



The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and its Membership

ITU-T

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1. What is the ITU-T ?

Origins

The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is one of the three Sectors of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The ITU-T was created on 1 March 1993 within the framework of the "new" ITU, replacing the former International Telephone and Telegraph Consultative Committee (CCITT) whose origins are over 100 years old.

Also created were the [ITU-R](#), Radiocommunication Sector (former CCIR and IFRB) and the [ITU-D](#), Telecommunication Development Sector.

Mission

The ITU-T fulfils the purposes of the ITU relating to telecommunications standardization by studying technical, operating and tariff questions and adopting Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

Activities

Standardization work is carried out by 14 Study Groups in which representatives of the ITU-T membership develop Recommendations for the various fields of international telecommunications on the basis of the study of Questions (i.e. areas for study).

Product

At present, more than 2500 recommendations (standards) on some 55,000 pages are in force. Recommendations are non-binding standards agreed by consensus in technical study groups. Although ITU-T Recommendations are non-binding, they are generally complied with due to their high quality and because they guarantee the interconnectivity of networks and enable telecommunication services to be provided on a worldwide scale.

Structure

The [World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly \(WTSA\)](#), which takes place every four years, defines general policy for the Sector, establishes the study groups and approves their work programme for each study period of four years, appoints the study group Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen.

The [Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group \(TSAG\)](#), reviews priorities, programmes, operations, financial matters and strategies for the Sector, follows up on accomplishment of the work programme, provides guidelines to the study groups and advises the TSB Director.

The [ITU Telecommunication Standardization Study Groups \(SGs\)](#) and their Working Parties study the Questions and elaborate the Recommendations.

2. What is the TSB ?

The **Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB)** provides support for the work of the ITU-T Sector and diffuses information on international telecommunications worldwide.

Coordination of the work of the ITU-T Sector

Study Group management

The management team of the Study Groups is generally composed of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen of the study group, Chairmen of the working parties and the TSB Counsellor/Engineer.

Meeting organization

The TSB provides **secretariat services** for ITU-T conferences and study group meetings. TSB Counsellors and Engineers coordinate the work of their study group meeting and their assistants ensure the flow of meeting document production.

The TSB ensures **logistics services** such as meeting room allocation, registration of participants, document distribution and facilities for meeting participants.

Approval and publication of Recommendations and other texts

The TSB organizes and coordinates the approval process of recommendations. It ensures the editing of recommendations and other texts, coordinates the translation, printing and publication. The online posting of recommendations is ensured by the TSB.

Access to ITU-T documents for ITU-T Members

The TSB organizes and controls the dispatch of documents in paper form to ITU-T Members and provides [Electronic Document Handling services \(EDH\)](#) which allow easy and rapid exchange of documents, information and ideas among participants in the work of ITU-T in order to facilitate the work of standards making. ITU-T Members can have electronic access, via [TIES](#), to study group documents such as reports, contributions, delayed contributions, temporary and liaison documents, etc.

International telecommunications services and diffusion of information

The TSB

- maintains the ITU-T Website, diffuses and provides information on the activities of the Sector including the [list of meetings](#), [TSB Circulars](#) and Collective Letters,
- provides and updates the [List of ITU-T Recommendations](#), the [ITU-T Work Programme Database](#), the [ITU-T Patent Statements Database](#), and the [ITU-T Terms and Definitions Database](#),
- provides and updates any other database as requested by the various study groups,
- centralizes and provides information on [Alternative Calling Procedures - Call back](#),
- provides number assignment for telephone, data and other services
- acts as Registrar for [Universal International Freephone Numbers \(UIFN\)](#),
- provides technical information on international telecommunications and collaborates closely with the [ITU Radiocommunication Sector](#) and the [ITU Telecommunication Development Sector](#) for matters of interest to developing countries,
- provides administrative and operational information through the [Operational Bulletin](#).

ITU-T Publications

The TSB ensures the publication of various texts :



ITU-T Recommendations

The [List of ITU-T Recommendations](#) is free of charge and available on the ITU-T Website and in paper form.

[Recommendations in force](#) are available for purchase and published in different forms - individual paper fascicles, individual electronic files, entire collection on CD-ROM, through yearly on-line subscription to all recommendations in force.

[Superseded Recommendations](#) are available both as individual electronic files or as archive copies.

[Pre-published Recommendations](#) are available in electronic form in the original language only. These are approved recommendations which have not gone through the final phase of editorial processing and translation therefore they can be subject to editorial changes before the final version.

ITU-T Software

Various test sequences, software and data intended to test different communication equipment. Each software generally forms an integral part of a recommendation and is published as an enclosure to it.

ITU Operational Bulletin

A fortnightly publication containing administrative and operational information exchanged between Administrations and recognized operating agencies (ROAs) and other service providers, entities and organizations, in respect to international telecommunication services.

Various lists containing codes, numbers or indicators allocated to countries or operators are published as [Annexes to the Operational Bulletin](#).

Handbooks and guides

Various handbooks, guides, directives and informative texts are published on different subjects such as operation, network planning, outside plant, measurement methods and formal languages as requested by the study groups and the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly.

3. What are the advantages of being an ITU-T Sector Member?

Prestige and credibility of a long-standing international standardization body

The International Telecommunication Union was founded in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union and it has been a specialized agency of the United Nations since 1947. The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) formerly CCITT, is the only existing global standardization body whose pre-eminence has been constant for over a century.

High-level quality Recommendations

Since its early days, the Sector has produced recommendations (standards) which are developed by highly qualified experts from leading telecommunication organizations and companies worldwide. ITU-T recommendations enjoy a high reputation and are implemented globally despite their non-binding character.

Participation to standardization work

Membership to ITU-T entitles to participation to the ITU-T study group meetings and assemblies. [Sector Members](#) can present their views by submitting written contributions to study group meetings. Representatives of Sector Members can also participate actively to the development of recommendations by contributing to the technical work accomplished by rapporteur groups which study questions assigned to their study group.

Influence

Membership in ITU-T is a means to actively take part in the Sector's standardization work and thus secure an influence of a company's business goals and policies on the development of standards within its business sphere.

Exchange of information

ITU-T provides a platform for meeting experts from all over the world, learning of their entities' plans and objectives, sharing experience and information.

Access to ITU-T documents

Sector Members can receive all ITU-T information and study group documents in paper form. They can also have electronic access ([via TIES](#)) to ITU-T documents of general interest, databases, study group documents (reports, contributions, delayed contributions, temporary documents, etc.) and study group information exchange areas (eg. FTP areas).

6. Contact points in the Telecommunications Standardization Bureau

International Telecommunication Union Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

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fax +41 22 730 5853

e-mail :
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URL : <http://www.itu.int/ITU-T>

Director's Office

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Studies, Strategy and Cooperation Department (SSC)

Chief of Department and Secretary of TSAG	Mr. F. Bigi	Tel. +41 22 730 5860
Assistant TSAG	Ms. J. Quist	Tel. +41 22 730 5869

ITU-T Study Groups (SGs)	Engineers and Assistants	
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SG 3 - Tariff and accounting principles including related telecommunications economic and policy issues	Mr. S. Tanaka Mrs. S. Blondeau	Tel. +41 22 730 5989 Tel. +41 22 730 5876
SG 4 - TMN and network maintenance	Mr. A. Ganguli Mr. Y.H. Choe Mrs. M. McGrath	Tel. +41 22 730 5882 Tel. +41 22 730 5970 Tel. +41 22 730 5414
SG 5 - Protection against electromagnetic environment effects	Mrs. J. Katona Kiss Mrs. M.H. Bercher	Tel. +41 22 730 5780 Tel. +41 22 730 5871
SG 6 - Outside plant	Mr. P. Rosa Mrs. I. Garde	Tel. +41 22 730 5235 Tel. +41 22 730 5855

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SG 9 - Television and sound transmission	Mr. F. Cohen Ms. A. Gaspari	Tel. +41 22 730 5896 Tel. +41 22 730 5158
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SG 13 - General network aspects	Mr. F. Bigi Mrs. G. Regan	Tel. +41 22 730 5860 Tel. +41 22 730 5862
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SG 16 - Multimedia services and systems	Mr. F. Bigi Mrs. L. Jones	Tel. +41 22 730 5860 Tel. +41 22 730 5862

Support, Administration and Operations Department (SAO)

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Meeting Organization and Schedule, Administrative matters	Mrs. A. Josserand	Tel. +41 22 730 5856 +41 22 730 5861
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Membership Relations	Mrs. S. Imru-Caminiti	Tel. +41 22 730 5861 +41 22 730 5856

EDH Service - Electronic Document Handling

ITU-T Website maintenance, Study Group informal FTP areas	Mr. A. Dayao	Tel. +41 22 730 5858 +41 22 730 5859
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TSON Service - Telecommunication Services Operation and Numbering

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7. Contact points in the ITU General Secretariat**ITU Finance Department** (Membership contributions)

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e-mail : sales@itu.intURL : <http://www.itu.int/publications>**ITU Global Directory**

tel. +41 22 730 6688

fax +41 22 730 5881

e-mail : global.directory@itu.intURL : <http://www.itu.int>**8. Study Group Responsibility and Mandates**

**Extract from Resolution 2 of the
World Telecommunication Standardization Conference (Geneva 1996)
Study Group responsibility and mandates (Helsinki, 1993; Geneva 1996)**

General Areas of Study**[Study Group 2 - Network and service operation](#)**

Responsible for studies relating to:

- General aspects of service definition related to telecommunication services;

- PSTN based, ISDN(s), mobile and UPT services, principles of their interworking and relevant user quality of service(QOS);
- network operations including routing, numbering, network management and service quality of networks (traffic engineering, operational performance and service (measurements));
- human factors;
- service and operational aspects of fraud prevention.

Lead Study Group on Service definition, Numbering, Routing and Global Mobility.

[Study Group 3 - Tariff and accounting principles including related telecommunications economic and policy issues](#)

Responsible for studies relating to tariff and accounting principles for international telecommunication services and study of related telecommunication economic and policy issues, as well as policy issues related to carriage and content.

[Study Group 4 - TMN and network maintenance](#)

Responsible for telecommunication management network (TMN) studies. Additionally responsible for studies relating to maintenance of networks, including their constituent parts, identifying needed maintenance mechanisms and for applications of specific maintenance mechanisms provided by other Study Groups. Lead Study Group on TMN.

[Study Group 5 - Protection against electromagnetic environment effects](#)

Responsible for studies relating to electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) of telecommunication systems including precautions to avoid hazard to human beings.

[Study Group 6 - Outside plant](#)

Responsible for studies relating to outside plant such as the construction, installation, jointing, terminating, protection from corrosion and other forms of damage from environment impact, except electromagnetic processes, of all types of cable for public telecommunications and associated structures.

[Study Group 7 - Data networks and open system communications](#)

Responsible for studies relating to data communication networks, and for studies relating to the development of open system communications and to the application of open system communications including networking, message handling, directory, security and open distributed processing. Lead Study Group on Open Distributed Processing (ODP), Frame Relay and for Communication System Security.

[Study Group 8 - Characteristics of telematic systems](#)

Responsible for studies of telematic terminal characteristics and related service aspects. Lead Study Group on Facsimile.

[Study Group 9 - Television and sound transmission](#)

Responsible for studies of the specifications to be satisfied by telecommunication systems used for contribution, primary distribution and secondary distribution of video, audio and the associated data signals, related to television, sound-programme and associated services, including interactive ones.

[Study Group 10 - Languages and general software aspects for telecommunication systems](#)

Responsible for technical languages, the methods for their usage and other issues related to the software aspects of telecommunication systems. Lead Study Group on Languages and Description Techniques

[Study Group 11 - Signalling requirements and protocols](#)

Responsible for studies relating to signalling requirements and protocols for telephone, N-ISDN, B-ISDN, UPT, mobile and multimedia communications. Lead Study Group on Intelligent Network and IMT-2000.

[Study Group 12 - End-to-end transmission performance of networks and terminals](#)

Responsible for studies concerning the end-to-end transmission performance of

networks and terminals in relation with the perceived quality and the acceptance of text, speech and image signals by the users and for the related transmission implications.

[Study Group 13 - General network aspects](#)

Responsible for studies relating to general network aspects and the initial studies of the impact of new system concepts and innovative technologies on telecommunication networks with far-reaching consequences, including broadband ISDN and global information infrastructure studies, taking into account the functional responsibilities of other Study Groups.

Lead Study Group on General network aspects, Global Information Infrastructures (GII), IP related aspects and Broadband ISDN and satellite matters.

[Study Group 15 - Transport networks, systems and equipment](#)

Responsible for studies relating to transport networks, switching and transmission systems/equipment including the relevant signal processing aspects.

Lead Study Group on Access Network Transport.

[Study Group 16 - Multimedia services and systems](#)

Responsible for studies relating to multimedia service definition and multimedia systems, including the associated terminals, modems, protocols and signal processing.

Lead Study Group on Multimedia Services and Systems.

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