

## **INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONVENTION, 1959**

Note: The Philippine instrument of ratification was signed by the President, October 6, 1963 and was deposited with the Secretary General of the Union, November 6, 1963. The Convention entered into force January 1, 1961, and with respect to the Philippines, November 6, 1963.

### **INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION CONVENTION**

#### **PREAMBLE**

While fully recognizing the sovereign right of each country to regulate its telecommunication, the plenipotentiaries of the Contracting Governments, with the object of facilitating relations and co-operation between the peoples by means of efficient telecommunication services, have agreed to conclude the following Convention.

The countries and groups of territories which become parties to the present Convention constitute the International Telecommunication Union.

#### **CHAPTER I**

### **COMPOSITION, FUNCTIONS AND STRUCTURE OF THE UNION**

#### **ARTICLE 1**

#### **COMPOSITION OF THE UNION**

1. The International Telecommunication Union shall comprise Members and Associate Members.
2. A Member of the Union shall be:
  - a) any country or group of territories listed in Annex 1 upon signature and ratification of, or accession to, this Convention, by it or on its behalf;
  - b) any country, not listed in Annex 1, which becomes a Member of the United Nations and which accedes to this Convention in accordance with Article 18;
  - c) any sovereign country, not listed in Annex X and not a Member of the United Nations, which applies for Membership in the Union and which, after having secured approval of such application by two-thirds of the Members of the Union, accedes to this Convention in accordance with Article 18.
3. An Associate Member of the Union shall be:
  - a) any country, territory or group of territories listed in Annex 2 upon signature and ratification of, or accession to, this Convention, by it or on its behalf;

b) any country which has not become a Member of the Union in accordance with 4 to 6 by acceding to this Convention in accordance with Article 18, after its application for Associate Membership has received approval by a majority of the Members of the Union;

c) any territory or group of territories, not fully responsible for the conduct of its international relations, on behalf of which a member of the Union has signed and ratified or acceded to this Convention in accordance with Article 18 or 19, provided that its application for Associate membership is sponsored by such a member, after the application has received approval by a majority of the Members of the Union;

d) any trust territory on behalf of which the United Nations has acceded to this Convention in accordance with Article 20, and the application of which for Associate Membership has been sponsored by the United Nations.

4. If any territory or group of territories, forming part of a group of territories constituting a Member of the Union, becomes or has become an Associate Member of the Union in accordance with 7 and 9, its rights and obligations under this Convention shall be those of an Associate Member only.

5. For the purposes of 6, 8 and 9, if an application for Membership or Associate Membership is made, by diplomatic channel and through the intermediary of the country of the seat of the Union, during the interval between two Plenipotentiary Conferences, the Secretary-General shall consult the Members of the Union; a Member shall be deemed to have abstained if it has not replied within four months after its opinion has been requested.

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

1. (1) All Members shall be entitled to participate in conferences of the Union and shall be eligible for election to any of its organs.

(2) Each Member shall have one vote at all conferences of the Union, at meetings of the International Consultative Committees in which it participates and, if it is a Member of the Administrative Council, at all sessions of that Council.

(3) Each Member shall also have one vote in all consultations carried out by correspondence.

2. Associate Members shall have the same rights and obligations as Members of the Union, except that they shall not have the right to vote in any conference or other organ of the Union or to nominate candidates for membership of the International Frequency Registration Board. They shall not be eligible for election to the Administrative Council.

## **ARTICLE 3**

### **SEAT OF THE UNION**

The seat of the Union shall be at Geneva.

## **ARTICLE 4**

## **PURPOSES OF THE UNION**

### **1. The purposes of the Union are:**

- a) to maintain and extend international co-operation for the improvement and rational use of telecommunication of all kinds;
- b) to promote the development of technical facilities and their most efficient operation with a view to improving the efficiency of telecommunication services, increasing their usefulness and making them, so far as possible, generally available to the public;
- c) to harmonize the actions of nations in the attainment of those common ends.

### **2. To this end, the Union shall in particular:**

- a) effect allocation of the radio frequency spectrum and registration of radio frequency assignments in order to avoid harmful interference between radio stations of different countries;
- b) coordinate efforts to eliminate harmful interference between radio stations of different countries and to improve the use made of the radio frequency spectrum;
- c) foster collaboration among its Members and Associate Members with a view to the establishment of rates at levels as low as possible consistent with an efficient service and taking into account the necessity for maintaining independent financial administration of telecommunication on a sound basis;
- d) foster the creation, development and improvement of telecommunication equipment and networks in new or developing countries by every means at its disposal, especially its participation in the appropriate programmes of the United Nations;
- e) promote the adoption of measures for ensuring the safety of life through the co-operation of telecommunication service;
- f) undertake studies, formulate recommendations and opinions, and collect and publish information concerning telecommunication matters for the benefit of all Members and Associate Members.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### **STRUCTURE OF THE UNION**

The organization of the Union shall be as follows:

- 1. the Plenipotentiary Conference, which is the supreme organ of the Union;
- 2. Administrative Conferences;
- 3. the Administrative Council;
- 4. the permanent organs of the Union, which are:

- a) the General Secretariat;
- b) the International Frequency Registration Board (I.F.R.B.);
- c) the International Radio Consultative Committee (C.C.I.R.);
- d) the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (C.C.I.T.T.).

## **ARTICLE 6**

### **PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE**

**1. The Plenipotentiary Conference shall:**

- a) determine the general policies for fulfilling the purposes of the Union prescribed in Article 4 of this Convention;
- b) consider the report by the Administrative Council on its activities and those of the Union since the last Plenipotentiary Conference;
- c) establish the basis for the budget of the Union and determine a fiscal limit for the expenditure of the Union until the next Plenipotentiary Conference;
- d) fix the basic salaries, the salary scales and the system of allowances and pensions for all the officials of the Union;
- e) finally approve the accounts of the Union;
- f) elect the Members of the Union which are to serve on the Administrative Council;
- g) elect the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General and fix the dates of their taking office;
- h) revise the Convention if it considers this necessary;
- i) conclude or revise, if necessary, agreements between the Union and other international organizations, examine any provisional agreements with such organizations concluded, on behalf of the Union, by the Administrative Council, and take such measures in connection therewith as it deems appropriate;
- j) deal with such other telecommunication questions as may be necessary.

**2. The Plenipotentiary Conference shall normally meet at a date and place decided on by the preceding Plenipotentiary Conference.**

**3. (1) The date and place of the next Plenipotentiary Conference, or either one of these, may be changed:**

- a) when at least twenty Members and Associate Members of the Union have individually proposed a change to the Secretary-General, or,
- b) on a proposal of the Administrative Council.

(2) In either case a new date or place or both shall be determined with the concurrence of a majority of the Members of the Union.

## **ARTICLE 7**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCES**

1. Administrative conferences of the Union shall comprise:

- a) ordinary administrative conferences;
- b) extraordinary administrative conferences;
- c) special conferences, which include:
  - special regional conferences;
  - special service conferences, world or regional.

2. (1) Ordinary administrative conferences shall:

- a) revise the Regulations provided for in 193 with which they are respectively concerned;
- b) deal with all other matters deemed necessary within the terms of the Convention and the General Regulations and any directives given by the Plenipotentiary Conference.

(2) In addition, the ordinary administrative radio conference shall:

- a) elect the members of the International Frequency Registration Board,
- b) issue instructions to the Board concerning its activities and review these activities.

3. (1) The date and place of an ordinary administrative conference shall be determined:

- a) by the preceding administrative conference, if it so desires; or
- b) when at least twenty Members and Associate Members of the Union, have addressed individual requests to the Secretary-General; or
- c) on a proposal of the Administrative Council.

(2) When 57 or 58 applies, the place and date shall be determined with the concurrence of a majority of the Members of the Union.

4. (1) Extraordinary administrative conferences shall be convened to consider certain specific telecommunication matters. Only items included in their agenda may be discussed by such conferences.

(2) Extraordinary administrative conferences may revise certain provisions of any set of Administrative Regulations with which they are concerned, provided that the revision of such provisions is included in the Agenda approved by a majority of the Members in accordance with 65.

5. (1) An extraordinary administrative conference may be convened: