World Conference on International Telecommunications 2012 (WCIT-12)

Information Session
WSIS Forum 2012

Geneva, Switzerland, 16 May 2012

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ITU
Background

Why the ITRs are important

The need to revise ITRs

Preparatory process

Expectations for WCIT-12

Useful information and links
The International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs) define the general principles for the provision and operation of international telecommunications.

ITRs succeeded the Telegraph Regulations (1973) and Telephone Regulations (1973) in a new treaty adopted at WATTC-88 (Melbourne). [CS/Art. 4].

Source: ITU
The current version of ITRs was adopted in 1988 in Melbourne, Australia, by WATTC-88.

ITRs came into force in 1990, and are one of the four treaties of ITU.

Signed by 178 countries, ITRs are a truly global treaty applied around the world.
[Content]

- Background
- **Why the ITRs are important**
- The need to revise ITRs
- Preparatory process
- Expectations for WCIT-12
- Useful information and links
Why the ITRs are important

The ITRs ...

- Establish general principles relating to the provision and operation of international telecoms;
- Facilitate global interconnection and interoperability;
- Underpin harmonious development and efficient operation of technical facilities;
- Promote efficiency, usefulness, and availability of international telecommunication services;
- Treaty-level provisions are required with respect to international telecommunication networks and services.
Background
Why the ITRs are important
The need to revise ITRs
Preparatory process
Expectations for WCIT-12
Useful information and links
The need to revise ITRs

- The current version of the ITRS has remained unchanged since 1988.

At that time:
- there were very few countries with a liberalized market;
- most operators were a monopoly regime, under government or state control;

1988 [ITRs (came into force in 1990)] 2012
The international telecom environment has significantly evolved, both from the technical and policy perspectives, and that it continues to evolve rapidly;

Advances in technology have resulted in an increased use of IP-enabled infrastructure and relevant applications, presenting opportunities and challenges for the ICT sector;

As technology evolves, Member States are evaluating their policy and regulatory approaches to ensure an enabling environment.

Shift from **fix to mobile**, from **voice to data** as the drivers of traffic and main sources of revenue.
[Content]

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- Why the ITRs are important
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- **Preparatory process**
- Expectations for WCIT-12
- Useful information and links
C09 adopted Resolution 1312, creating the Council Working Group to Prepare for the WCIT-12 (CWG-WCIT12) initiating the preparatory process towards WCIT-12. Its task was to draw up a consolidated report on all ITR issues, to be used to support the work of WCIT-12.

Following a report of the CWG-WCIT12, C10 adopted Resolution 1317 to fix the dates and agenda for the WCIT.

The working group also reported to the PP10, which adopted Resolution 171 (Guadalajara) to guide the future work of the group.
CWG-WCIT12 held three meetings in 2010, two 2011, and in February, April, and June 2012.

Last meeting established and published:
- The latest version of the compilation of all proposals;
- Dates of future meetings and work-plans.

Key issues brought up:
- What core principles should guide discussions?
- Do some provisions belong elsewhere? (e.g. ITU Constitution/Convention, ITU-T Recommendations)
- What provisions should be added to cover new issues?
Proposals made during the preparatory process

Proposals made could be grouped as follows:

1. Human right to access to communication
   (including nation’s right to access intl. communication infrastructure and fair/equitable access/usage of network/services)

2. Security in the use of ICT (including privacy and unsolicited electronic communication), &
   Protection of critical national resources of national significance and interest, or of national public interest

3. Charging and accounting—including Taxation
   (Market-based costing, Liberalization of international gateways, Transparency obligations on ROAs)

4. Interconnection and interoperability

5. Quality of Service

6. Convergence

7. Enforcement measures (including possible binding effect of certain ITU Recommendations)

8. International frameworks
### Preparatory process – Work Plan

- **Work Plan agreed by CWG-WCIT12**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27-29 Feb 12</td>
<td>1\textsuperscript{st} draft of new ITRs</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Progress the report to WCIT-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-25 Apr 12</td>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} draft of new ITRs</td>
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<td>Progress the report to WCIT-12</td>
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<td>20-22 Jun 12</td>
<td>Final draft of the future ITRs</td>
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<td>Finalize report to WCIT-12</td>
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<td>3-14 Dec 12</td>
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<td><strong>WCIT -12</strong></td>
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Preparatory process – Regional preparation

- Both CWG-WCIT and the regional meetings are open to Sector Members;
- Regional preparations are taking place back-to-back with the WTSA-12 regional preparations;
- Some regions may organize their own regional preparatory meetings and invite ITU to participate;
- For some regions, ITU would organise a preparatory meeting in collaboration with the regional organisation;
- The regional meetings are taking place in the February-May 2012 timeframe.
### Preparatory process – Regional preparation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APT Preparatory Meeting</th>
<th>RCC Preparatory Meeting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dates:</strong> 19-24 March 2012</td>
<td><strong>Dates:</strong> 2-6 April 2012</td>
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<td><strong>Venue:</strong> Cairns, Australia</td>
<td><strong>Venue:</strong> Tashkent, Uzbekistan</td>
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<td><a href="#">Learn more...</a></td>
<td><a href="#">Learn more...</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>Arab States Preparatory Meeting</th>
<th>Americas Region Preparatory Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dates:</strong> 28 April – 1 May 2012</td>
<td><strong>Dates:</strong> 14-15 May 2012</td>
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<td><strong>Venue:</strong> Cairo, Egypt</td>
<td><strong>Venue:</strong> Buenos Aires, Argentina</td>
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<td><a href="#">Learn more...</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>The Africa region Preparatory Meeting</th>
<th>Other WCIT focused meetings</th>
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<td><strong>Dates:</strong> 21-24 May 2012</td>
<td>In addition to ITU-facilitated meetings and the Council</td>
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<td><strong>Venue:</strong> Durban, South Africa</td>
<td>Working Group, there are also meetings in partnership with</td>
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<td>other organizations. Full list <a href="#">here</a>.</td>
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<td><a href="#">Learn more...</a></td>
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Expectations for WCIT-12

- WCIT-12 presents key opportunities to increase good collaboration between countries;
- Help countries to reach new levels of economic and social development by means of efficient telecom services;
- Make ITRs relevant, and valuable to the full membership, so that they address and alleviate the many concerns that are out there.

Sector Members usually participate as part of national delegations
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Further information available at:

- **WCIT-12:**
  [http://www.itu.int/wcit](http://www.itu.int/wcit)

- **CWG-WCIT12:**
  [http://www.itu.int/council/groups/cwg-wcit12/index.html](http://www.itu.int/council/groups/cwg-wcit12/index.html)
Thank you

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