are located in the left-hand margin, sometimes accompanied by the symbol "PP-94" referring to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) and/or "PP-98" referring to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998) and/or "PP-02" referring to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Marrakesh, 2002) and/or "PP-06" referring to the Plenipotentiary Conference (Antalya, 2006)[xxxviii].

The International Telecommunication Union Constitution and the International Telecommunication Union convention entered into force on 1st July, 1994 between Member States having deposited before that date their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval

or accession and abrogated and replaced the International Telecommunication Convention (Nairobi 1982), the Secretary-general of the Union shall register the ITU Constitution with the Secretariat of the United Nations.

The main purposes of International Telecommunication Union Constitution (ITU CS) is explained under Article 1 of the Constitution as to maintain and extend international cooperation among all its Member states for the improvement and rational use of telecommunications of all kinds, to promote and offer assistance to developing countries in the field of telecommunications, and also to promote the mobilization of the material, human and financial resources needed for its implementation as well as access to information. Other objectives are to promote the extension of the benefits of the new telecommunication technologies to all the world's inhabitants, to facilitate the worldwide standardization of telecommunications, with a satisfactory quality of service.

The ITU is composed under Article 2 of the Constitution regarding the principle of universality and the desirability of universal participation in the Union to any State which is a member State of the International Telecommunication Union as a Party to any International Telecommunication Convention prior to the entry into force of this Constitution and the Convention. Also it is composed by any other State, a Member of the United Nations, which accedes to this Constitution and the Convention in accordance with Article 53 of this Constitution and any other States, not a Member of the United Nations, which applies for membership of the Union and which, after having secured approval of such application by two-third of the Member States of the Union, accedes to this Constitution and the Convention in accordance with Article 53 of this Constitution.

The rights and obligations of Member States and Sector Members is explained under Article 3 of the Constitution that all Member State shall be entitled to participate in conferences, shall be eligible for election to the council and shall have the rights to nominate candidates for election as officials of the Union or as members of the Radio Regulations Board. The Constitution of the ITU, the Convention of the ITU and Administrative Regulations are the instrument of the Union which is explained under Article 4 of the Constitution as the regulator of the uses of telecommunications and bind to all Member States in International Telecommunication Regulations and Radio Regulations.

The instruments of the union are the Constitution of the International Telecommunication Union, the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union and the Administrative Regulations[xxxix]. The member states are bound to abide by the provisions of this Constitution, the Convention and the Administrative Regulations in all telecommunication offices and stations established or operated by them which engage in international services or which are capable of causing harmful interference to radio services of other countries[xl]. The Plenipotentiary Conference shall be convened every four years according to Article (8) of the Constitution and Article (1) of the ITU Convention.

ITU is composed on the Plenipotentiary Conference, the Council, world conferences on international telecommunications, the Radiocommunication Sector, the Telecommunication Standardization Sector, the Telecommunication Development Sector and the General Secretariat.

The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference is the supreme decision-making organ of the International Telecommunication Union. It is ITU's highest-level meeting, where its 193 Member States agree on the Union's overall strategic and financial plans, leadership and direction for the next 4 years[xli]. The Plenipotentiary Conference is an international treaty conference. It considers and, if appropriate, amends the ITU basic texts (e.g., the ITU Constitution and Convention, the General Rules of Conferences). When they head to Dubai for the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference (29th October – 16th November 2018), ITU Member States set out a roadmap for 2020-2023 at a time when information and communication technologies are transforming our lives and societies[xlii].

The Plenipotentiary Conference shall be convened in accordance with the provision of Article (8) of the ITU Constitution and Article (1) of the ITU Convention. The Plenipotentiary Conference is the supreme organ of the Union and shall be composed of delegations representing Member States, it shall be convened every four years. The Plenipotentiary Conference on the basis of proposal by Member States it determine the general policies for fulfilling the purposes of the Union, consider the reports by the Council on the activities of the Union since the previous plenipotentiary conference and on the policy and strategic planning of the Union, establish the strategic plan for the Union and the basis for the budget of the Union until the next plenipotentiary conference, adopt and amend the General Rules of conferences, assemblies and meetings of the Union.

The Council**,** on the other hand, acts as the Union's governing body in the interval between Plenipotentiary Conferences**.** Its role is to consider broad telecommunication policy issues to ensure that the Union's activities, policies and strategies fully respond to today's dynamic, rapidly changing telecommunications environment[xliii]. ITU Council also prepares a report on the policy and strategic planning of the ITU and responsible for ensuring the smooth day-to-day running of the Union, coordinating work programs, approving budgets and controlling finances and expenditure[xliv]. The Council also takes all steps to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of the ITU Constitution, the ITU Convention, the Administrative Regulations (International Telecommunications Regulations and Radio Regulations), and the decisions of Plenipotentiary Conferences and; where appropriate, the decisions of other conferences and meetings of the Union[xlv].

The Council shall be composed of Member States elected by the Plenipotentiary Conference and acts on behalf of the Plenipotentiary Conference as a governing body of the Union[xlvi]. The Council is composed with forty-three Members of the Union elected by the Plenipotentiary Conference and shall hold an ordinary session annually at the seat of the Union[xlvii] . The Council shall consider broad telecommunication policy issues in accordance with the guidelines given by the Plenipotentiary Conference to ensure that the Union's policies and strategy fully respond to changes in the telecommunication environment and shall contribute to the development of telecommunications in the developing countries in the appropriate programs of the United Nations[xlviii].

The Council shall, in the interval between two Plenipotentiary Conferences, supervise the overall management and administration of the Union, approve and revise the Staff Regulations and the Financial Regulations of the Union and any other regulations as it may consider necessary, taking account of current practice of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies applying the common system of pay, allowances and pensions[xlix].

Also, ITU is composed on Telecommunication Standardization Sector including world telecommunication standardization assemblies, the Telecommunication Development Sector including world and regional telecommunication development conferences. The Telecommunication Standardization Sector shall work through world telecommunication standardization assemblies, telecommunication standardization study groups, the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau.

The Study Groups of ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) assemble experts from around the world to develop international standards known as ITU- T Recommendations which act as defining elements in the global infrastructure of information and communication technologies (ICTs)[l]. Standards are critical to the interoperability of ICTs and whether we exchange voice, video or data messages, standards enable global communications by ensuring that countries' ICT networks and devices are speaking the same language[li].

The General Secretariat is explained under Article (11) of the ITU Constitution and Article (5) of the ITU Convention and shall be directed by Secretary-General assisted by one Deputy Secretary-General who shall act as the legal representative of the Union. The functions of the Secretary- General is to coordinate the Union's activities with the assistance of the Coordination Committee provide specific information as may be required for the preparation of a report on the policies and strategic plan for the Union and ensure economic use of the Union's resources and be responsible to the Council for all the administrative and financial aspects of the Union's activities[lii].

The Secretary-General is also responsible for overall management of the Union's resources, coordinate the activities of the General Secretariat and the Sectors of the Union, after consultation with the Coordination committee and taking into account its views, prepare and submit to the Council an annual report indicating changes in the telecommunication environment and containing recommended action relating to the Union's future policies and strategy, organize the work of the General Secretariat and appoint the staff of the Secretariat, report to the Council and decisions taken by the United Nations and the specialized agencies and provide legal advice to the Union[liii].

The mission of the General Secretariat is to provide high-quality and efficient services to the membership of the Union**.** The General Secretariat manages the administrative and financial aspects of the Union's activities, including the provision of conference services, planning and organization of major meetings, information services, security, strategic planning, and corporate functions such as: communications, legal advice, finance, personnel, procurement, internal audit, etc[liv].

The 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 such as fixed, mobile,

broadcasting, amateur, space research, emergency telecommunications, meteorology, global positioning systems, environmental monitoring and communication services - that ensure safety of life on land, at sea and in the skies[lv].

The Radiocommunication Sector[lvi] including world and regional radiocommunication conferences, radiocommunication assemblies and the Radio Regulations Board, this is an important sector in the International Telecommunication Union which is used to ensure the rational, equitable, efficient and economical use of the radio-frequency spectrum by all radiocommunication services, including those using the geostationary- satellite or other satellite orbits, carrying out studies without limit of frequency range and adopting recommendations on radiocommunication matters. The radiocommunication Sector shall work through world and regional radiocommunication conferences, the radio regulations Board, radiocommunication assemblies, radiocommunication study groups, the radiocommunication Bureau and the Radiocommunication Advisory Group.

The radiocommunication conference is used to revise the Radio Regulations either partially or in exceptional cases or completely and convened for every three to four years. The decision of radiocommunication conference shall be in conformity with the International Telecommunication Union Constitution and Convention. Also, the Radiocommunication assemblies normally convened on every three to four years, it is used to provide the necessary technical bases for the work of the world radiocommunication conferences and respond to all requests from world radiocommunication conferences, the decision of the radiocommunication assembly shall be confirmed by Radio Regulations.

Telecommunication Development Sector is used to fulfil the purposes of the Union, it is used to raise the level of awareness of decision-makers concerning the important role of telecommunications in the national economic and social development program and provide information and advice on possible policy and structural options, develop by means of partnership the development, expansion and operation of telecommunication networks and services particularly developing countries, activate the mobilization of resources to provide assistance in the field of telecommunications to developing countries, promote and coordinate programs to accelerate the transfer of appropriate technologies to the developing countries in the light of changes and developments in the networks of the developed countries.

Also the Telecommunication Development Sector is used to encourage participation by industry in telecommunication development in developing countries and offer advice on the choice and transfer of appropriate technology, offer advice, carry out or sponsor studies on technical, economic, financial, managerial, regulatory and policy issues including studies of specific projects in the field of telecommunications and collaborate with other sectors, the General Secretariat and other concerned bodies in developing a general plan for international and regional telecommunication networks so as to facilitate the coordination of their development with a view to the provision of telecommunication services.

The Telecommunication Development Sector shall work through world and regional telecommunication development conferences, telecommunication development study groups, the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group and the Telecommunication Development Bureau.

Settlement of Disputes

The International Telecommunication Union Constitution interpret to member states who have disputes, should settle their disputes through diplomatic channels, according to procedures established by bilateral or multilateral treaties concluded between them for the settlement of international disputes or by any other method mutually agreed upon[lvii].

Arbitration

The party which appeals to arbitration shall initiate the arbitration procedure by transmitting to the other party to the dispute a notice of the submission of the dispute to arbitration, the parties shall decide by agreement whether the arbitration is to be entrusted to individuals, administrations or governments. If within one month after notice of submission of the dispute to arbitration, the parties have been unable to agree upon this point, the arbitration shall be entrusted to governments. If arbitration is to be entrusted to individuals, the arbitrators must neither be nationals of a State party to the dispute, nor have their domicile in the State parties to the dispute, nor be employed in their service[lviii].

If arbitration is to be entrusted to governments, or to administrations thereof, these must be chosen from among the Members which are not involved in the dispute, within three months from the date of receipt of the notification of the submission of the dispute to arbitration, each

of the parties to the dispute shall appoint an arbitrator. If more than two parties are involved in the dispute, an arbitrator shall be appointed in accordance with this article[lix].

The parties to the dispute may agree to have their dispute settled by a single arbitrator appointed by agreement, or alternatively, each party may nominate an arbitrator, and request the Secretary-General to draw lots to decide which of the persons so nominated is to act as the single arbitrator. The decision of the single arbitrator shall be final and binding upon the parties to the dispute, if the arbitration is entrusted to more than one arbitrator, the decision made by the majority vote of the arbitrators shall be final and binding upon the parties[lx].

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