



Access
Partnership

Abu Dhabi | Brussels | Dakar | London | Singapore | Washington, DC

Briefing Booklet

ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, 29 October – 16 November 2018

Background

The Plenipotentiary Conference 2018, or “Plenipot”, is the top policy-making body of the ITU that decides the 4-year roadmap of the organisation. It determines the general policies for fulfilling the purposes of the ITU and adopts the financial plan and strategic plan. Elections are also held during Plenipot for the management team of the ITU, the Council Member States, and the Radio Regulations Board members.

Telecommunications and ICT companies can promote social and economic development globally but as they have expanded in recent years, the regulatory landscape has become more complex. The ITU can play a strategic role by helping its members to understand navigate this changing landscape.

ITU Mission

The ITU’s mission is defined in the ITU Constitution and Convention (CS/CV) but the core objective is enhancing global connectivity. The organisation also plays a role in supporting international development and standards development through the ITU-D and ITU-T respectively, which creates policies and strategies aimed at growing connectivity in developing countries.

In the report of the Council Working Group for Strategic and Financial Plans 2020-2023, the ITU’s objectives are listed as follows:

The ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) objectives

1. Spectrum/orbit regulation and management
2. Radiocommunication standards
3. Knowledge sharing

ITU Telecommunication Standardisation Sector (ITU-T) objectives

1. Development of standards
2. Bridging the standards gap
3. Telecommunication resources and knowledge sharing
4. Cooperation with standardisation bodies

ITU Telecommunication Development Sector ITU-D objectives

1. Coordination
Modem and secure telecom/ICT infrastructure
2. Enabling environment
3. Inclusive digital society

Inter-Sectoral objectives

1. Collaboration
2. Emerging telecommunication/ICT trends
3. Telecommunication/ICT accessibility
4. Gender equality and inclusion
5. Environmental sustainability
6. Reducing overlap and duplication

ITU Leadership

During the conference, Member States will elect the senior management team of the ITU. This includes the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Directors of the ITU-R, ITU-T, and ITU-D Sectors, the ITU Council, and the Radio Regulations Board. Much of the discussion during the first week of the conference will focus on the elections of the directors.

Electing the Radio Regulations Board (RRB)

The Radio Regulations Board (RRB) is a twelve-member board that approves Rules of Procedure, used by the Radiocommunication Bureau in applying the provisions of the Radio Regulations and registering frequency assignments made by the Member States. The RRB is elected at the Plenipotentiary Conference and the members perform their duties independently and on a part-time basis, usually meeting four times a year in Geneva. The RRB addresses matters referred by the Bureau which cannot be resolved through normal procedures; considers reports of unresolved interference investigations carried out by the Bureau at the request of administrations and formulates recommendations; and provides advice to Radiocommunication Conferences and the Radiocommunication Assemblies. Lastly, the RRB considers appeals against decisions made by the Radiocommunication Bureau regarding frequency assignments. This mandate is of great importance to the telecommunications industry as the RRB holds the ability to alter Bureau frequency decisions following the appeals process.

Plentipot-18 Timetable

Week One

1. Heads of delegation meetings
2. Opening ceremony
3. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of PP18 Committees
4. General Policy Statements by Member States
5. Presentation of regional proposals
6. Establishment of the work of the Committees
7. Elections of ITU Senior Management Team
8. Elections to ITU Council and Radio Regulations Board

Week Two

1. Work of Committees
2. Report of the Credentials Committee
3. Deadline to announce the choice of class of financial contributions

Week Three

1. Completion of the work of the Committees
2. Developing and approving the Final Acts
3. Declarations and Reservations
4. Signature of the Final Acts and Closing ceremony.



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