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THE FINAL ACTS OF THE ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE, MARRAKESH, MOROCCO 2002

PRESENTATION TO SELECT COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES



the doc

Department:
Communications
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Introduction to the ITU

- ✎ The ITU was founded in Paris in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union. The current name "International Telecommunication Union" was decided by the Madrid Plenipotentiary Conference in 1932.
- ✎ The ITU is a specialized agency of the United Nations. ITU activities are governed by the ITU Constitution, originally adopted in 1992.



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Introduction (cont.).....2

- ✿ The most recent PP conference, held in Marrakesh from 23 September to 18 October 2002, endorsed the organization's Strategic Plan.
- ✿ In the period 2004-2007, the priority actions will include bridging the international digital divide by:
 - ✿ facilitating the development of fully interconnected and interoperable networks and services



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Introduction (cont.).....3

- ✧ taking a leading role in the preparations and follow-up of the World Summit on the Information Society
- ✧ developing tools, based on contributions from members, to safeguard the integrity and interoperability of networks.



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South Africa and the ITU

- ✧ South Africa became a member of the ITU in 1881.
- ✧ In 1965 following the Montreux PP Conference South Africa was excluded from participating in meetings.
- ✧ The 1989 PP Conference in Nice resolved that South Africa would continue to be excluded from all conferences, meetings and activities of the ITU until such time as apartheid policies were eliminated.



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Membership

- ✧ South Africa contributes 945 000, 00 Swiss Francs (+- R 5 Million) through the Department of Communications
- ✧ Member States account for 66.1% of the overall budget.
- ✧ Sector Members contribute 13.3% of the overall budget.
- ✧ At each plenipotentiary conference, every member (States and Sector Members alike) selects its class of contribution.



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Membership continued

- ✿ The amount of the contributory unit is determined when the budget is approved.
- ✿ The scale of unit classes ranges from 1/16 of a unit to 40 units. Only Member States listed by the United Nations as least developed countries and those determined by the Council may select the 1/8 and 1/16 units



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Legal Framework of the ITU

- ✧ The legal framework of ITU comprises the following legal instruments of the Union, which have treaty status:
- ✧ The Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union signed on 22 December 1992 (Geneva) and which entered into force on 1 July 1994.
- ✧ These have been amended by Plenipotentiary Conferences (Kyoto, 1994; Minneapolis, 1998 and Marrakesh, 2002).



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Legal framework (cont.)....2

- ✎ Membership of ITU is open to governments, as well as to private organizations like carriers, equipment manufacturers, funding bodies, research and development organizations and international and regional telecommunication organizations, which can join ITU as Sector Members.