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ITU News
MAGAZINE

ITU decides four-year strategy

Outcomes of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018

ITUPP
DUBAI 2018
29 October - 16 November
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

05/2018

Charting ITU's future

Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General

"I am certain that all these new and revised resolutions will help foster inclusive economic growth."

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) hosted one of our most memorable Plenipotentiary Conferences, and I would like to acknowledge the wonderful support provided by the UAE Telecommunications Regulatory Authority Director General Hamad Obaid Al Mansoori and his team.

We have a new Strategic Plan and a new Financial Plan, with bold and ambitious targets for our Union for the next four years. They will guide our strategy and the development of information and communication technologies as well as ITU's key role in the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so that no one, anywhere, is left behind.

PP-18 gave us a new leadership team. I am grateful for the trust and marvellous support ITU Member States showed in re-electing me to a second term. Our membership made history by electing Doreen Bogdan-Martin as the first woman on the ITU management team. We also have a new ITU Council and a new Radio Regulations Board. I congratulate the members on their re-election and election, and look forward to working with them.

We now have new resolutions on topics such as: ITU's role in fostering telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation to support the digital economy and society; OTTs; the use of information and communication technologies to bridge the financial inclusion gap; supporting the further development of ITU Journal: *ICT Discoveries*; and on the Union's future headquarters premises. I am also pleased to see that Member States adopted a new resolution encouraging the participation of SMEs in the work of the Union.

I am certain that these new and revised resolutions will help foster inclusive economic growth, and ensure that ICT can be a source for good for everyone, everywhere.

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Editor-in-Chief: Matthew Clark
Art Editor: Christine Vanoli
Editorial Assistant: Angela Smith

Editorial office/Advertising information:
Tel.: +41 22 730 5234/6303
Fax: +41 22 730 5935
E-mail: itunews@itu.int

Mailing address:
International Telecommunication Union
Place des Nations
CH–1211 Geneva 20 (Switzerland)

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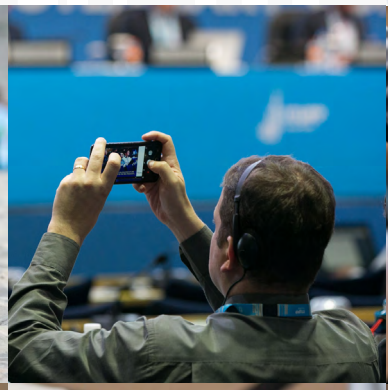
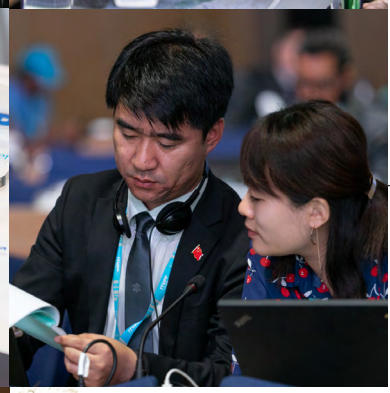




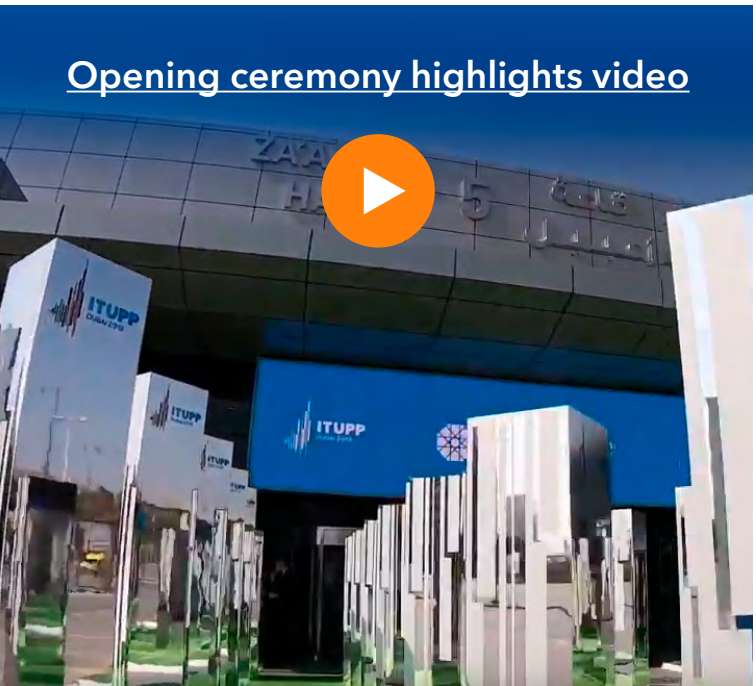
"Digital technologies have a crucial role to play in accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals."

António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General
(in a video message at the PP-18 Opening Ceremony)

PP-18 welcomes ITU Member States

Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General (left); and H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai

H.E Majed Sultan Al Mesmar, Deputy Director General of the United Arab Emirates Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), and Chairman of PP-18



"Holding the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in the United Arab Emirates is a testament from the international telecommunications community of the UAE's achievements in the field of rational use of telecommunications technology for the benefit of humanity, state building, as well as the economy and civilization."

H.E. Mr Talal Al Falasi

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the UAE Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA)

(Speaking at the ITU PP-18 Opening Ceremony on behalf of the Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum)

> ***"May we always remember that we are stronger together – that what unites us is the common vision of a connected world, where information and communication technology is a source for good for everyone, everywhere."***
>
> Houlin Zhao
> ITU Secretary-General

(Speaking at the ITU PP-18 Opening Ceremony)

Setting the agenda ...

The International Telecommunication Union's (ITU's) 20th Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18) opened with a global call for the world to "act as one" to connect the world's nearly four billion people who remain unconnected to the Internet.

PP-18 set out a roadmap for 2020–2023 at a time when information and communication technologies (ICTs) are transforming lives and societies around the globe. This includes setting ITU's general policies, adopting four-year strategic and financial plans, and addressing key issues related to ICTs as requested by ITU members.

More than 2500 participants attended PP-18, including Heads of Government, ministers and other delegates from most of 193 ITU Member States, as well as representatives from private companies, academic institutions and national, regional and international bodies. PP-18 took place from 29 October to 16 November, at the Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai, UAE.

Some of the key ICT-related topics discussed at PP-18

- Connect 2030 Agenda and achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals
- Facilitating the Internet of Things and smart sustainable cities
- Bridging the digital divide
- Bridging the standardization gap
- Bridging the financial inclusion gap
- Security and confidence in the use of ICTs
- ICTs and accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs
- Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promotion of gender equality
- Child online protection
- Conformance and interoperability
- Strengthening ITU's regional presence
- ITU's future headquarters premises

... for a future ITU

See the PP-18 website.

Participation at ITU PP-18

2368 Participants representing

75 Observer organizations

3 Heads of Government

180 Member States

83 Ministers

42 Deputy Ministers

90 Ambassadors

ITUPP
DUBAI 2018
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Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Bridging digital divides in the United Arab Emirates

Arriving at the PP-18 opening ceremony, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and ruler of Dubai (right); and H.E. Mr Talal Al Falasi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the UAE Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

The 20th ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18) officially opened on 29 October in the presence of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum – Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, and ruler of Dubai – and was followed by a breathtaking welcome reception at the Burj Park in Dubai.

The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference is ITU's highest-level meeting where Member States agree on the Union's overall strategic and financial plans, leadership and direction for the next four years.

PP-18 was hosted by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and took place at the Dubai World Trade Centre from 29 October to 16 November.

"Holding the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in the United Arab Emirates is a testament from the international telecommunications community of the UAE's achievements in the field of rational use of telecommunications technology for the benefit of humanity, state building, as well as economy and civilization," said H.E. Mr Talal Al Falasi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the UAE Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), speaking on behalf of the Sheikh.

"When the decision was made to hold our 20th Plenipotentiary Conference in the United Arab Emirates, it felt like a homecoming for ITU," said ITU Secretary-General Houlin Zhao at the beginning of the Conference. "We are proud to return to Dubai, where ITU has held major successful events in the past."

Philip Lange/Shutterstock

Digital technologies for the Sustainable Development Goals

"Here in the United Arab Emirates, mobile broadband penetration is three times as high as the global and regional averages. The percentage of individuals using the Internet in the country approaches 95%. Unfortunately, that is not the case everywhere around the world, far from it," said Mr Zhao. "Right now, over half of the world's population is still not using the Internet, cut off from today's digital economy."

"New technologies like 5G, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data and the Internet of Things will change how we live, work and learn in ways that have yet to be imagined. And ITU is in the front seat," said Zhao. "The challenge before us today is to ensure that these technologies and ICTs in general continue to be a source for good for everyone across the world."

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres also spoke of that challenge in a video message to the global audience of delegates assembled at PP-18.

"We face a crucial challenge: harnessing the benefits of new technologies for all, while safeguarding against the risks from their misuse. Digital technologies have a crucial role to play in accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals," said Mr Guterres. "Together, we can nurture a digital future that is safe and beneficial for all."

Guiding ITU's work

Delegates tackled these issues during a range of discussions that resulted in dozens of new revised resolutions that will guide ITU's work.

On the third day of the conference, ITU Member States began elections for ITU's five top management positions, and at the beginning of the second week, the twelve members of the Radio Regulations Board (RRB), and the 48 Member States to serve on the ITU Council from 2019–2022.

Other key features of PP-18 included policy statements by high-ranking delegates who proudly shared their country's accomplishments, commitments, partnerships and initiatives. Member States also approved the four-year Strategic and Financial plans, established the new Connect 2030 Agenda, and extended the Union's mandate to new areas including bridging the financial inclusion gap, promoting an enabling environment for small- and medium-sized enterprises, recognizing OTTs, and supporting the further development of the ITU scholarly journal, among others.

This edition of ITU News highlights these and other outcomes and achievements of PP-18.

"Our world is changing fast and ITU is changing with it," said Zhao. "May Plenipotentiary 2018, prepare ourselves and our children for that new world. May we always remember that we are stronger together, that what unites us is the common vision of a connected world, where information and communication technology is a source for good for everyone everywhere."

Conference structure

H.E. Majed Sultan Al Mesmar, Deputy Director General of the United Arab Emirates Telecommunications Regulatory Authority was elected Chairman of PP-18

The conference comprised three substantive working committees

Committee 5 (Policy and Legal)
chaired by
Mr Stephen Bereaux
of the Bahamas

Committee 6 (Administration and Management)
chaired by
Mr Dietmar Plesse of Germany

The Working Group of the Plenary
chaired by
Ms Nur Sulyna Abdullah
of Malaysia

The statutory committees of PP-18 comprised Committee 1 (Steering) composed of the Chairman and Vice Chairmen of the Conference and of the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the other committees and Working Groups of the Plenary

Committee 2 (Credentials)
chaired by
Ms Sameera Belal Momen
of Kuwait

Committee 3 (Budget Control)
chaired by
Ms Seynabou Seck Cisse
of Senegal

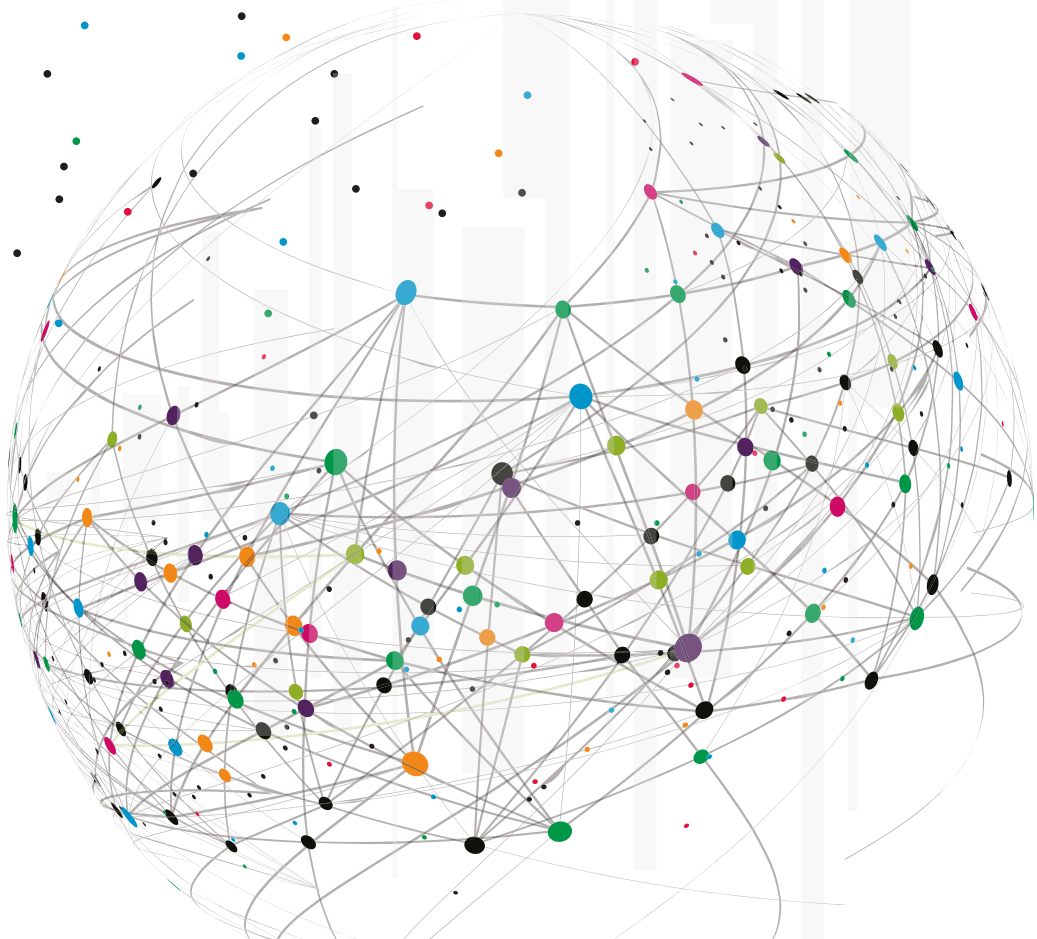
Committee 4 (Editorial)
chaired by
Ms Rim Belhaj
of Tunisia

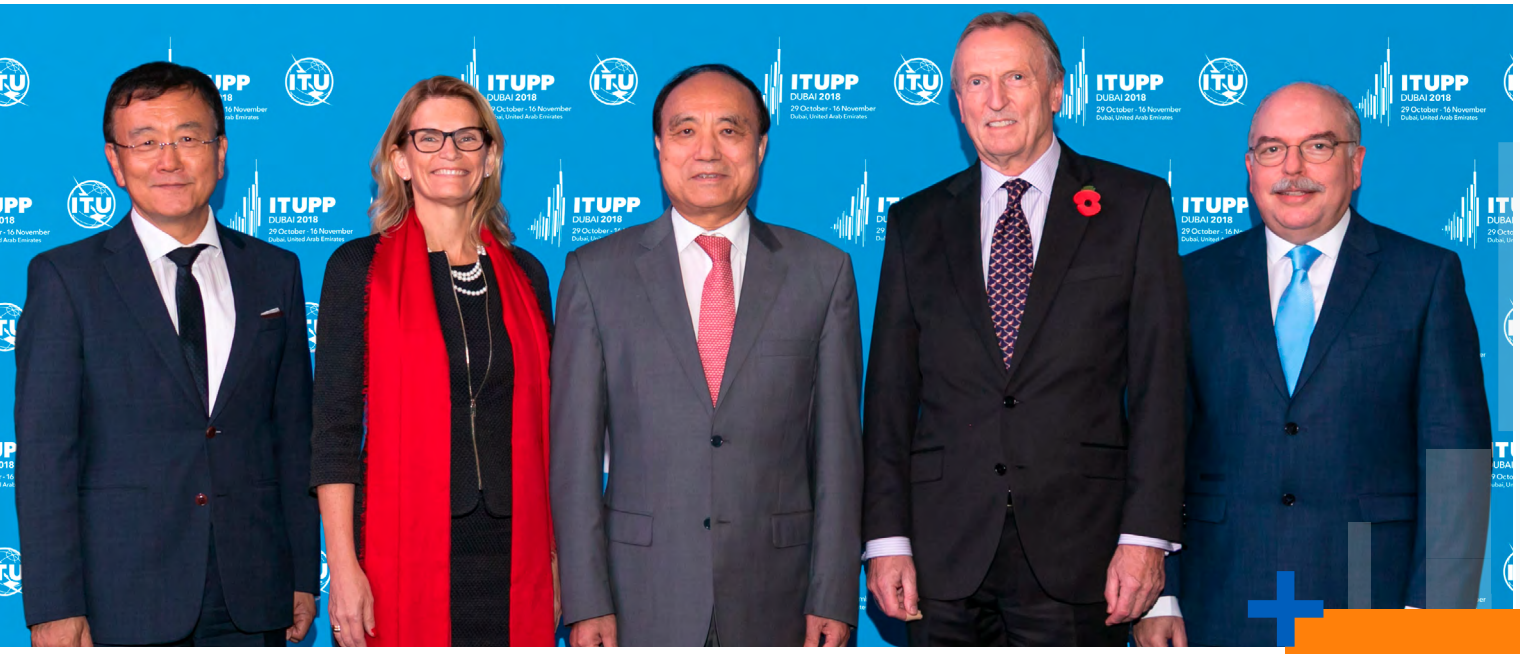
High-ranking delegates deliver policy statements

During the first week of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 high-ranking delegates from ITU Member States, for the most part Ministers responsible for telecommunications, were invited to deliver policy statements on sharing experiences on how they are contributing to the Connect 2020 Agenda and how they plan to support the new proposed ITU Strategic Goals and Targets.

Statements included national accomplishments, commitments, announcement of new partnerships and initiatives, as well as required support by the ITU as an organization.

See all ITU PP-18 policy statements here.





See more about the ITU PP-18 elections, including all results, candidates' profiles, and ITU News Q&A interviews here.

ITU elects new management for 2019–2022

Top executives

ITU Member States elected its top executives during the 20th Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18):

- Mr Houlin Zhao of China was re-elected to the post of ITU Secretary-General.
- Mr Malcolm Johnson of the United Kingdom was re-elected to the post of ITU Deputy Secretary-General.
- Dr Chaesub Lee of Republic of Korea was re-elected to the post of Director of ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB).
- Mr Mario Maniewicz of Uruguay was elected to the post of Director of ITU's Radiocommunication Bureau (BR).
- Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin of the United States was elected to the post of Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT).

This is the first time ITU Member States have elected a woman in its 153-year history.

Radio Regulations Board and ITU Council

PP-18 also elected the twelve members of the Radio Regulations Board (RRB) and the members of the ITU Council.

The newly-elected will take office on 1 January 2019, for a four-year term.

Houlin Zhao (China) Re-elected ITU Secretary-General

> *"I would like to strive for a better and stronger ITU in delivering services to the global telecommunication and information society, and deliver excellence."*

Houlin Zhao received 176 votes from 178 ballot papers deposited and was sole candidate for the post.

Houlin Zhao's vision for the ITU as re-elected Secretary-General

> ***"We still have to extend our infrastructure to those areas not enjoying these ICT services yet, but we also have to upgrade to the current infrastructure, with new technologies such as 5G."***

In an interview held during the ITU 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference in Dubai, Mr Zhao reflected on his first four-year term as Secretary-General and summarized his vision for the future by referring to the '4 Is': infrastructure, investment, innovation, and inclusiveness.

The first I stands for infrastructure. "We still have to extend our infrastructure to those areas not enjoying these ICT services yet, but we also have to upgrade to the current infrastructure, with new technologies such as 5G," he said.

The second I is investment. "Investment is quite important. If you don't have the investment, you cannot really make things happen.

We have to mobilize public-private investment and, in particular, private investment. Of course, to attract private investment, we have to create a good environment for investment."

The third I is innovation. "We have to have innovative ways to do business, you know, to further extend our benefit of ICT to those people," he said.

> *“Investment is quite important. If you don’t have the investment, you cannot really make things happen.”*

Zhao explained that innovation doesn’t necessarily come just from the big companies. “Entrepreneurs are a rich source of innovation. Particularly in today’s environment, young people, they know technologies; they know the market; they know the challenges; they want to contribute.”

The last I is inclusiveness. “We should not leave anybody behind, so we are working with … groups like handicapped people, aged people, children, and those who live in remote areas, who have difficulty to be connected,” said Mr Zhao.

Challenges facing the Union

Among the challenges for ITU in the future Houlin Zhao cited efficiency as one of them “We have to use the limited resources to do more … therefore efficiency is very important,” he said.

He also spoke about attracting and retaining industry players, saying that “to have industry consider ITU as their home is absolutely key for our success – because it’s industry who develop standards – it’s the industry who develop businesses.”

He highlighted the new industry players in ITU: “I see more industry members joining us, for example Google, Facebook, Alibaba – one after the other, they joined ITU recently.” He added that ITU is working to encourage universities and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to join the Union.

Career path | *Houlin Zhao*

Houlin Zhao is an information and communication technology (ICT) engineer and has served in a variety of senior management positions at ITU.

Prior to first being elected as ITU Secretary-General in 2014, Mr Zhao served eight years as ITU Deputy Secretary-General. He also served two elected terms as Director of ITU’s Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), which develops technical standards to ensure worldwide ICT interoperability. Before that, he was a Senior Counsellor with TSB for 12 years.

Between 1975 and 1986, Mr Zhao was an engineer at China’s Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications where he worked on national projects and on developing national standards on telecommunication services and networks.

Malcolm Johnson (United Kingdom) Re-elected Deputy Secretary-General

"I look forward to working with all of you, and continuing my excellent working relationship and friendship with Secretary-General Houlin Zhao for another four years."

Malcolm Johnson was elected in the first round on 1 November and received 113 votes from 178 ballot papers deposited.

Malcolm Johnson's plans to improve efficiency and his vision to modernize ITU

> *"Through digitization, machine translation and remote participation, the organization is becoming more sustainable and more inclusive."*

During a video interview at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018, Malcolm Johnson of the United Kingdom discussed his re-election and how he plans to continue to improve the efficiency of the organization and his vision to modernize the ITU.

"You'll recall that the last Plenipotentiary Conference adopted a number of efficiency measures – 30 in fact. So we've implemented most of those, I'm pleased to say, and made quite a lot of gains through doing that," said Johnson.

He spoke about how ITU is using technologies to help with efficiency measures, saying that, "through digitization, machine translation and remote participation, the organization is becoming more sustainable and more inclusive".

The new ITU HQ building, he said, will be "an opportunity for us to introduce modern working methods, [including] flexible working, … improve efficiency, but … also enhance staff life-work balance".

> ***"As we know, ICT is going to be essential for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and ITU as a lead UN agency on ICT has clearly got a very important role to play."***

"We've been very fortunate to get generous sponsorship from Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Czech Republic has made a donation. So, with their support, we will be able to enhance this building and make it something that we're all very proud of." He also encouraged other Member States and Sector Members to contribute to the new building project fund.

Mr Johnson also spoke about the need for gender parity across the whole of the organization, and the steps that are being taken to ensure that ITU inspires the next generation of girls and women to join the fast-growing field of ICTs.

He also spoke about ITU's unique role in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "As we know, ICT is going to be essential for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and ITU as a lead UN agency on ICT has clearly got a very important role to play," he said.

"But there are many organizations, all involved in implementing the SDGs and using ICTs to help implement the SDGs. Collaboration, coordination, and cooperation are the key to ensure that we all bring our own specific competencies to the table… to achieve the implementation of the SDGs and bring this wonderful technology to everyone, everywhere," said Mr Johnson.

Career path | *Malcolm Johnson*

Malcolm Johnson is a seasoned information and communication technology (ICT) executive and has served in multiple senior management positions at ITU. He will begin his second, and last, four-year term on 1 January 2019.

Prior to serving as Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Johnson served from 2007 to 2014 as Director of ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB). Between 2003 and 2006, Mr Johnson was International Coordinator at the United Kingdom's Office of Communications (Ofcom).

From 1992 to 2003, he was Director of the United Kingdom's Radiocommunications Agency.

Between 1988 and 1992, he worked in the European Commission's Telecommunication Regulations Division.

Chaesub Lee (Republic of Korea) Re-elected Director of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

"Information and communication technologies are at the centre of this transformation of society, bringing new air into every corner of our daily lives."

Chaesub Lee was re-elected on 1 November with 174 votes from 179 ballot-papers deposited. He was the sole candidate for the post.

Chaesub Lee's priorities for the work of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector

> *"Our connected life should be safe and trustworthy."*

High-quality standards, delivered using an efficient standardization process, supporting ICT growth and innovation across a wide range of industry sectors – this is the ultimate aim of ITU standardization, says Chaesub Lee, re-elected as Director of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB).

Achieving this aim, says Dr Lee, will support ITU in connecting the unconnected and building trust in ICT, two objectives Dr Lee sees as fundamental to the fulfillment of ITU's mission as an organization.

"Our connected life should be safe and trustworthy," says Dr Lee in a video interview following his re-election at PP-18 in Dubai.

This will call for ITU standards to address the needs of a widening array of ICT applications.

ICTs are enabling innovation in financial services, energy, transport, health care and smart cities, and Artificial Intelligence is coming to have a "tremendous influence over all of our societies," says Dr Lee.

The ITU membership provides the "energy for operating ITU," says Dr Lee, motivating him to ask: "how can we extend our membership to bring up new areas, a new atmosphere, new subjects, new applications of ICTs?"

This question points to the accelerating evolution of ITU membership, an evolution that reflects the expanding influence of ICTs across our societies and economies.

> ***"The ITU membership provides the energy for operating ITU."***

> ***"How can we extend our membership to bring up new areas, a new atmosphere, new subjects, new applications of ICTs?"***

ITU's standardization arm (ITU-T) has welcomed more than 40 new members in 2018, including mobile virtual network operators and enablers (MVNOs and MVNEs), over-the-top (OTT) service providers, manufacturers of unmanned aerial vehicles, telematics and automotive companies, energy utilities, and companies specializing in quantum cryptography and quantum communications.

Welcoming new communities to the ITU membership will be essential to the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, highlights Dr Lee. "As a UN agency, this is a very important responsibility … innovation by ICTs has a tremendous impact."

Career path | *Chaesub Lee*

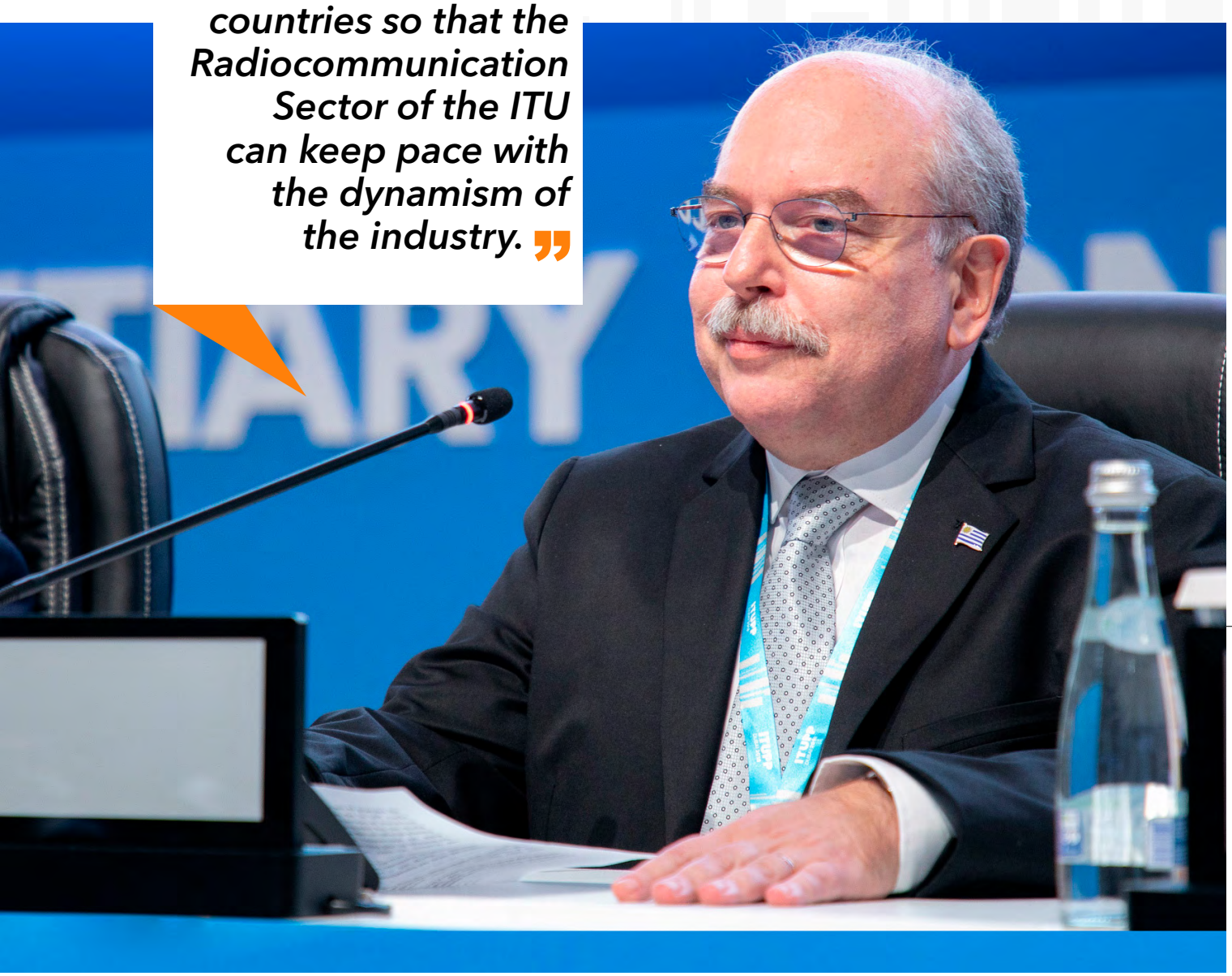
Chaesub Lee started his professional life in 1986 as a researcher at Korea Telecom. After 17 years he took up a role at the country's Electronic and Telecommunications Research Institute (ETRI), where he stayed for the next eight years.

Prior to joining ITU, Dr Lee worked at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), and as a senior advisor to the country's Ministry, ICT and Future Planning (MSIP).

Within ITU, prior to his first term as Director of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), Dr Lee served as Chairman of the ITU Next-Generation Networks (NGN) Focus Group He was also Vice-Chairman of the ITU IPTV Focus Group.

Mario Maniewicz (Uruguay)
Director-elect, ITU Radiocommunication Bureau

“This fills me with pride and redoubles my commitment to our countries so that the Radiocommunication Sector of the ITU can keep pace with the dynamism of the industry.”



Mario Maniewicz of Uruguay was elected to the post on 2 November, after two rounds of voting, with 108 votes from 176 ballot-papers deposited.

Mario Maniewicz's priorities for radiocommunications

> *"Firstly, we must focus on our core competencies."*

In order to maintain and increase relevance in today's telecommunication ecosystem, ITU should evolve on three fronts, says Mario Maniewicz of Uruguay, Director-elect of ITU's Radiocommunication Bureau (BR).

"Firstly, we must focus on our core competencies," said Mr Maniewicz during a video interview just days after being elected at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Dubai.

"Secondly, we should increase the effectiveness of the organization by better adapting to the changing needs of its members and increasing our responsiveness to them. Thirdly, we should … unite the efforts of the three Sectors … in order to avoid duplication of work and to increase synergies of the three Sectors."

> *"I would firstly promote digital transformation in order to increase the agility of the ITU-R's processes."*

By increasing focus and efficiency, the ITU's Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) will be "better equipped to tackle the main challenges that lie ahead, notably increasing broadband penetration and increasing the digital divide," said Maniewicz. ITU-R would "do so by simultaneously catering for new services and technologies while striking the right balance between protecting investment and fostering innovation and, of course, ensuring the timely availability of spectrum and orbit resources."

Maniewicz said his top three priorities would be to increase efficiency, transparency and inclusiveness in the activities of the Radiocommunication Sector.

"I would firstly promote digital transformation in order to increase the agility of the ITU-R's processes, in particular by modernizing its databases and practices in order to have better response times in order to achieve consistent compliance with the regulatory deadlines," he said.

"Then, secondly, to ensure that the provisions of the Radio Regulations are applied in a fair and transparent manner.

And, thirdly, I would foster more receptiveness of the Bureau to the needs of its members by attracting more developing, least-developed and small island developing states to the work of the ITU-R, and by providing a neutral platform for countries to collaborate."

Career path | *Mario Maniewicz*

Mario Maniewicz served from 2014 to 2018 as Deputy Director of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau (BR), where he supported the Director and the membership in the vital function of global management of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits.

Previously, Mr Maniewicz held a variety of management positions at the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) as well as in ITU Regional Offices, where he worked closely with governments, regulators and operators to develop strategic policies and regulations to enable the modernization of the telecommunication sector in Latin American countries.

Prior to joining ITU, Mr Maniewicz worked for Uruguay's main telecommunications operator and as an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Engineering of Uruguay's leading university.

Doreen Bogdan-Martin (United States) Director-elect, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau

> *"I have worked for this moment for so many years as my ideas about ICT and development, and specifically for the Development Bureau, have grown. I pledge to do my utmost to support you in further advancing your digital economies."*

Doreen Bogdan-Martin was elected in the first and final round on 1 November, with 95 votes from 179 ballot-papers deposited.

Doreen Bogdan-Martin's vision for a future ITU

> ***"We need to empower our regional offices and ensure that we're making them more relevant for the countries that they're serving."***

The mission of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has never been more important, says Doreen Bogdan-Martin of the United States, Director-elect of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), and the very first woman in the history of the organization to be elected to serve on ITU's top leadership team.

At the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018, Doreen Bogdan-Martin spoke about her vision for the Union and how to bring more women to the ICT sector.

"We have half the world's population that's not connected and … if we don't connect the other half … it will be almost impossible to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals," she said.

She emphasized that ICTs have a key role in enabling each of the 17 SDGs, such as poverty reduction, education for all, access to health-care, and smart sustainable cities.

Once she begins in her role as Director of BDT on 1 January 2019, Doreen Bodgan-Martin intends to focus on the following five priorities: brokering partnerships, strengthening ITU's regional presence, building the capacity of ITU members, doing more with ICT data, and improving the efficiency of the organization.

> ***"We can't have the benefits of ICTs unless we do close the digital gender gap and I think this is one step forward in terms of closing that gap."***

"As you may know we have a rather small budget … and we have no less than 30 regional initiatives that we need to implement," she said. "We're never going to be able to do that unless we really are able to broker these partnerships."

She also said: "We need to empower our regional offices and ensure that we're making them more relevant for the countries that they're serving."

When asked about being the first woman to serve as a top ITU elected official, she said: "Well I'm thrilled, absolutely over the moon! I think we are making history. I think that we will see many more women participating in ITU activities in the future."

She added: "we can't have the benefits of ICTs unless we do close the digital gender gap and I think this is one step forward in terms of closing that gap."

To help bridge the global digital gender divide, ITU leads International Girls in ICT Day, a global effort to encourage girls and young women to consider studies and careers in ICT.

ITU also co-founded the EQUALS Global Partnership. Ms Bogdan-Martin explained that EQUALS has "some 60 government, private-sector and civil society partners and we're focusing on access, skills, and leadership, with a cross-cutting research track. I believe our efforts are starting to make a difference."

About four in ten delegates at the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference are women. "I think we're making progress – four out of ten is almost there. But I think we could do a little bit more … to encourage Member States to include women on their delegations and maybe more importantly to encourage them to take the microphone."

Career path | *Doreen Bogdan-Martin*

Doreen Bogdan-Martin served from 2008 to 2018 as Chief of ITU's Strategic Planning and Membership Department where she acted as advisor to the ITU Secretary-General, and was responsible for ITU's corporate communications, external affairs, corporate strategy and membership — as well as managing the ITU-UNESCO Broadband Commission for Digital Development.

She also served as the Head of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau's Regulatory and Market Environment Division from 2007 to 2008, and Regulatory Reform Unit from 2003 to 2007.

Prior to joining ITU, Ms Bodgan-Martin served as a Telecommunication Policy Specialist at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration of the United States Department of Commerce.

Making history – ITU's first woman elected official

The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 saw a number of breakthrough records towards gender parity.

ITU Member States made history by electing the first woman ever to one of five top management positions in the 153-year history of the organization – Doreen Bogdan-Martin of the United States.

Nearly four out of 10 PP-18 participants were women, up from two out of 10 at the last Plenipotentiary Conference, held in 2014.

In addition, for the first time in the history of ITU Plenipotentiary Conferences, ITU Member States elected more women than men to Committee Chairs, with four out of seven. They also elected three women to the Radio Regulations Board; for the past four years only two women served on the Board, which approves the Rules of Procedure in the application of the Radio Regulations, the international treaty on the allocation and use of radio frequencies and the use of satellite orbits.

A morning coffee reception was held for women delegates during PP-18. The reception was hosted by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Telecommunications Regulatory Authority Eve Committee which recognizes the important role of women in the development of the UAE.

Read about ITU's commitment to bridging the gender divide here.

"We are proud that PP-18, which is held in the UAE, resulted in electing for the first time in ITU history a female to [ITU's] top management," said Ahlam Al Feel, Director of the Corporate Communication Department, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, UAE. Today, we have a Cabinet, of which a third is women, including the youngest female minister in the world. While the percentage of women in the UAE society is just under 50%, their share of the UAE labour market reaches 66% according to international reports," said Ahlam Al Feel.

> ***"We are proud that PP-18, which is held in the UAE, resulted in electing for the first time in ITU history a female to [ITU's] top management."***
>
> Ahlam Al Feel, Director of the Corporate Communication Department, TRA, UAE

During the reception Doreen Bogdan-Martin was presented with a trophy on behalf of the UAE Telecommunications Regulatory Authority in recognition of her achievement as ITU's first ever woman elected official.

Doreen-Bogdan Martin will begin her duties as Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau on 1 January 2019.

Radio Regulations Board and ITU Council

ITU Member States elected the ITU Council and Radio Regulations Board during the 20th Plenipotentiary Conference.

Radio Regulations Board

ITU, through its Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), and its secretariat the Radiocommunication Bureau, is the global authority responsible for the management of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbit resources. With the relentless expansion of wireless services worldwide, there are competing demands for a share of the radio-frequency spectrum to support new applications.

The importance and relevance of ITU-R work is, therefore, increasing every day.

The Radio Regulations Board is a part-time body which comprises 12 members representing ITU's five regions (The Americas, Western Europe, Eastern Europe and Northern Asia, Africa, and Asia/Australasia).

This body approves the Rules of Procedure in application of the Radio Regulations, including those related to the assignment and use of radio frequencies and the use of satellite orbits. It also serves as an appeal board in case of disputes and provides advice to World and Regional Radiocommunication Conferences.

Election results for the ITU Radio Regulations Board 2019–2022:

- **Region A – The Americas (2 seats)**
  Chantal Beaumier (Canada)
  Fernando Borjón Figueroa (Mexico)

- **Region B – Western Europe (2 seats)**
  Yvon Henri (France)
  Lilian Jeanty (Netherlands)

- **Region C – Eastern Europe and Northern Asia (2 seats)**
  Sahiba Hasanova (Azerbaijan)
  Nikolay Varlamov (Russian Federation)

- **Region D – Africa (3 seats)**
  Elsayed Azzouz (Egypt)
  Samuel Mandla Mchunu (South Africa)
  Hassan Talib (Morocco)

- **Region E – Asia and Australasia (3 seats)**
  Tariq Alamri (Saudi Arabia)
  Akira Hashimoto (Japan)
  Doan Quang Hoan (Viet Nam)

ITU Council

The ITU is governed by the Plenipotentiary Conference which is the supreme organ of the Union. The ITU Council meets once a year and serves as the governing body of ITU between Plenipotentiary Conferences, which take place every four years. The ITU Council ensures the oversight of the Union's activities, policies and strategies, manages Working Groups on specific topics set up by Plenipotentiary Conferences or by the Council itself, and prepares the draft ITU Strategic and Financial Plans for presentation to the Plenipotentiary Conference.

ITU Council Member States elected for 2019–2022:

- **Region A – The Americas (9 seats)**
  Argentina
  Bahamas
  Brazil
  Canada
  Cuba
  El Salvador
  Mexico
  Paraguay
  United States

Read more about the elections and detailed results here.

- **Region B – Western Europe (8 seats)**
  France
  Germany
  Greece
  Hungary
  Italy
  Spain
  Switzerland
  Turkey

- **Region C – Eastern Europe and Northern Asia (5 seats)**
  Azerbaijan
  Czech Republic
  Poland
  Romania
  Russian Federation

- **Region D – Africa (13 seats)**
  Algeria
  Burkina Faso
  Côte d'Ivoire
  Egypt
  Ghana
  Kenya
  Morocco
  Nigeria
  Rwanda
  Senegal
  South Africa
  Tunisia
  Uganda

- **Region E – Asia and Australasia (13 seats)**
  Australia
  China
  India
  Indonesia
  Iran (Islamic Republic of)
  Japan
  Korea (Rep. of)
  Kuwait
  Pakistan
  Philippines
  Saudi Arabia
  Thailand
  United Arab Emirates.

ITU's strategic goals and targets

A vision of

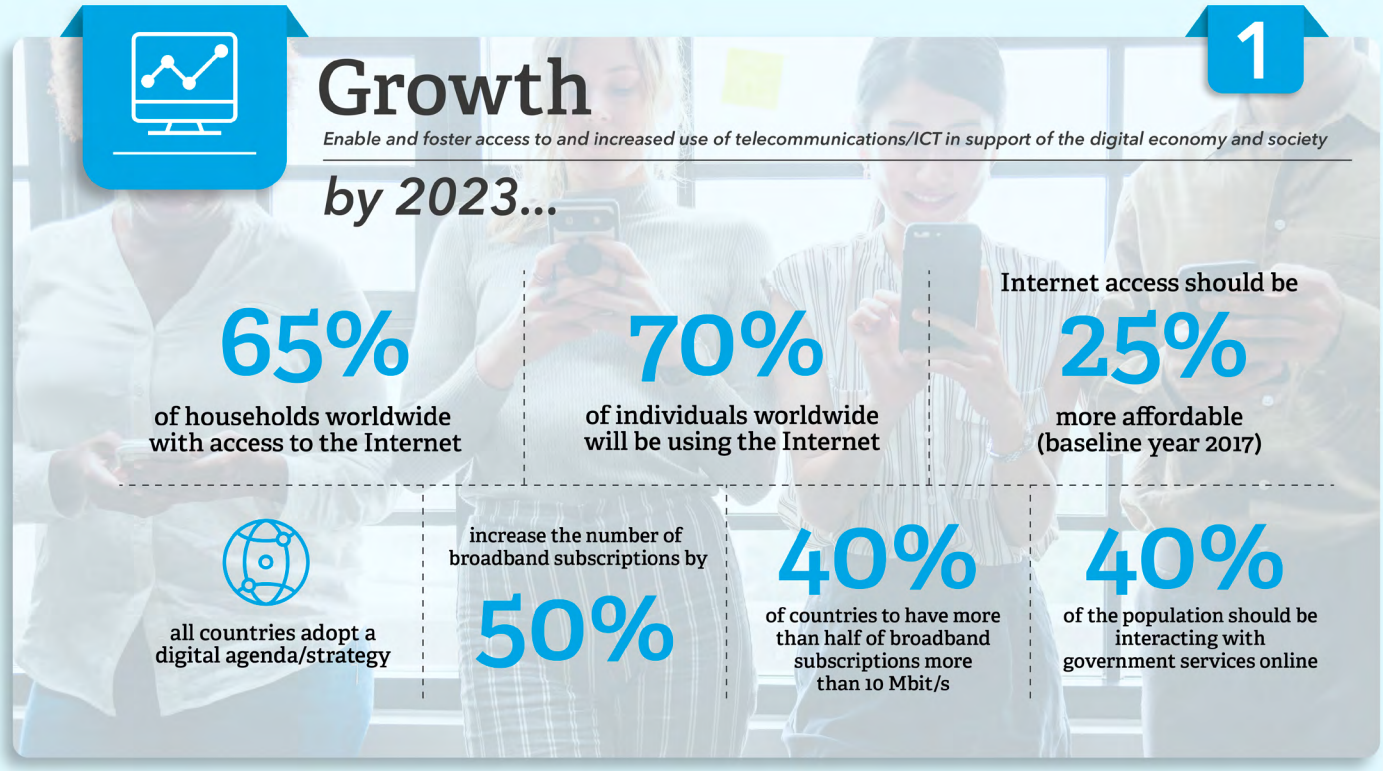
An information society, empowered by the interconnected world, where telecommunications/information and communication technologies enable and accelerate social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development for everyone.

A mission to

Promote, facilitate and foster affordable and universal access to telecommunication/information and communication technology networks, services and applications and their use for social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development.

And five goals for 2020 to 2023

Discover the achievements of the past 4 years



1 Growth

Enable and foster access to and increased use of telecommunications/ICT in support of the digital economy and society

by 2023...

65%
of households worldwide with access to the Internet

70%
of individuals worldwide will be using the Internet

Internet access should be
25%
more affordable (baseline year 2017)

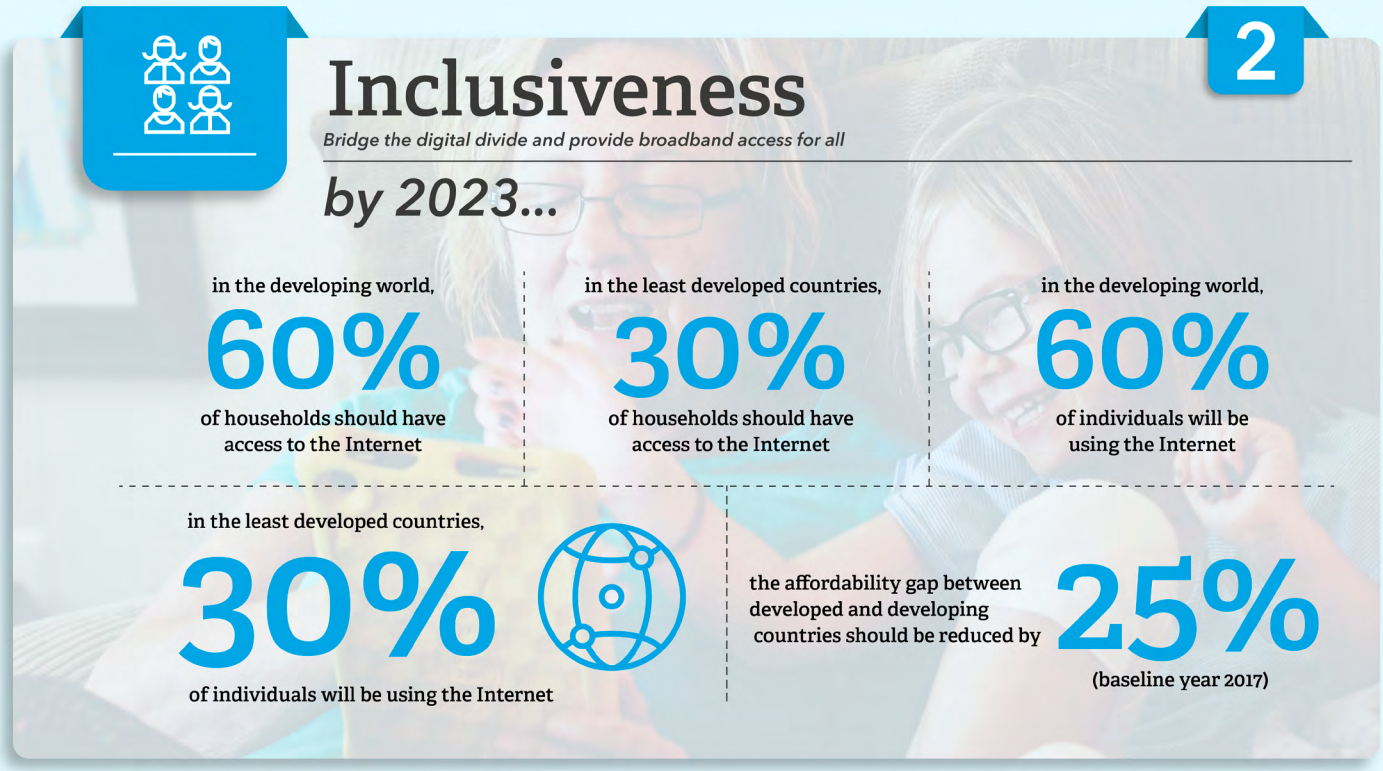
all countries adopt a digital agenda/strategy

increase the number of broadband subscriptions by
50%

40%
of countries to have more than half of broadband subscriptions more than 10 Mbit/s

40%
of the population should be interacting with government services online

Goal 1



2 Inclusiveness

Bridge the digital divide and provide broadband access for all

by 2023...

in the developing world,
60%
of households should have access to the Internet

in the least developed countries,
30%
of households should have access to the Internet

in the developing world,
60%
of individuals will be using the Internet

in the least developed countries,
30%
of individuals will be using the Internet

the affordability gap between developed and developing countries should be reduced by
25%
(baseline year 2017)

Goal 2

2 Inclusiveness

Bridge the digital divide and provide broadband access for all

by 2023...

broadband services should cost no more than **3%** of average monthly income in developing countries

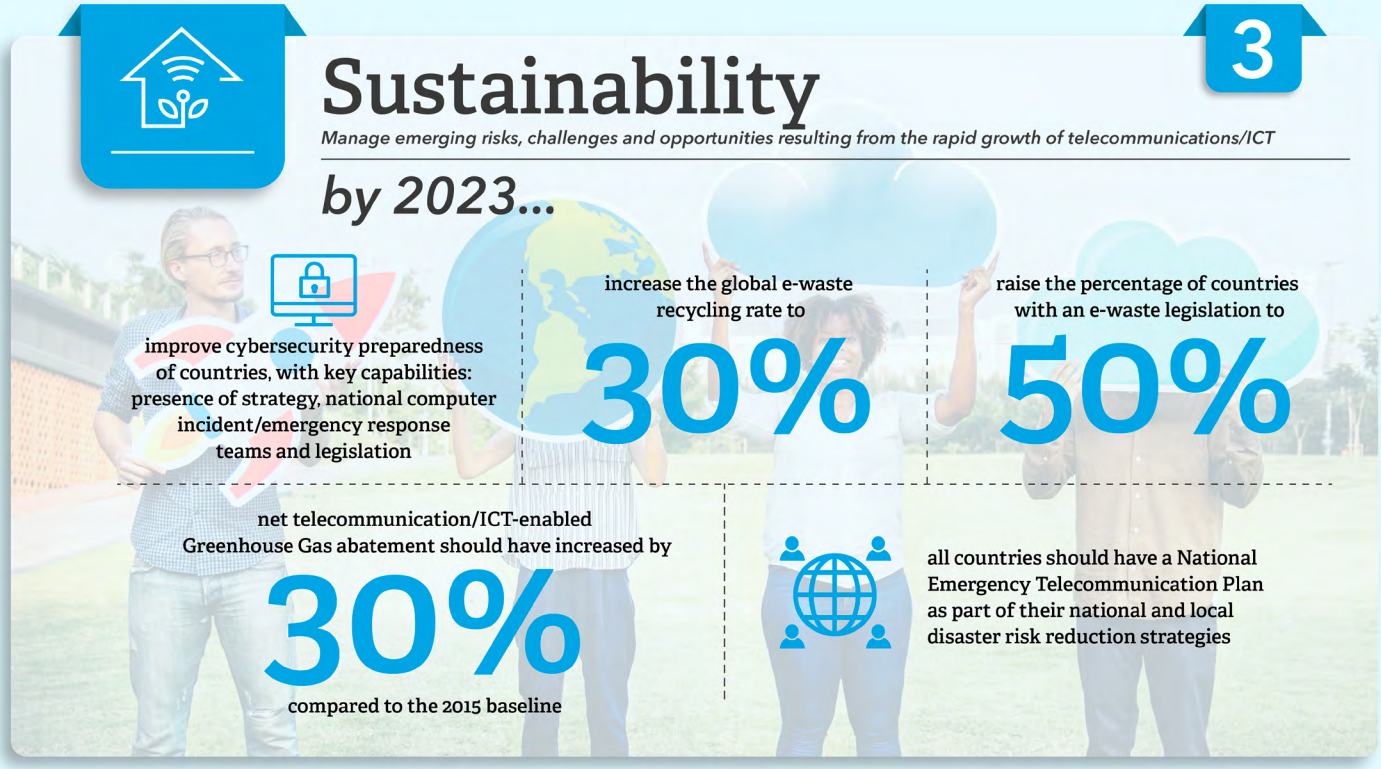
96% of the world population covered by broadband services

gender equality in Internet usage and mobile phone ownership should be achieved

enabling environments ensuring accessible telecommunications/ICTs for persons with disabilities should be established in all countries

improve by **40%** the proportion of youth/adults with telecommunication/ICT skills

Goal 2



3 Sustainability

Manage emerging risks, challenges and opportunities resulting from the rapid growth of telecommunications/ICT

by 2023...

improve cybersecurity preparedness of countries, with key capabilities: presence of strategy, national computer incident/emergency response teams and legislation

increase the global e-waste recycling rate to **30%**

raise the percentage of countries with an e-waste legislation to **50%**

net telecommunication/ICT-enabled Greenhouse Gas abatement should have increased by **30%** compared to the 2015 baseline

all countries should have a National Emergency Telecommunication Plan as part of their national and local disaster risk reduction strategies

Goal 3

Innovation

4

Enable innovation in telecommunications/ICT in support of the digital transformation of society

by 2023...

all countries should have policies/strategies fostering telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation

Goal 4

Partnership

5

Strengthen cooperation among the ITU membership and all other stakeholders in support of all ITU strategic goals

by 2023...

increased effective partnerships with stakeholders and cooperation with other organization and entities in the telecommunication/ICT environment

Goal 5

Consensus-driven outcomes in brief

Participants of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 worked hard in a spirit of collaboration throughout three intense weeks in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to debate and develop the policies of the Union on a wide range of information and communication technology (ICT)-related issues impacting the global community.

Member States reaffirmed their commitment to the common vision of a connected world, where information and communication technology (ICT) is a source for good for everyone, everywhere – and to the crucial mandate of ITU to realize this vision.

Discussions took place in working groups, ad-hoc groups and plenaries, and all culminated in consensus by the ITU Member States on each and every topic on the table. Below are a sample of some of the new and revised resolutions that were adopted by ITU Member States.

Strategic plan for 2020–2023

A major outcome of PP-18 was the adoption of a new Strategic Plan, which sets the vision and shared goals and targets of the Union for 2020–2023, asserting ITU's role in facilitating progress towards the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

ITU Member States are expected to achieve many of the Connect 2020 targets set on connectivity before the year 2020. In this new Strategic Plan, they adopted new bold and ambitious targets to be achieved by 2023. These are divided into five strategic goals: growth; inclusiveness; sustainability; innovation; and partnership (see infographic).

Information and communication technologies can help accelerate progress towards every single one of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The new revised resolution on the Strategic plan for the Union for 2020–2023 outlines how ITU will contribute to the worldwide efforts to achieve the SDGs. Below are examples of just some of the new and revised resolutions.

New resolutions

WGPL/1

Use of information and communication technologies to bridge the financial inclusion gap

This new resolution bolsters ITU's mandate to work on matters related to digital financial inclusion. Two billion adults worldwide do not have a bank account, but among them, 1.6 billion have a mobile phone.

The resolution invites Member States to develop and implement national strategies to address financial inclusion as a matter of priority and to encourage new regional initiatives on the issue.

WGPL/2

ITU's role in fostering telecommunication/information and communication technology-centric innovation to support the digital economy and society

This new resolution aims to support the digital economy and society. Innovation – and innovative technologies – are credited with driving economic growth and changing the face of telecommunications as we know it.

ITU Member States resolved that ITU should support the Member States, upon request, in promoting an enabling environment for telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation by small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), start-ups, incubation centres and young entrepreneurs, supporting relevant activities with other international agencies.

ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia are invited to contribute by sharing their experiences and expertise on fostering innovation, and ITU Member States are invited to promote widespread affordable access to telecommunication/ICT services by supporting a telecommunication/ICT-centric innovation ecosystem through encouraging competition, innovation, private investment and public-private partnerships.

COM5/3

Encouraging the participation of small- and medium-sized enterprises in ITU's work

This new resolution encourages the participation of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the work of ITU.

SMEs are particularly important in the ICT sector, as they are a source of new ideas and innovation, and often account for a significant proportion of the economy in developing countries.

ITU Member States have resolved to introduce reduced membership fees to encourage SMEs to participate as Associates in one of ITU's Study Groups so that they can participate in the development of new international recommendations or standards. Each Member State will determine the eligibility of SMEs in their own country, according to their own national criteria, but the maximum size of an SME that can benefit from the reduced fees will be fewer than 250 employees, and ITU Council will determine the maximum annual revenue for eligible SMEs.

ITU Member States are invited to support and encourage SMEs to join ITU and participate in its activities.

WGPL/3

OTTs

This new resolution seeks to outline the scope of ITU's activities relating to services that run "over-the-top" (OTTs) of existing telecommunications infrastructure.

The evolution of the telecommunication/information and communication technology sector has led to new market structures, business models, investment strategies and revenue streams in which OTTs have played an increasing role.

The resolution resolves to raise awareness and promote a common understanding and dialogue among relevant stakeholders for enabling OTT environment and ecosystem within the remit of ITU; continue fostering studies on OTT aspects, within the ITU mandate; foster capacity building programmes among ITU members in order to share information related to best practices and technical guidance on OTTs especially for developing countries.

It instructs the Directors of ITU's three Bureaux to foster studies in relevant ITU Study Groups on different OTT aspects, such as technical, economic, and policy aspects which may have international considerations; and, upon request, to assist ITU Member States to apply, as appropriate, the relevant outcomes of the Study Groups related to OTT.

COM6/2

The Union's future headquarters premises

This new resolution sets the conditions for the construction of ITU's future headquarters premises to be fully compliant with ITU financial rules and regulations and ITU procurement rules – and with due regard to cost, functional, smart and sustainable design and quality.

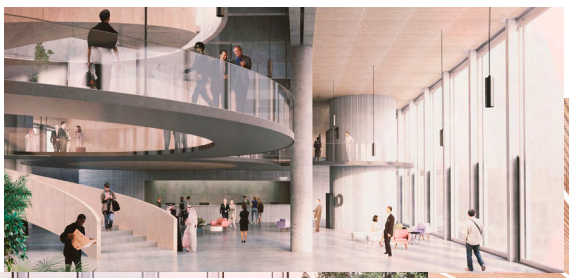
The new resolution recognizes the need to involve ITU Member States in decisions regarding construction of the future Union's HQ. It also encourages ITU Member States and Sector Members to follow the example of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the Czech Republic to contribute to the new building.

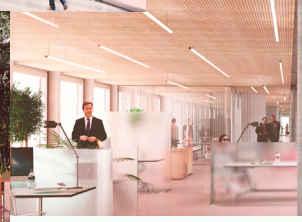
COM5/1

ITU Journal: *ICT Discoveries*

In this new resolution, ITU Member States agreed to support the further development of ITU's scholarly, professional, peer-reviewed, digital publication, which is free of charge for both readers and authors.

Read the latest edition of the ITU Journal: ICT Discoveries here.





New resolutions and recommendation

New resolutions	
WGPL/1	Use of information and communication technologies to bridge the financial inclusion gap
WGPL/2	ITU's role in fostering Telecommunication/ICT centric innovation to support the digital economy and society
WGPL/3	OTTs
COM5/1	ITU Journal: *ICT Discoveries*
COM5/2	Appointment and maximum term of office for chairmen and vice-chairmen of Sector advisory groups, study groups and other groups
COM5/3	Encouraging the participation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the work of the Union
COM5/4	ITU's role as supervisory authority of the international registration system for space assets under the Space Protocol
COM6/1	Support for the Iraqi Du3M initiative for advancement of the telecommunications and information technology sectors
COM6/2	The Union's future headquarters premises
COM6/3	Measures to Improve, Promote, and Strengthen ITU Fellowships
New recommendation	
WGPL/1	The role of ITU in supporting the use of information and communication technologies to combat trafficking in persons

Revised resolutions

Building an inclusive society with ICTs

Res. 200

Connect 2030 Agenda

Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) is an update of the resolution on ITU's Connect 2020 Agenda, initially adopted at PP-14 in Busan, Republic of Korea.

About half the world's people are not using the Internet, or do not have the skills to make the best use of it and its connected technologies and services. Disenfranchized populations, particularly women and girls, the elderly, people with disabilities, indigenous populations, the economically disadvantaged, as well as people living in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, need to be included in a digital society to meet all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

ICTs are a means to deliver quality goods and services in the areas of health care, education, finance, commerce, governance and agriculture, among others. They help to reduce poverty and hunger, boost health, create new jobs, mitigate climate change, improve energy efficiency and make cities and communities sustainable.

ITU Member States have reaffirmed a shared global vision of an information society, empowered by the interconnected world, where telecommunications/ICTs enable and accelerate social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development for everyone, and have also called for close alignment between the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Res. 203

Connectivity to broadband networks

Resolution 203 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) notes that broadband connectivity is vital for social, economic, cultural and environmental development, and that broadband plans, policies and strategies are important to support its deployment.

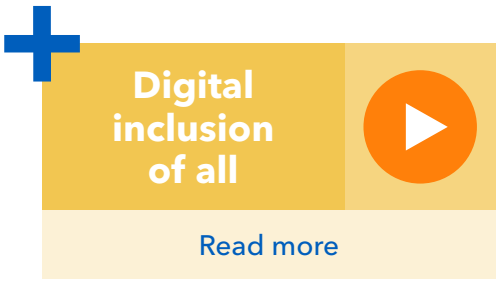
The revised resolution instructs the Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau to continue to work closely with the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau on capacity-building activities that would enable countries to develop and implement their respective national strategies to facilitate the deployment of broadband networks, including wireless broadband networks.

Res. 139

ICTs to bridge the digital divide and build and inclusive information society

Resolution 139 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) recognizes that the benefits of the advancement in information and communication technologies (ICTs) can create opportunities for digital services in developing countries, and enable digitization of the infrastructure which underpins the economy, including the digital economy.

In the revised resolution ITU will continue to assist Member States and Sector Members in developing policy and regulatory frameworks for ICTs and ICT applications that favour development. ITU is instructed to compile and disseminate best practices and regulatory experiences on national and regional strategies used to promote investment in telecommunications/ICT infrastructure and services in unserved and/or underserved areas.



ITU Member States resolved that ITU should harness the potential and opportunities from new and emerging technologies and assist countries, in particular developing countries, that request support for their infrastructure development plans, taking into account their technological migration plans.

Res. 135

ITU's role in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries

Resolution 135 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) outlines ITU's role in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects.

The revised resolution endorses deeper collaboration among the different ITU Sectors with a view to carrying out studies and activities, including capacity building, for the provision of better advice and technical assistance to developing countries for optimal use of resources and the execution of national, regional and interregional projects.

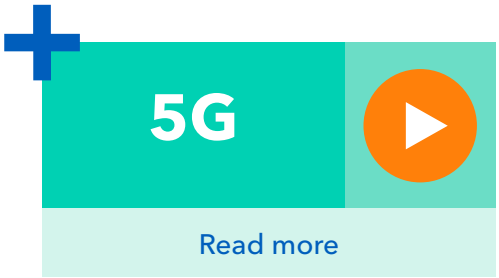
Res. 137

Deployment of future networks in developing countries

Resolution 137 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) concerns ITU's work relating to the deployment of future ICT networks in developing countries.

Future networks, such as 5G (IMT-2020), are set to play a pivotal role in the digital economy. They will support applications such as smart homes and buildings, smart cities, 3D video, work and play in the cloud, remote medical surgery, virtual and augmented reality, and massive machine-to-machine communications for industry automation and self-driving cars.

The revised resolution notes that it is now important for countries to facilitate a smooth transition from existing networks to future networks, and ITU is to continue its work on future networks deployment studies, ICT standards development, training activities and the sharing of best practices on business-model evolution and operational aspects.



Res. 123

Bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries

Resolution 123 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) promotes the increased participation of developing countries in ITU's standardization process with a view to bridging the 'standardization gap.'

The updated resolution instructs ITU's top leadership to promote equal access to ITU electronic meetings through the use of remote participation and to consolidate all ITU guidelines, recommendations, technical reports, best practices and use cases through the use of ITU web-based tools to hasten the transfer of knowledge.

ITU Member States are also invited to continue the creation of national and regional standardization bodies, as appropriate and encourage the involvement of these entities in the ITU standardization work; and to host regional group and study group meetings related to ITU standardization activities in particular in developing countries.

Res. 175

ICTs and accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs

Resolution 175 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) considers that ICTs can provide opportunities and benefits for people with visual, hearing or motor disabilities and persons with specific needs to overcome challenges in carrying out even the most ordinary everyday activities.

The updated resolution instructs ITU to share best practices implemented in favour of accessibility to telecommunications/ICTs for people with disabilities and persons with specific needs and to promote the collection and analysis of statistical data on disabilities and accessibility to telecommunications/ICTs that Member States can consider when preparing and designing their own public policies to promote accessibility.

Res. 25

Strengthening ITU's regional presence

Resolution 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) further strengthens the regional presence as an extension of ITU as whole.

The regional and area offices enable ITU to be more aware of and more responsive to the priorities and specific needs of the regions.

The role of ITU regional offices is to assist countries in the regions in bridging the standardization gap, providing capacity-building related to radio-frequency management, and strengthening collaboration with regional telecommunication organizations. As such, ITU Member States resolved that regional and area offices shall actively engage in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Union for 2020–2023.

The updated resolution instructs the Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau, in close consultation with the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, to take the necessary measures for further strengthening ITU's regional presence.

Res. 70

Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through telecommunications/information and communication technologies

Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) strengthens efforts to make progress on gender equality within ITU and in the ICT sector.

The revised resolution encourages Member States and Sector Members to review and revise, as appropriate, their respective policies and practices to ensure that recruitment, employment, training and advancement of women and men in the ICT sector are undertaken on a fair and equitable basis.

It also encourages them to facilitate the capacity building and employment of women and men equally in the telecommunication/ICT field, including at senior levels of responsibility in telecommunication/ICT administrations, government and regulatory bodies and intergovernmental organizations and in the private sector.

Res. 48

Human resources management and development

Resolution 48 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) aims to improve and implement recruitment policies and procedures designed to facilitate equitable geographical and gender representation.

Leaving no one behind is a central promise of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The initial target for the equal representation of women and men among United Nations staff was the year 2000, but we are still far from that goal. At ITU, women continue to be underrepresented in most professional categories, most notably at the senior levels and in technical positions.

The revised resolution instructs the ITU Secretary-General to improve and implement recruitment policies and procedures designed to facilitate equitable geographical and gender representation among appointed staff, and report and provide updates on progress made with regard to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment in the workplace.

Ensuring standards

Res. 130

Conformance and interoperability

Resolution 177 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) reaffirms ITU's important role in developing international telecommunication standards to assure the conformance and interoperability (C&I) of ICT equipment and systems.

Conformance means that telecom equipment or technologies conform or comply with the technical requirements specified in a standard or part thereof. Interoperability is the ability of two or more systems or applications to exchange information and to mutually use the information that has been exchanged.

Conformance and interoperability will help operators to deploy multi-technology-based networks, for example to assist the interconnection of satellite, mobile and fixed phones. Opening up and making different products interoperable can enhance competition among vendors and benefit consumers.

ITU Member States resolve that the C&I programme of work continue to be implemented. The work is based on four pillars: assessments of conformity with standards; hosting events to examine and raise awareness around interoperability; capacity-building and training programmes; and assistance in the establishment of test centres and C&I programmes in developing countries.

ICTs and safety

Res. 177

Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

Resolution 130 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) promotes a culture in which security is seen as a continuous and iterative process, built into products from the beginning and continuing throughout their lifetimes, and is accessible and understandable for users.

ITU Member States agreed to support the standard-setting activities of ITU by promoting and facilitating the implementation of approved security-related ITU recommendations especially from developing countries.

The resolution reaffirms the importance of ITU as a relevant player in facilitating international cooperation and, through its Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA), resolves to promote awareness on ITU activities and those of other relevant organizations, and to foster collaboration and support Member States through capacity-building efforts.

Member States are invited to raise awareness of the importance of strengthening cyber-security among organizations and individual users including the implementation of basic safeguards, and to promote the development of educational and training programmes to enhance user awareness of risks in cyberspace and the steps that users can take to protect themselves.

Res. 176

Measurement and assessment concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields

Resolution 176 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) considers the use of new devices for new services and that the proliferation in the number of devices per household have resulted in multiple sources of electromagnetic field (EMF) emissions. Without adequate and accurate information, public awareness and/or appropriate regulation, people may have concerns about the effect of radiation on their health.

ITU Member States are invited to continue to review the issue of EMF, conduct public awareness-raising activities and to take the appropriate measures to ascertain compliance with guidelines produced by ITU.

Res. 179

Child Online Protection

Resolution 179 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) continues to strengthen ITU's work on Child Online Protection (COP).

In today's hyper-connected world, children are coming online at younger ages than ever before. While this opens new opportunities for innovative education, it also brings a variety of risks, ranging from predatory behavior to cyberbullying to exposure to inappropriate and harmful content. To address these risks, ITU launched the Child Online Protection (COP) Initiative in November 2008 as a multi-stakeholder effort within the Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA) framework.

In the next four years, the initiative will aim to work with Member States and COP partners to disseminate methodological frameworks for data production and statistics with the purpose of maximizing data comparison among countries. It will also update, as appropriate, the guidelines with some references for children with disabilities and specific needs and continue to assist Member States, in particular developing countries, develop their national COP strategies in collaboration with stakeholders.

Read more

Res. 189

Assisting Member States to combat and deter mobile device theft

Resolution 189 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) recognizes the need to combat and deter mobile device theft, and assist governments and regulators with monitoring, data and the exchange of best practices on the issue.

Governments, national statistical offices and telecom/ICT regulatory agencies are exchanging best practices and launching awareness campaigns, and the revised resolution now calls on Member States and Sector Members to facilitate education initiatives to reduce the use of stolen mobile devices – and to adopt, as needed, the necessary actions to prevent, discover and control tampering with (making unauthorized changes to) and replication of mobile ICT device identifiers, and prevent devices with tampered/replicated identifiers from accessing mobile networks.

Embracing new technologies

Res. 197

Facilitating the Internet of Things and smart sustainable cities

Resolution 197 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) strengthens ITU's work relating to the Internet of Things (IoT) and smart sustainable cities and communities.

The revised resolution resolves to promote investment in and development of IoT in order to support the goals of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda – and to continue and further develop studies and activities on IoT and Smart Sustainable Cities and Communities (SSC&C).

It instructs ITU to support the work of relevant study groups and to continue cooperation with relevant organizations, including standards-development organizations (SDOs), for exchanging best practices and disseminating information to increase interoperability of IoT services, through joint workshops, training sessions, joint coordination activity groups and any other appropriate means.

Revised decisions and resolutions

Revised decisions	
Dec. 5	Revenue and expenses for the Union for the period 2020–2023
Dec. 11	Creation and management of Council working groups
Revised resolutions	
Res. 2	World telecommunication/information and communication technology policy forum
Res. 11	ITU Telecom events
Res. 21	Measures concerning alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks
Res. 25	Strengthening the regional presence
Res. 30	Special measures for the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition
Res. 34	Assistance and support to countries in special need for rebuilding their telecommunication sector
Res. 41	Arrears and special arrears accounts
Res. 48	Human resources management and development
Res. 64	Non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication/information and communication technology facilities, services and applications, including applied research and transfer of technology, and e meetings, on mutually agreed terms
Res. 66	Documents and publications of the Union
Res. 70	Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through telecommunications/information and communication technologies
Res. 71	Strategic plan for the Union for 2020–2023
Res. 77	Scheduling and duration of conferences, forums, assemblies and Council sessions of the Union (2019–2023)
Res. 94	Auditing of the accounts of the Union
Res. 99	Status of Palestine in ITU
Res. 101	Internet Protocol-based networks
Res. 102	ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses
Res. 123	Bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries
Res. 125	Assistance and support to Palestine for rebuilding its telecommunication networks

Revised resolutions (continued)	
Res. 130	Strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies
Res. 131	Measuring information and communication technologies to build an integrating and inclusive information society
Res. 133	Role of administrations of Member States in the management of internationalized (multilingual) domain names
Res. 135	ITU's role in the durable and sustainable development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies, in providing technical assistance and advice to developing countries and in implementing relevant national, regional and interregional projects
Res. 136	The use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies for humanitarian assistance and for monitoring and management in emergency and disaster situations, including health-related emergencies, for early warning, prevention, mitigation and relief
Res. 137	Deployment of future networks in developing countries
Res. 139	Use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society
Res. 140	ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in their follow-up and review processes
Res. 146	Periodic review and revision of the International Telecommunication Regulations
Res. 150	Approval of the accounts of the Union for the years 2014–2017
Res. 151	Improvement of results-based management in ITU
Res. 154	Use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing
Res. 157	Strengthening of the project execution and project monitoring functions in ITU
Res. 160	Assistance to Somalia
Res. 165	Deadlines for the submission of proposals and procedures for the registration of participants for conferences and assemblies of the Union
Res. 167	Strengthening and developing ITU capabilities for electronic meetings and means to advance the work of the Union
Res. 169	Admission of academia to participate in the work of the Union
Res. 175	Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs
Res. 176	Measurement and assessment concerns related to human exposure to electromagnetic fields
Res. 177	Conformance and interoperability

Revised resolutions (continued)	
Res. 179	ITU's role in child online protection
Res. 180	Promoting deployment and adoption of IPv6 to facilitate the transition from IPv4 to IPv6
Res. 186	Strengthening the role of ITU with regard to transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities
Res. 188	Combating counterfeit telecommunication/information and communication technology devices
Res. 189	Assisting Member States to combat and deter mobile device theft
Res. 191	Strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union
Res. 196	Protecting telecommunication service users/consumers
Res. 197	Facilitating the Internet of Things and smart sustainable cities and communities
Res. 198	Empowerment of youth through telecommunication/information and communication technology
Res. 200	Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/information and communication technology, including broadband, for sustainable development
Res. 201	Creating an enabling environment for the deployment and use of information and communication technology applications
Res. 203	Connectivity to broadband networks

Additional outcomes for the information of the ITU membership

PP-18 approved the conclusion of the Cooperation agreement between INTERPOL and ITU pursuant to No. 58 of the ITU Constitution, and instructed the General Secretariat to promptly notify the competent authorities of INTERPOL accordingly.

PP-18 approved the Information/Document Access Policy annexed to Document C18/58 (submitted to the Conference as Document 30) with the clarifications contained in the proposal ARB/72A1/39.

PP-18 instructed the General Secretariat to provide analysis and identify outcomes of Plenipotentiary Conferences and Sectoral Assemblies/Conferences, which address similar topics and submit it for consideration to the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG), the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG), the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), the Inter-Sector Coordination Team on Issues of Mutual Interest and the ITU Council.

ITU Member States and Sector Members are invited to use this material in their preparation to Sector Assemblies/Conferences, as appropriate. PP-18 invited ITU Member States, Conferences, and Assemblies to support the principle of streamlining resolutions in order to avoid repetition. It is worth noting that resolutions dealing with issues that are specific to a single ITU Sector will exist as resolutions for that Sector concerned.

PP-18 instructed the ITU Council to:

- conduct a comprehensive study on possible improvements of the ITU electoral process as a whole, in particular on the need for a revision of the General Rules related to election procedures, including studies for holding hearings. This should be done taking into account the relevant Council and PP-14 documents (for example Recommendation 8 of Committee 5 approved by the Plenary) and to take timely decisions, as appropriate;

- amend, if necessary, the ITU Staff Regulations and Rules for appointed Staff members and the Staff Rules and Regulations for Elected Officials, to consider eliminating the need for appointed ITU staff to enter into special leave without pay when standing for election to an elected official post;

- continue improving the PP elections online portal to allow for more interaction with, and more information about, the candidates;

- continue using the ITU News magazine as a platform to present the election candidates' visions;

- adopt standard guidelines on ethical aspects of campaign activities for future elections, based on the provisions of the "Ethical aspects of certain campaign activities prior to the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference", as adopted by the 2018 Session of the Council, with possible improvements, as appropriate.

PP-18 acknowledged the need to foster the participation of women in all ITU decision-making processes as a way to promote more women to become candidates for the elected positions of the Union in accordance with No. 154 of the ITU Constitution.

Accordingly, PP-18 instructed the Council to:

- study mechanisms towards having more women in leadership and management positions, especially in relation to the electoral process;

- conduct the work necessary for amending the specific rules of procedure for the election of the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux for the implementation of this recommendation and to present a report to the 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference,

PP-18 invited ITU Member States to:

- encourage the participation of women in all ITU activities, and especially in the decision-making processes;

- promote and present women candidates for the posts of Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Directors of the Bureaux, and members of the Radio Regulations Board.

Download the final acts to see all PP-18 outcome documents here.

Inspiring conclusions

"We have many challenges ahead of us. Far too many people around the world are still waiting to reap the benefits of the digital economy. Substantial digital divides still exist within and between countries. We need to continue our efforts to leverage ICT to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. I am pleased that PP-18 supports ITU's work towards this end," said Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General.

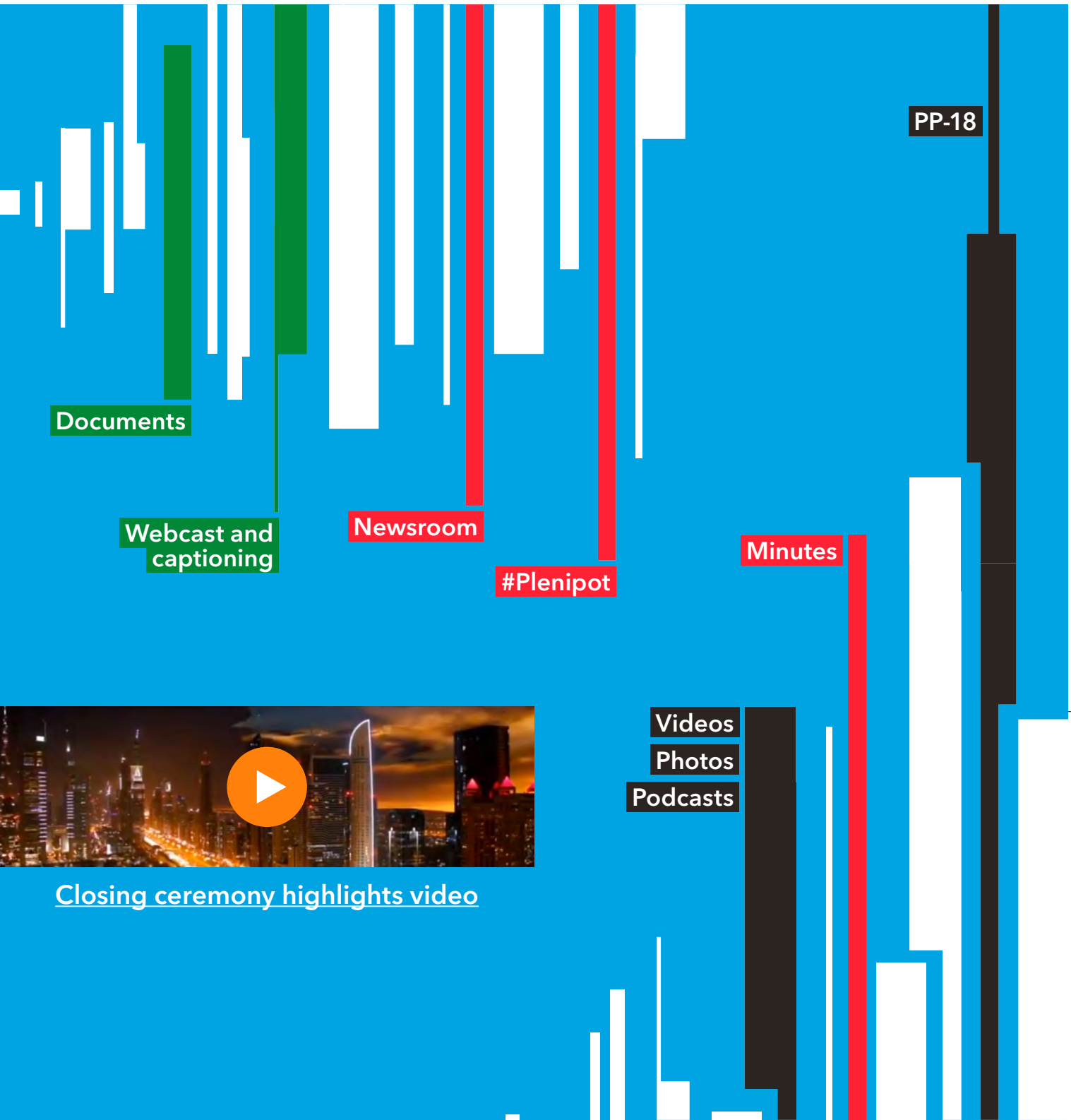
"The ICT sector has never been free of challenges. On the contrary! If I have learned one lesson in my journey in this sector – and as the Chair of PP-18 – it is that the need for performance advancement remains relevant, driven by the world around us," said H.E. Majed Sultan Al Mesmar, Deputy Director General of the UAE Telecommunications Regulatory Authority in his closing remarks. "In fact, the only thing that is constant in life is change. That's why we must always be ready to adapt to developments, and explore ways to increase flexibility and speed our work mechanisms in ITU and other organizations."

"The PP-18 agenda focused on the UN Development Goals," said H.E. Hamad Obaid Al Mansoori, Director General of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) and Chairman of the Board of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre on behalf of the host country UAE. "We have four years of work ahead on what has been decided in this esteemed conference.

These pillars include digital divide, social integration, gender balance, digital literacy, enhanced international collaboration, digital commerce, electronic security, emerging technology and others," he said.

The ITU 20th Plenipotentiary Conference, held in Dubai from 29 October to 16 November 2018, closed with the signing of the Final Acts. The Conference, hosted by the United Arab Emirates, attracted more than 2300 participants from 180 countries, up from 171 countries in 2014.

PP-18 at a glance



Closing ceremony highlights video

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