

ITU
International
Telecommunication
Union



What is ITU?

The ITU (International Telecommunication Union) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for issues related to information and communications technologies.

The organization's activity is divided into three sectors:

- RADIO COMMUNICATION, in relation to the global use of the spectrum and satellite orbits;
- STANDARDIZATION, in relation to the development of telecommunication standards and the expansion of its Internet-related activities;
- DEVELOPMENT, in relation to the work on the implementation of a new form of global connectivity in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.



Where is set? What about Italy?



- It is based in Geneva.
- The Italian Permanent Representation to the International Organizations located in Geneva follows the work of the ITU, while the Ministry of Economic Development contributes through two of its representatives to the work of two groups, the one on the online protection of minors (chaired by the United Arab Emirates) and the informal on the World Telecommunication Policy Forum (chaired by Italy).
- There are 193 member countries and based on the latest available data, the EU contributes 24% of the ITU's annual budget. Italy pays 4,770,000 Swiss Francs each year, equal to about 4 and a half million euros (3% of the total budget) and is represented by 17 officials, out of a total of 365.



KEY AREAS OF ACTION

- Accessibility to ICTs: Achieving Equitable Communications for Everyone;
- Artificial Intelligence;
- Affordable, Safe and Resilient Broadband Networks;
- Digital solutions to tackle climate change, forge a sustainable future;
- ITU Cybersecurity Activities;
- Telecommunications Saves Lives;
- Entrepreneurship, Innovation and SME development;
- Internet Policy and Governance;
- Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through ICTs;
- Youth, Innovation and Academia;
- **Connect the World;**

World Telecommunication Development Conference

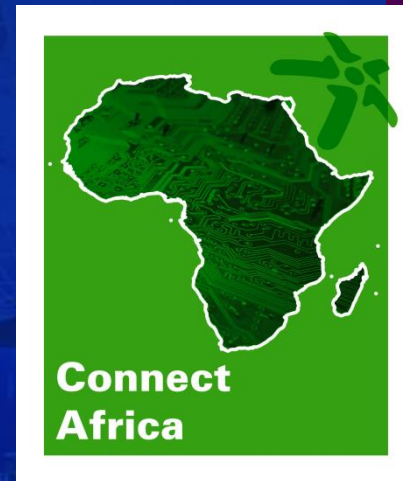
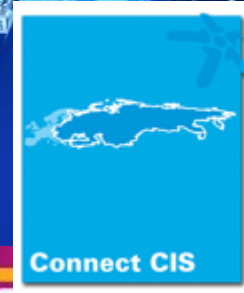


- The ITU organizes a World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) in the period between two Plenipotentiary Conferences to consider topics, projects and programmes relevant to telecommunication development.
- The ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference WTDC-21 will be hosted by the Government of Ethiopia.
- The conference will take place in Addis Ababa from 8-19 November 2021.



Project: “Connect the World”

- Connect the World aims to mobilize human, financial and technical resources for the implementation of the connectivity targets of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the Regional Initiatives adopted by Member States at the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference.
- Disasters disrupt national economies, severely weaken the poor and vulnerable and are recognized as major impediments to sustainable development and reduction of poverty especially in poor countries. The impact is even worse for those living in remote and isolated areas with no access to basic information and communication facilities that are essential to providing vital alerting information.



Connect a School, Connect a Community



- ITU rolled out Connect a School, Connect a Community projects in Gambia, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, Niger and Tanzania in the period between 2011 and 2013.
- As well as achieving connectivity, special attention was paid to ensuring a sustainable supply of electricity in remote areas. All of these projects will improve ICT access, and the facilities can be used by schoolchildren and members of the local community, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups such as women and girls, indigenous and rural people, older people and persons with disabilities.
- 75 schools in five countries have been equipped with computers, generator sets and in some cases also with photovoltaic solar panels. These schools are 49 in Tanzania, 10 in Lesotho, 10 in Sierra Leone, 3 in Gambia and 3 in Niger.