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MULTILATERAL

**Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (with annexes and optional protocol).
Concluded at Geneva on 22 December 1992**

Authentic texts: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Registered by the International Telecommunication Union on 1 October 1994.

MULTILATÉRAL

**Constitution et Convention de l'Union internationale des télécommunications (avec annexes et protocole facultatif).
Conclues à Genève le 22 décembre 1992**

Textes authentiques : arabe, chinois, anglais, français, russe et espagnol.

Enregistrées par l'Union internationale des télécommunications le 1^{er} octobre 1994.

CONSTITUTION¹ OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

Preamble

1 While fully recognizing the sovereign right of each State to regulate its telecommunication and having regard to the growing importance of telecommunication for the preservation of peace and the economic and social development of all States, the States Parties to this Constitution, as the basic instrument of the International Telecommunication Union, and to the Convention of the International Telecommunication Union (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”) which complements it, with the object of facilitating peaceful relations, international cooperation among peoples and economic and social development by means of efficient telecommunication services, have agreed as follows:

¹ The Constitution and Convention came into force provisionally on 1 March 1993 for all the members of the International Telecommunication Union, in accordance with resolution No. 1 concerning the provisional application of the provisions of the Constitution and the Convention relating to the new structure and working methods of the Union.

The Constitution and Convention came into force definitively on 1 July 1994 for the following members of the International Telecommunication Union which had deposited with the Secretary-General of the Union their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, in accordance with article 58 (1) of the Constitution :

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification, accession (a) or approval (A)</i>	
Denmark	18 June	1993
Canada	21 June	1993
(Confirming the declarations made upon signature.*)		
Mexico	27 September	1993
(Confirming the reservations made upon signature.**)		
Belize	9 November	1993a
Syrian Arab Republic	25 November	1993a
Romania	30 November	1993
Mauritius	6 December	1993a
Bolivia	30 December	1993a
Andorra	24 January	1994a
Lao People's Democratic Republic	24 January	1994a
Eritrea	31 January	1994a
Malaysia	11 April	1994
Turkmenistan	27 April	1994a
France	18 May	1994A
Oman	18 May	1994
Croatia	3 June	1994
Belarus	15 June	1994
Georgia	20 June	1994a
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	27 June	1994
Kyrgyzstan	29 June	1994a
South Africa	30 June	1994a
Slovakia	1 July	1994a

* For the text of the declarations see no. 73 on p. (494) of this volume.

** For the text of the reservations see no. 55 on p. (487) of this volume.

CHAPTER I

Basic Provisions

ARTICLE 1

Purposes of the Union

- 2 1. The purposes of the Union are:
 - 3 a) to maintain and extend international cooperation between all Members of the Union for the improvement and rational use of telecommunications of all kinds;
 - 4 b) to promote and to offer technical assistance to developing countries in the field of telecommunications, and also to promote the mobilization of the material and financial resources needed for implementation;
 - 5 c) 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;
 - 6 d) to promote the extension of the benefits of the new telecommunication technologies to all the world's inhabitants;
 - 7 e) to promote the use of telecommunication services with the objective of facilitating peaceful relations;
 - 8 f) to harmonize the actions of Members in the attainment of those ends;
 - 9 g) to promote, at the international level, the adoption of a broader approach to the issues of telecommunications in the global information economy and society, by cooperating with other world and regional intergovernmental organizations and those non-governmental organizations concerned with telecommunications.
- 10 2. To this end, the Union shall in particular:

- 11 a) effect allocation of bands of the radio-frequency spectrum, the allotment of radio frequencies and registration of radio-frequency assignments and any associated orbital positions in the geostationary-satellite orbit in order to avoid harmful interference between radio stations of different countries;
- 12 b) coordinate efforts to eliminate harmful interference between radio stations of different countries and to improve the use made of the radio-frequency spectrum and of the geostationary-satellite orbit for radiocommunication services;
- 13 c) facilitate the worldwide standardization of telecommunications, with a satisfactory quality of service;
- 14 d) foster international cooperation in the delivery of technical assistance to the developing countries and the creation, development and improvement of telecommunication equipment and networks in developing countries by every means at its disposal, including through its participation in the relevant programmes of the United Nations and the use of its own resources, as appropriate;
- 15 e) coordinate efforts to harmonize the development of telecommunication facilities, notably those using space techniques, with a view to full advantage being taken of their possibilities;
- 16 f) foster collaboration among its 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;
- 17 g) promote the adoption of measures for ensuring the safety of life through the cooperation of telecommunication services;
- 18 h) undertake studies, make regulations, adopt resolutions, formulate recommendations and opinions, and collect and publish information concerning telecommunication matters;
- 19 i) promote, with international financial and development organizations, the establishment of preferential and favourable lines of credit to be used for the development of social projects aimed, inter alia, at extending telecommunication services to the most isolated areas in countries.

ARTICLE 2

Composition of the Union

- 20** The International Telecommunication Union shall, having regard to the principle of universality and the desirability of universal participation in the Union, be composed of:
- 21** a) any State which is a Member of the Union as a Party to any International Telecommunication Convention prior to the entry into force of this Constitution and the Convention;
- 22** b) any other State, a Member of the United Nations, which accedes to this Constitution and the Convention in accordance with Article 53 of this Constitution;
- 23** c) any other State, not a Member of the United Nations, which applies for membership of the Union and which, after having secured approval of such application by two-thirds of the Members of the Union, accedes to this Constitution and the Convention in accordance with Article 53 of this Constitution. If such application for membership is made 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 3

Rights and Obligations of Members

- 24** 1. Members of the Union shall have the rights and shall be subject to the obligations provided for in this Constitution and the Convention.
- 25** 2. Rights of Members in respect of their participation in the conferences, meetings and consultations of the Union are: