



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

Journal Title: Newsletter of the International Telecommunication Union

Journal Issue: No. 10(1994)

Article Title : ITU-PP94 Kyoto : Plenipotentiary Conference ends

Page number(s): pp. 2-6



Plenipotentiary Conference ends

**The ITU
Strategic Plan
... the back-
bone of the
next four-year
period of
activity**

ON 14 October last, the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference ended after adopting key decisions for the future of the organization.

As reported in our previous issues, the Conference elected new leaders for the ITU as well as the members of the new first-time part-time Radio Regulations Board.

New ITU Council

The Plenipotentiary Conference also elected the countries to serve on the ITU Council (see box).

The newly elected Council met at the end of the Plenipotentiary Conference and designated Mr D. Charoenphol (Thailand) as its Chairman and Mr K. Mirski (Bulgaria) as its Vice-Chairman. The Finance Committee will be chaired by Mr D. Garnier (France) with Mr L. Bethel (Bahamas) as Vice-Chairman. The Personnel Committee will be chaired by Mr A. Mapunda (Tanzania) with Mr R. Sa (Brazil) as Vice-Chairman.

The Council started discussing its new working methods which had already been agreed upon by the previous Council in June, but later decided to postpone the matter to its next meeting.

It adopted the ITU budget and the theme "Telecommunications and Sports" for World Telecommunications Day 1996.

The next meeting of the Council will take place in June 1995.

ITU's Strategic Plan

In his concluding remarks to the Conference, Pekka Tarjanne, Secretary-General of the ITU, referring to the Strategic Plan, stressed that this was the first time a single document setting out priorities and strategies had been produced and that the Plan would be of great help not just in managing the affairs of the Union but also in conveying in a more effective way the message of the ITU.



... in session

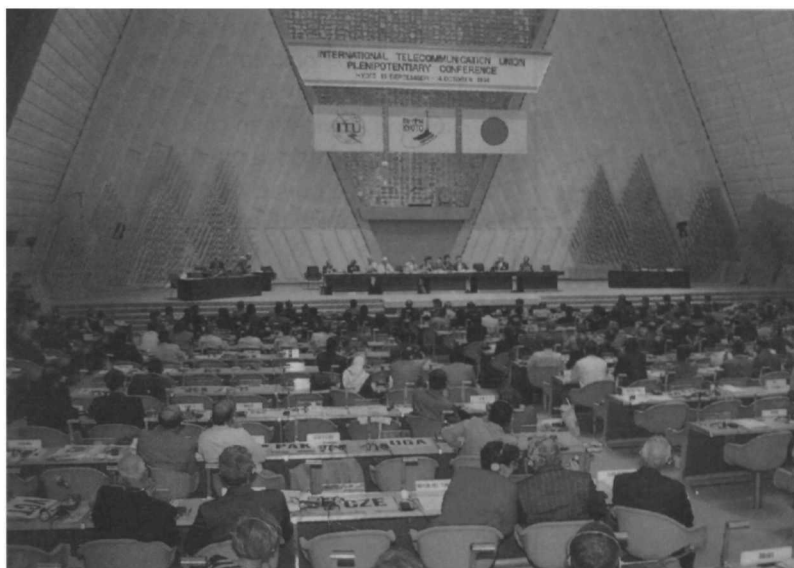
Participation of members (small "m")

One of the main features of the Strategic Plan is the enhanced participation of the private sector in the activities of the Union. Such a participation will be guided by the following principles:

- the level of contribution of entities and associations other than administrations should remain a free choice;
- members of the Sectors are to have free access to all information pertaining to the work of the Sector;
- the same members may submit contributions and take part in the decision-making process as regards the activities of the Sector (items to be discussed, participation in negotiation, nomination to posts such as chairman or rapporteur, etc.) with the exception of all matters pertaining to the structure and functioning of the Union;
- operators, scientific and industrial organizations, financial and development institutions as well as organizations of an international character representing groups of sectoral members may be granted observer status to the Pleni-potentiary Conferences;
- the ITU should develop stronger ties with regional organizations since the cooperation at that level can improve regional telecommunication development.

However, the right to vote and the decisions to be taken at conferences of a treaty-making nature will remain the prerogative of the Member administrations.

A Review Committee is to be set up to finalize the conditions under which members can take part in the work of the Union and benefit from such participation. Although these measures are a major improvement compared to the conditions which prevailed before, there is still a long way to go for members to be fully integrated in the work of the ITU.



General view of the conference room

Development

Another important feature in the Strategic Plan is the place given to development. In this regard, the Conference gave much attention to the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the need to foster the role of the private sector in development and the need to strengthen the role and mission of the ITU's regional offices. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action is to be implemented, but economies will have to be made on "non-priority activities". The international community is also to make an effort towards the implementation of the far-reaching objectives of the Plan.

ITU's regional presence was felt to be important in as much as it helps in satisfying the growing and diversified telecommunication needs of Members and in implementing ITU's decisions, recommendations, actions, programmes or projects.

Policy forum

A forum has been established to discuss and exchange views on broad telecommunication policy issues, technological advances,

**Development:
a matter of
high priority...**

The policy forum: a new instrument for a new ITU?...

service options and opportunities. Special attention is to be paid to the needs of the developing countries where modern technologies and services can contribute to telecommunication infrastructure development. The forum will produce reports summarizing the issues for which there might be unanimity.

ITU budget

Another major task which faced the Plenipotentiary Conference was the ITU budget. After much discussion, the plenipotentiaries agreed to an increase of 1.5% in real terms compared with the previous period. Although this increase is quite modest, it is very encouraging as it shows clearly the will of the administrations that the ITU should continue to evolve and increase its role in the telecommunications world.

ITU at the forefront of assistance

The Plenipotentiary Conference further decided to help a number of countries to

build (or rebuild) their telecommunication infrastructure. This is the case for Palestine where a study will be carried out to define the type of assistance needed. Similarly, the networks of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liberia, Rwanda and Somalia have suffered extensive damages because of war and need to be rebuilt in order to promote socio-economic development. Council is to make funds available to this effect.

All in all the Plenipotentiary Conference has been a success. Within the very limited time (four weeks) it had to conduct its business, the Conference came up with a new leadership, positive decisions for the betterment of telecommunications world-wide and a plan which will be the backbone of ITU's activities for the next four years.

The next Plenipotentiary Conference is to meet in the United States in 1998. Hopefully, it will be presented with good results on the decisions taken now in Kyoto.

Members of the ITU Council

• Region A (Americas)

Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Mexico and the United States.

• Region B (Western Europe)

Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

• Region C (Eastern Europe and Northern Asia)

Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Russia and the Ukraine.

• Region D (Africa)

Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Egypt, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania.

• Region E (Asia and Australasia)

Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Kuwait, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Arising out of Kyoto...**Ministerial meeting
on global telecommunications**

In conjunction with the Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference and at the initiative of the Japanese government, the first-ever telecommunications summit on the theme "Toward the Information Network of the 21st Century" was convened in Kyoto on 22 September last and was attended by 49 heads of telecommunications administrations as well as guests from the ITU and the European Union. The very diversity of the participants which reflects the membership of the ITU, that is, developing and developed countries, with the well-known imbalance which exists in their access to telecommunications, made this meeting particularly valuable.

According to the majority of the participants, as reflected in the Kyoto Declaration published below, in the 21st century telecommunications should play a major role, not only in resolving national problems, but also in dealing with global issues. Some countries and regions are making serious efforts to create highly advanced information infrastructures. And yet again a strong emphasis was placed on the urgent need to close the gaps which exist in accessing telecommunications: this should be achieved through international cooperation and partnership.

Kyoto Declaration**Toward the Information Network of the 21st Century**

The heads of telecommunications administrations, responsible for the information networks in their countries around the world, gathered in Kyoto on the occasion of the 1994 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference. We had some very frank and fruitful discussions, none more important than on the theme "Toward the Information Network of the 21st Century" at our Ministerial Meeting on 22 September 1994.

Today, the world's telecommunications infrastructure is being enhanced by means of rapidly developing technology. Great hopes are being expressed that this advancement will play a significant role in overcoming not only the national problems of individual countries, but also global issues which we all face. Putting these shared hopes into practice, several countries and regions have already launched various pioneering schemes to create highly advanced information networks.

We believe it is most desirable that such advancement is commenced throughout the world, and made available to all its citizens in the shortest possible time. We will make every effort to respond to this call of the times through global participation.

We recognize that various sophisticated telecommunications services have already been achieved in some countries and regions, becoming indispensable to their peoples' lives. At the same time we need to keep in mind the fact that there are many countries which contain vast areas with no access to even the most basic telecommunications facilities.

We believe that people in every corner of the world should be guaranteed access to the potential of telecommunications. We reconfirm our intention to reach out to close the gaps in its development. Thus, through telecommunications, all our

communities will be released from the bonds of distance, to work together for their progress.

We each presented to the meeting our thoughts concerning the development of telecommunications, and we offer these in the form of individual statements from each Minister.

Taking into account the ideas of each country and the results of our meeting, we confirm that we will strengthen our cooperation and partnership at both the regional and the global level.

As we approach the threshold of the new era, a vital goal emerges before us, that of moving toward globally balanced economic development. We are convinced that telecommunications is the driving force for helping to achieve this goal through spurring development of our society toward higher economic efficiency, while at the same time taking care of the environment.

With this in mind, we will commit ourselves to work toward advancing the world's telecommunications infrastructure, enabling all our citizens to share its benefits as we progress toward the 21st century.