



The electronic version (PDF) of this article was scanned by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Library & Archives Service.

Journal Title: Telecommunication journal

Journal Issue: Vol. 60, no. 2(1993)

Author : Pekka Tarjanne

Article Title : Historic decisions : editorial

Page number(s): p. 53

As reported in this edition of the *Telecommunication Journal*, the Additional Plenipotentiary Conference which was held in Geneva from 7 to 22 December 1992 adopted in their entirety the changes to ITU structures and working methods which were proposed by the High Level Committee. The Conference also decided that these changes should be provisionally applied as of 1 March 1993, even though the new Geneva Constitution and Convention adopted by the APP will not formally come into effect until 1 July 1994.

HISTORIC DECISIONS

The APP decisions are truly historic. As of 1 March, the CCIR, the CCITT and the IFRB will cease to exist. Their place will be taken by the new ITU Telecommunication Standardization and Radiocommunication Sectors. Together with the Telecommunication Development Sector, these new structures will be the "pillars" on which the future of the Union is built.

While agreeing to these structural changes, the APP recognized that they are only the first phase in the continuing process of adapting the ITU to the changing telecommunications environment. Through a series of Resolutions, the Conference established clear direction for further reform with respect to the work programmes of the new Sectors, as well as to the membership and management of the Union.

One of the key strategic challenges facing the ITU is to find innovative ways of involving the new players, who are assuming increasingly important roles in international telecommunications, in the work and decision-making processes of the Union. In recognition of this challenge, the APP instructed the ITU Council to make recommendations on the criteria and procedures which should govern participation in ITU activities by entities and organizations other than governments. These recommendations are to be presented to the next Plenipotentiary Conference, which will be held in Kyoto in September-October 1994.

Another important challenge is to make sure that the ITU is responsive to the changing needs of its Members, both old and new, and that it is efficiently managed. In a number of Resolutions, the APP accordingly stressed the strategic planning responsibilities of the Plenipotentiary Conference, the Council and the Secretary-General. The Conference also confirmed the need for improved management practices, particularly in financial planning and budgetary controls, as well as in providing improved electronic access to ITU documents and publications.

Clearly, the APP was one of the most successful ITU conferences ever. Under the able chairmanship of Ambassador Bernard de Riedmatten, it accomplished the very difficult tasks which it was given in record time. In addition, it laid the foundations for the next stage in the evolution of the ITU. All those who were involved in the preparation and conduct of the Conference deserve congratulations. They have set an example of more efficient and effective working methods which should be emulated at future ITU conferences.



Pekka TARJANNE