The International Telecommunication Union

17 May 1865

International Telegraph Union

Danemark Bavière Norvège Wurtemberg Belgique Portugal Secrétaire Suisse Bade   Turquie Prusse Italie Grèce Secrétaire Espagne

Pays Bas Bavière Hanover France   Belgique   France   Suède   Espagne   Russie   Autriche

136 years ago, due to difficulties met in coordinating the various telegraph systems in the world, 20 countries decided to create the International Telegraph Union on 17th May 1865.
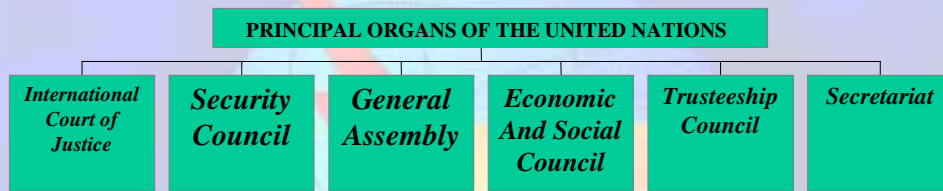
For us, it is certainly the main event of the millenium !!

In 1947, the ITU became part of the United Nations system.

Nowadays, ITU is still part of the United nations as a specialized agency

The United Nations System

PRINCIPAL ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

International Court of Justice	Security Council	General Assembly	Economic And Social Council	Trusteeship Council	Secretariat

Independent Organizations working with the United Nations through the coordination mechanism of the ECOSOC

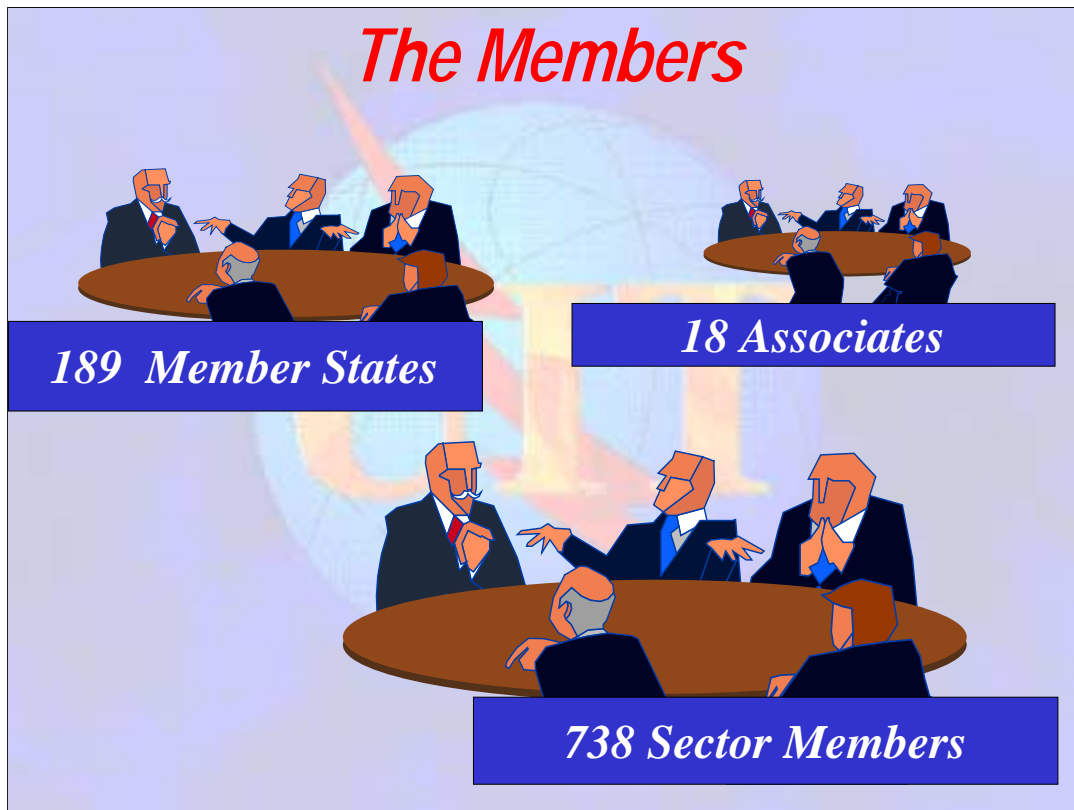The united nations system main entities are:

- International Court of Justice
- Security Council
- General Assembly
- Economic and Social Council: ECOSOC
- Trusteeship Council
- The Secretariat (New-York)

AS a specialized agency, the ITU is member of the ECOSOC and, as such is an independent organization working with the United Nations trough the coordination mechanism of the ECOSOC.

U.N. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

ILO ICAO WMO
FAO IMO WIPO
UNESCO ITU IFAD
WHO UPU UNIDO
IMF World Bank Group

The other organizations Member of the ECOSOC are the following:

•International Labor Office

•Food and Agriculture Organization

•UNESCO

•World Health Organization

•International Monetary Fund

•International Civil Aviation Organization

•International Maritime Organization

•International Telecommunication Union

•Universal Postal Union

•World Meteorological Organization

•IFAD
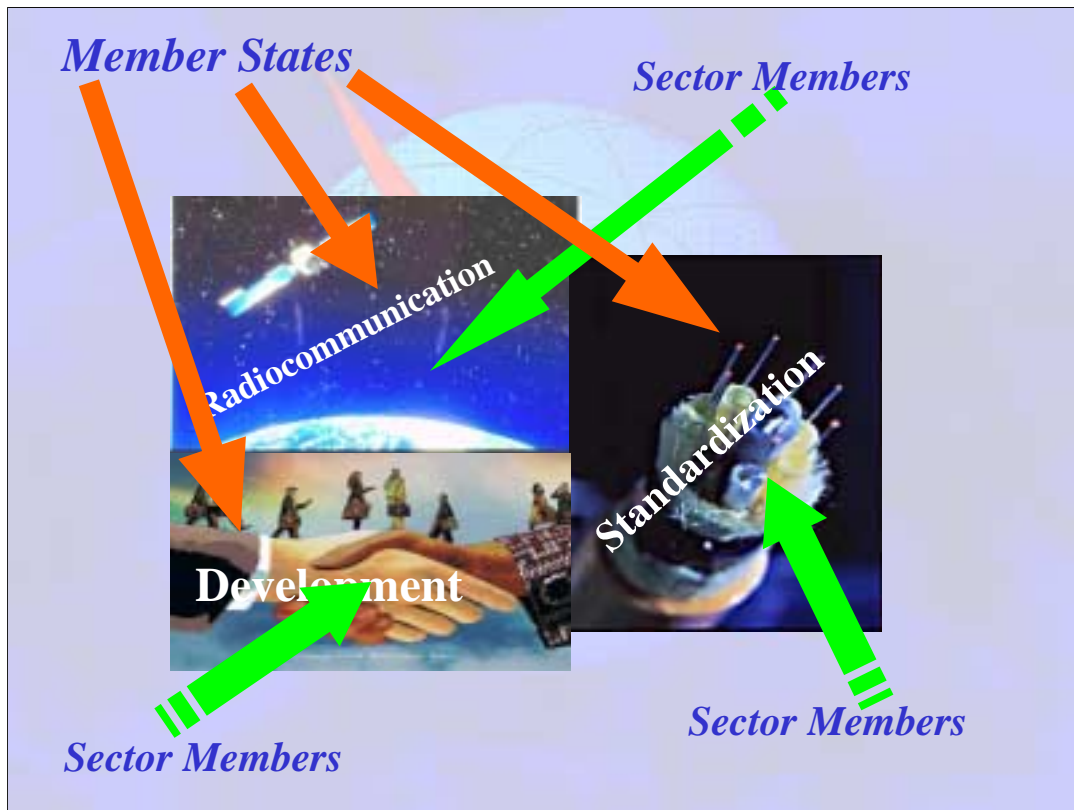
•UNIDO

•And the World Bank Group

The ITU is composed of two main parts: the members and the Secretariat

According to its Constitution and Convention the ITU membership categories are:

The 189 member States who have the "sovereign" rights including the right to vote and to adopt and update the mentioned Constitution and Convention

The 738 Sector Members and 18 Associates are composed of recognized operating agencies (ROA), Scientific and Industrial Organizations (SIO), and other financial and telecommunication related institutions, as well as regional and international telecommunication organizations.
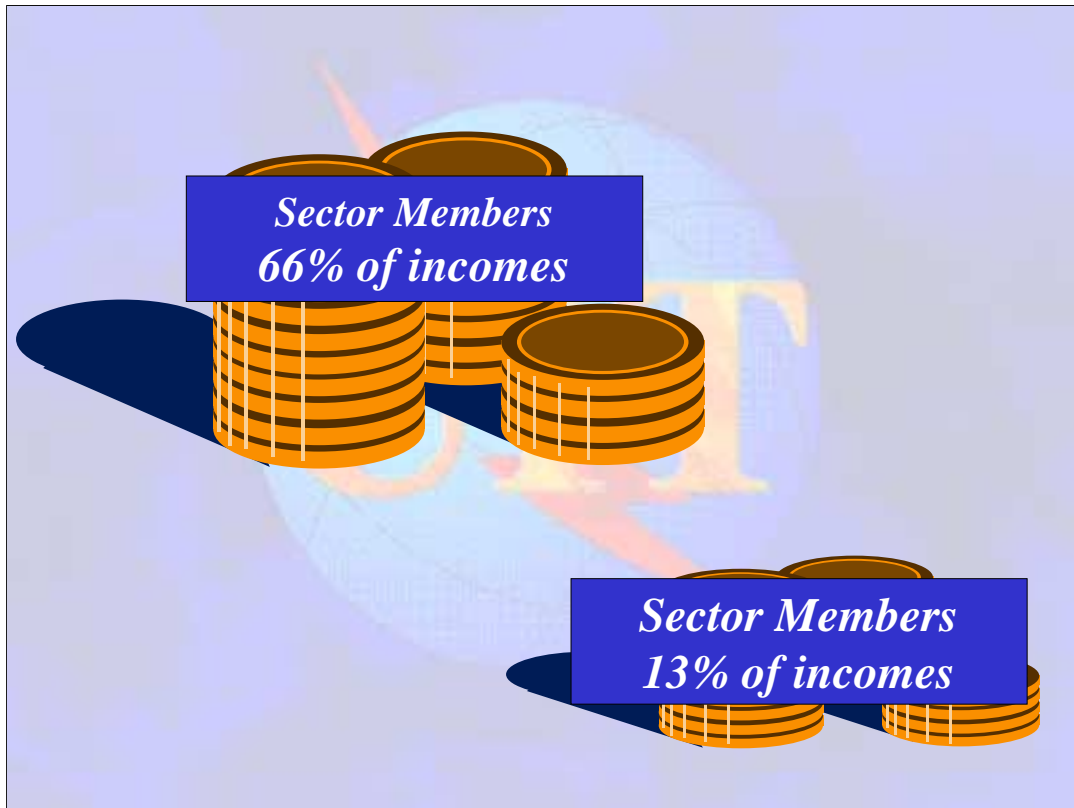
De facto, Member States can participate in all activities of the ITU.

The Other members can choose, with the approval of their Member State, to become member of one or several sectors or only associate to one particular activity of a Sector or several sectors.

A Sector Member can participate to all the activities of the Sector with different status depending on the nature of the activity.

An associate can participate to only one activity of the Sector, for instance to 1 Study group.

All details on the rights and obligations of the members are in the ITU Constitution and Convention, in particular Article 19 of the Convention as far as sector members are concerned.

It is interesting to note the unbalanced situation regarding incomes from the members.

The 189 Member States contribute to about 66% of the ITU budget

The 738 Sector Members and 18 Associates contribute only to 13% of the ITU budget.

The remaining 21% are made of direct incomes for instance sales of publications, cost recovery activities, etc..

The other part of the Union is the Secretariat.

The main part of the ITU Secretariat is in Geneva Headquarters.

The ITU has also 5 Regional Bureaux and 6 regional offices in all regions of the world.

2. STRUCTURE

Plenipotentiary Conference

Council

Secretary-General
Deputy secretary-General

Radiocom-Munication Sector	Standar-dization Sector	Development Sector	General Secretariat

The structure of the Union comprises:

The Plenipotentiary Conference, which is the supreme organ of the Union

The Council

The Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General

The General Secretariat

And the three sectors devoted to Radiocommunication, Standardization and Development

Let us look in each of these components in more details.

Plenipotentiary Conference
Supreme Organ of the Union

The 189 Member States are invited to meet Each 4 years to:

Adopt the basic texts of the Union

Determine the financial limits :

Elect:
- **the 46 countries Member of the Council**
- **the 5 ITU Elected Members**
- **the 12 Members of the Radio Regulations Board**

The 189 Member States of the Union are de facto invited to meet each 4 years in the Plenipotentiary Conference to:

•Adopt or revise as appropriate the Constitution and the Convention of the Union

•Determine the Financial limits under which the Union will carry out its duties during the next 4 years period

And

Proceed to the elections of:

•5 ITU elected officials - 1 secretary-General, 1 Deputy secretary-general, 1 Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, 1 Director of the Standardization Bureau and 1 Director of the Development Bureau.

•12 members of the Radio Regulations Board

•also the Plenipotentiaries shall proceed with the election of the 46 countries members of the Council.

The next Plenipotentiary is scheduled in October 2002 in Morocco.

The Council

Geographical distribution of Council Membres based on the 5 ITU administrative regions:

- *Américas :*   **8**
- *Eastern Europe :*   **5**
- *Western Europe :*   **8**
- *Africa :*   **13**
- *Asia & Pacific :*   **12**

According to No 61 of the Constitution, the Members of the Council are elected with due regard to the need for equitable distribution of the seats on the Council among all regions of the world.

At present, the distribution of the seats is:

- 8 for Americas region
- 5 for Eastern Europe region
- 8 for western Europe region
- 13 for Africa region
- 12 for Asia and Pacific region

Compared with other United Nations agencies, the ITU is the only one being organized by sector, each sector having a certain degree of independence as defined in the Constitution and the Convention.

The ITU is structured in three sectors:

•The radiocommunication sector,

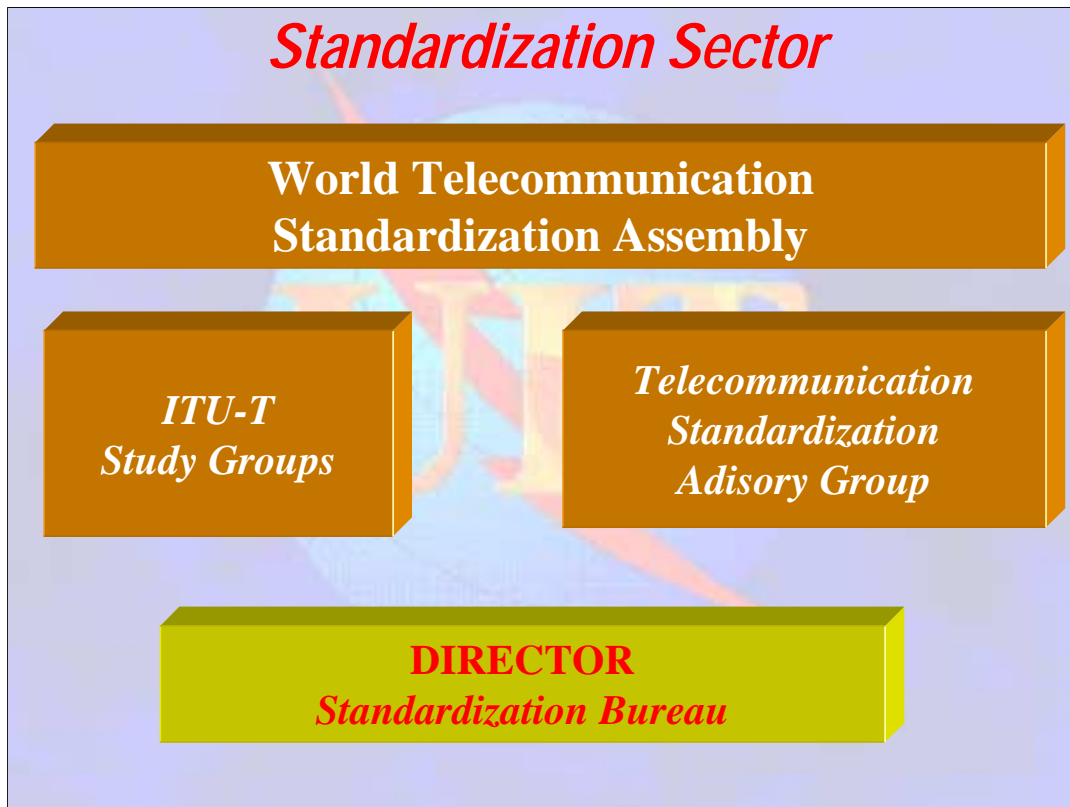•The Standardization sector

•The Telecommunication Development sector

Each sector contains a number of different entities and a bureau.

Let us look inside each of these sectors.

Radiocommunication Sector

World Radiocommunication Conference

Radiocommunication Assembly

Regional Radiocommunication Conferences

ITU-R Study Groups

Conference Preparatory Meeting

Radio Regulations Board

Radiocommunication Advisory Group

DIRECTOR
Radiocommunication Bureau

The ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) is the most complex of the three sectors and is composed of:

•A Radiocommunication Conference (WRC). This is the only Conference of a Sector having its own Final Acts to be signed by the Member States. This is a treaty making conference like the Plenipotentiary Conference. The radio conference adopts Final Acts containing mandates, Decisions, Resolutions and Recommendations dealing with radiocommunication services and the radio spectrum frequency allocation worldwide. The nest WRC will be organized in 2003.

•Regional Radiocommunication Conferences (RRC), can be organized to solve radiocommunication related matters dealing with only some Members States. For instance, the ITU, as requested by the Council in its 2001 session, is preparing the organization of a Radiocommunication Regional Conference to revise the Stockholm broadcasting plan in view of the introduction of new digital technologies in short wave broadcasting services.

•The Radiocommunication Assembly (RA), which is the entity dealing with the organization, work programme and work plan of the Radiocommunication Study groups. This Assembly meets the week immediately before the WRC and in nthe same place. Thus, the next Assembly will be also in 2003.

•The Radiocommunication Study Groups (ITU-R Study Groups), which shall study Question as defined by the RA and produce Recommendations accordingly. These Recommendations, once adopted by the Members, are like standards to be followed in view of a good coordination of different radio systems used all over the world and also to avoid harmful interference between radio systems. As appropriate, the RA shall also study specific questions forwarded by the WRC.

•The Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM), which shall prepare a specific report to the WRC on all questions and studies of interest to the agenda of the next World Radiocommunication Conference. This entity plays the role of interface between the Study Groups and the WRC.

•The Radio Regulations Board (RRB), which shall consider reports prepared by the Radiocommunication Bureau on investigations of harmful interference and formulate recommendations as appropriate. The RRB is not a tribunal and cannot take decisions in favor or against a particular Member State.

•The Radio Advisory Group (RAG), which advises the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau on all issues dealing with the work programme and general management of the sector.

•Finally the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR), which is the secretariat of the Radiocommunication sector

Standardization Sector

World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly

ITU-T Study Groups

Telecommunication Standardization Adisory Group

DIRECTOR
Standardization Bureau

The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is composed of:

•The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA)), which is the entity dealing with the organization, work programme and work plan of the Standardization Study Groups. This Assembly meets each 4 years, average.

•The Telecommunication Standardization Study Groups (ITU-T Study Groups), which shall study Question as defined by the WTSA and produce Recommendations accordingly. These Recommendations, once adopted, are standards to be followed in view of a good coordination of different telecommunication systems used all over the world.

•The Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG), which advises the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau on all issues dealing with the work programme and general management of the sector.

•Finally the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), which is the secretariat of the Radiocommunication sector.
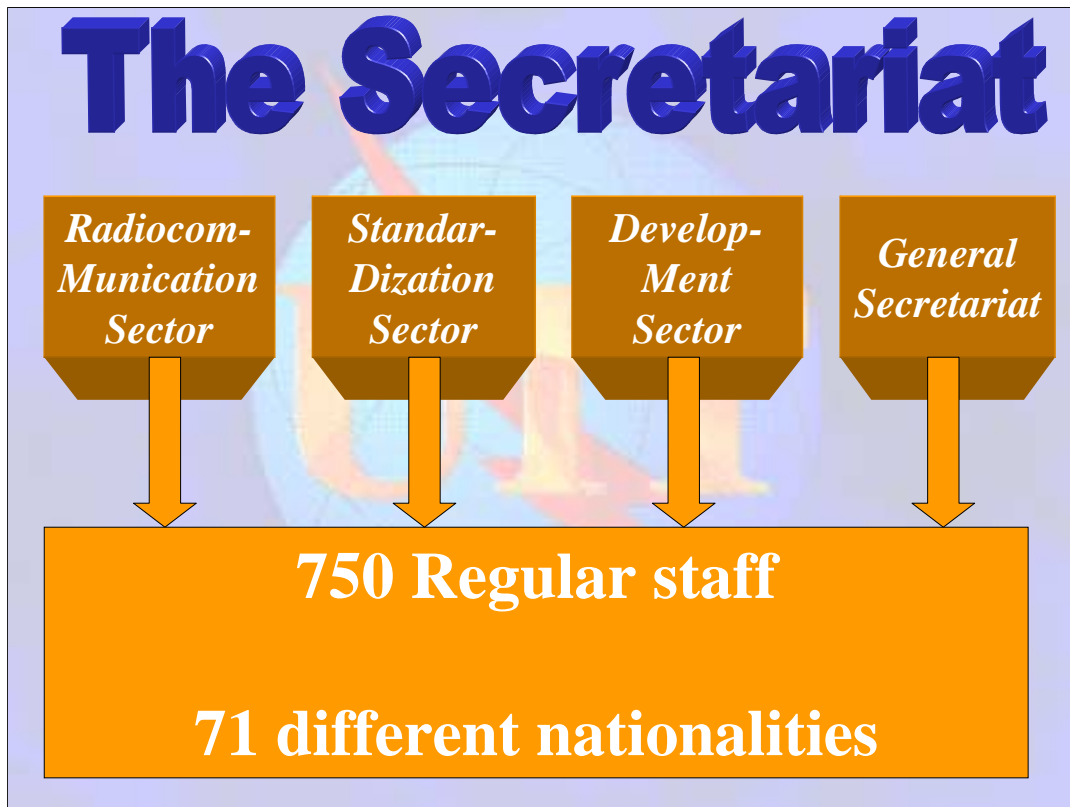
Development Sector

World Telecommunication Development Conference

ITU-D Study Groups

Regional Telecommunication Development Conferences

Telecommunication Development AdvisoryGroup

DIRECTOR
Development Bureau

The ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) is composed of:

•The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC)), which has the same status as an Assembly (RA or WTSA) and is the entity dealing with the organization, work programme and work plan of the Development Study Groups as well as for building the Telecommunication Development Action Plan (TDAP) valid during inter-conference periods. This Assembly meets each 4 years, average.

•Regional Telecommunication Development Conferences (RTDC), are regularly organized on the one hand to study specific actions to be taken in the region as far as Telecommunication Development is concerned and to prepare the next Telecommunication development Conference. Average, 4 RTDC's between two World Telecommunication Development Conference.

•The Telecommunication Development Study Groups (ITU-D Study Groups), which shall study Question as defined by the WTDC and produce Recommendations accordingly. These Recommendations, once adopted, are formal guidelines to be followed in view of a good coordination between all member States in developing its telecommunication networks.

•The Telecommunication Development Advisory Board (TDAB), which advises the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau on all issues dealing with the work programme and general management of the sector.

•Finally the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), which is the secretariat of the Radiocommunication sector.

RESOURCES

Human resources

Financial resources

To carry out all actions as mentioned in its mandates in each sector, the ITU, as any other organization, is using:

•Human resources

•Financial resources

The Secretariat

| Radiocom-Munication Sector | Standar-Dization Sector | Develop-Ment Sector | General Secretariat |

750 Regular staff

71 different nationalities

As far as Human resources are concerned, the secretariat is divided in three bureaux already mentioned:

The Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

The Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB)

The Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

And a General Secretariat.

The ITU secretariat human resources is based on about 750 regular staff with more than 70 different nationalities. In addition the ITU can employ temporary staff. Altogether, the average ITU human resources is about 920 staff/year.

General Secretariat

Office of Secretary General

Coordination, External Affairs And Communications

Strategic Planning

Common Services

Conference

Personnel

TELECOM

Finance

Information Systems

The General Secretariat is dealing with all general strategic issues, administrative matters and TELECOM exhibitions and forum.

As such its structure is composed of

•A Coordination, External Affairs and Communication Unit dealing with inter-sectoral issues, general policies and external as well as internal communication matters.

•A strategic Planning unit, dealing with strategies and in charge of coordinating operational planning as well as coordinating the development of draft strategic plans.

•A Common Services Department, dealing with all logistics issues as well as document production for the whole ITU

•A Conference Department in charge of coordinating ITU meetings, forum and conferences as well as trasnlation and typing of documents

•A personnel Department for the overall ITU personnel administration

•A Finance Department in charge of implementing ITU Financial Regulations and coordinating the budget of three sectors

•An Information System Department dealing with computer infrastructure and related issues

Finally, TELECOM, is a unit under the direct supervision of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary-General, in charge of organizing TELECOM world and regional exhibitions and forum.

- Mr. Yoshio UTSUMI
- Secretary-General of ITU (Japan)
- Mandate 1999-2002

The present five elected officials, elected by the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference are:

Mr. Yoshio Utsumi, elected by the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference, is the Secretary General. This his first mandate.

- Mr. Roberto Blois
- Deputy Secretary-General (Brazil)
- Mandate : 1999-2002

Mr. Roberto Blois, elected by the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference, is the Deputy Secretary General. This his first mandate.

- Mr. Robert W. Jones
- Director, Radiocommunication Bureau (Canada)
- Mandate 1999-2002

Mr. Robert W. Jones, elected in 1994 and re-elected in 1998. This his second and last mandate

- Mr. Houlin ZHAO
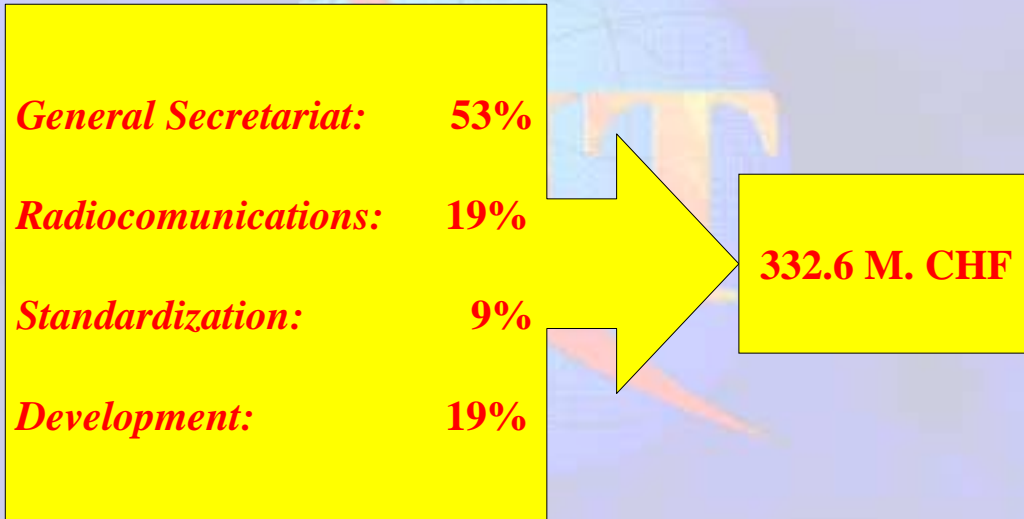- Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (China)
- Mandate: 1999-2002

Mr. Houlin Zhao, elected by the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference for his first mandate.

- Mr. Hamadoun TOURE (Mali)
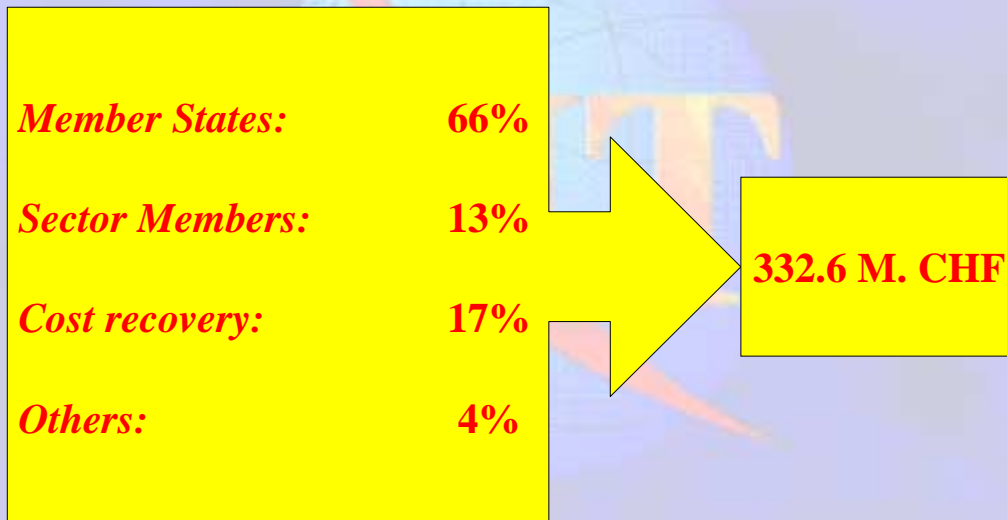- Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau
- Mandate : 1999-2002

Mr. Hamadoun Touré, elected by the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference for his first mandate.

The biennial budget of the Union, is based on the strategic plan as adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference and is established by the Council. For the period 2000-2001, this biennial budget is of 332.6 Million Swiss Francs divided between the various sectors and the General secretariat following their respective plan of action.

The incomes

Member States:	**66%**
Sector Members:	**13%**
Cost recovery:	**17%**
Others:	**4%**

332.6 M. CHF

Since the ITU is working on the basis of a balanced budget, expenditures shall be covered by incomes. For the period 2000-2001 the incomes are roughly divided into:

Member States contributions

• Non-member States contributions (Sector Members and Associates)

• Cost recovery activities, for instance sales of publications

• Other contributions, for instance voluntary contributions