



## Brief Guide to ITU Conferences, Assemblies and Events

ITU works through conferences and meetings, where members collaborate, take decisions, and negotiate the agreements which serve as the basis for the operation of global telecommunication services. Each type of meeting has a well-defined purpose and outcome and plays its particular role in supporting ITU's mission.

### Assemblies

- Plenary Assembly – CCIF
- Plenary Assembly – CCIR
- Plenary Assembly – CCIT
- Plenary Assembly – CCITT
- Radiocommunication Assembly (RA)
- World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA)

Assemblies provide overall direction to the activities of ITU's standardization and radiocommunication sectors (formerly the International Consultative Committees – CCIR, CCITT, CCIT, CCIF). They approve a list of technical subjects related to telecommunications (called *Questions*) and refer them to a number of Study Groups composed of experts from different countries. They establish or disband Study Groups according to need and elect the chairs and vice-chairs for the groups. Assemblies also adopt the Recommendations developed by their sector's Study Groups.

### Plenipotentiary Conference

The plenipotentiary conference is the top policy-making body and supreme organ of the Union. It is a meeting of Member States. Plenipotentiary conferences adopt the underlying policies of the organization, determine its structures and activities, establish the financial plan for the organization, and revise the Constitution and Convention when needed. The Final Acts of plenipotentiary conferences include instruments amending the ITU Constitution and Convention, General Rules of Conferences, Assemblies and Meetings, Decisions, Resolutions, Recommendations, Declarations and Additional Declarations

### Radio Conference

World and regional radiocommunication conferences are held to review, revise, expand and adopt the *Radio Regulations* and regional agreements covering the use of the radio-frequency spectrum.

- *World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC)* are convened to consider specific radiocommunication matters. A WRC may revise the *Radio Regulations*, or deal with any radiocommunication matter of worldwide character in accordance with its agenda.
- *Regional Radiocommunication Conferences* are conferences of either an ITU Region or a group of countries with a mandate to develop an agreement concerning a particular

radiocommunication service or frequency band. The “Final Acts” of such conference normally include a frequency plan and the associated procedures for its implementation. Such conferences cannot modify the *Radio Regulations* unless approved by a World Conference, and the “Final Acts” are binding only on those countries that are party to the agreement.

*Radiocommunication Assembly* – see **Assemblies**

### **TELECOM – Exhibition and Forum**

Worldwide and regional exhibitions and forums (such as TELECOM World) bring together representatives of government and the telecommunications and ICT industry to exchange ideas, knowledge and technology. The exhibitions showcase the latest ICT technologies, while the forums feature high-level speakers and panelists from the private and public sectors.

### **Telecommunication Development Conference**

ITU’s telecommunication development conferences serve as a forum for studying policy, organization, operation, regulatory, technical, and financial questions related to the needs of developing countries. The conferences also set up study groups on issues specific to developing countries. Participants include representatives from Member States as well as representatives from private sector members and regional and international organizations.

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) adopts a declaration, a strategic plan and an action plan that directs the work of the Telecommunications Development Bureau (BDT). The resolutions, decisions, recommendations, and reports of the conferences are submitted to the ITU plenipotentiary conference.

### **Telecommunication Policy Forum**

The ITU World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF) was established by Resolution 2 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994). Its purpose is to provide a forum where ITU Member States and Sector Members can discuss and exchange views and information on emerging telecommunication policy and regulatory matters arising from the changing telecommunication environment. Forums work on the basis of a report prepared by the ITU Secretariat, contributions from Member countries (irrespective of whether they take part in the meeting or not), as well as views expressed during the discussions. The output of WTPFs are reports and, where appropriate, opinions for consideration by Members and relevant ITU meetings. In 2010, the name was changed to World Telecommunication / Information and Communication Technology Policy Forum (WTPF).

### **Telegraph and Telephone Conference**

Administrative Telegraph and Telephone Conferences were held to undertake partial or complete revision of the *Telegraph Regulations* and the *Telephone Regulations*.

## World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT)

World conferences on international telecommunications are held at the request of the ITU plenipotentiary conference and are empowered to revise the *International Telecommunication Regulations* (ITRs), an international treaty governing the provision and operation of public telecommunication services, as well as the underlying transport mechanisms used to provide them.

## World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) was a pair of United Nations-sponsored conferences about information, communication and, in broad terms, the information society. UN General Assembly Resolution 56/183 endorsed the Summit and assigned ITU the lead role in organizing it.

### *Geneva Phase: 10-12 December 2003*

The objective of the first phase was to develop and foster a clear statement of political will and take concrete steps to establish the foundations for an Information Society for all, reflecting all the different interests at stake.

### *Tunis Phase: 16-18 November 2005*

The objective of the second phase was to put Geneva's Plan of Action into motion as well as to find solutions and reach agreements in the fields of Internet governance, financing mechanisms, and follow-up and implementation of the Geneva and Tunis documents.

*World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA)* – see **Assemblies**