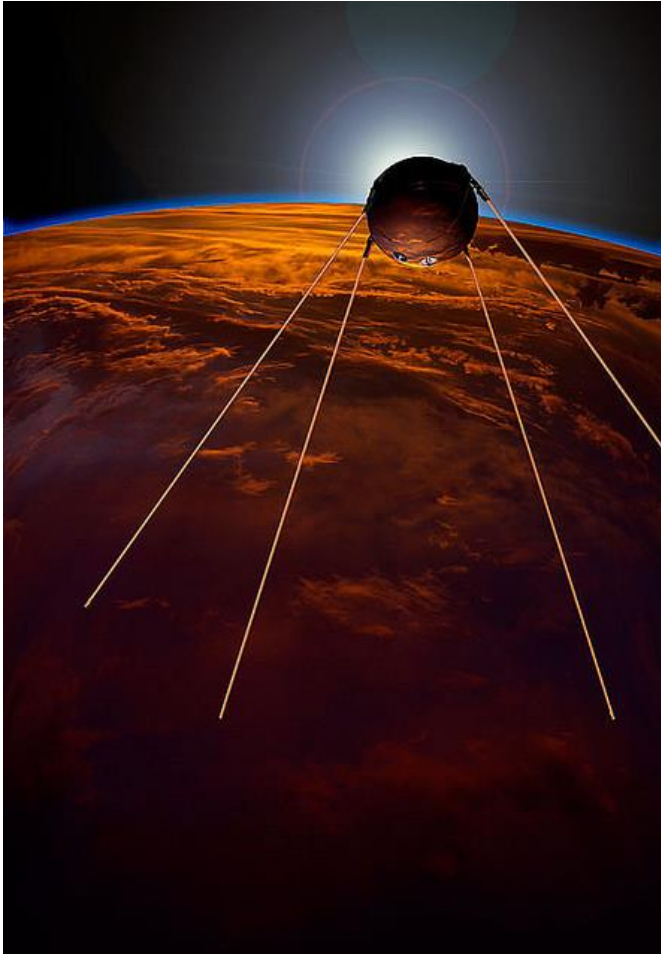


150  ITU

1865 - 2015

Get involved!

UIT 1957



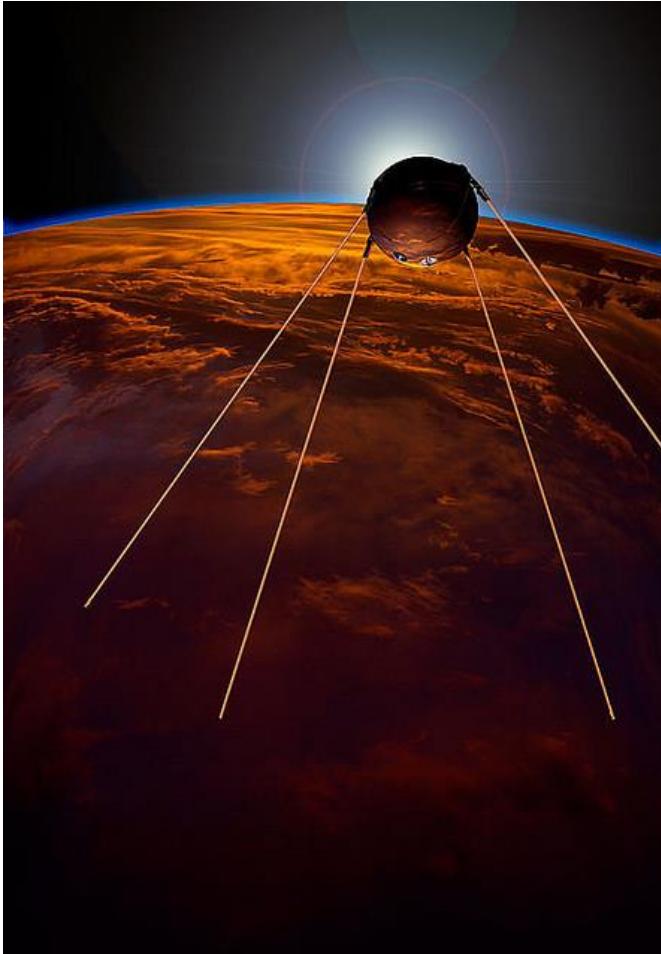
An artist's impression of Sputnik in orbit (Source: Gregory R Todd via Wikimedia Commons)

Dawn of the Space Age

Humanity's journey beyond Earth began with the launch of a small satellite called Sputnik in 1957. Just a year later, experiments with satellite communications began with the launch of Project SCORE, followed by the operational satellites Echo 1, in 1960, and Telstar 1 in 1962. The world seemed to be shrinking, just as our horizons widened into Space.



UIT 1957



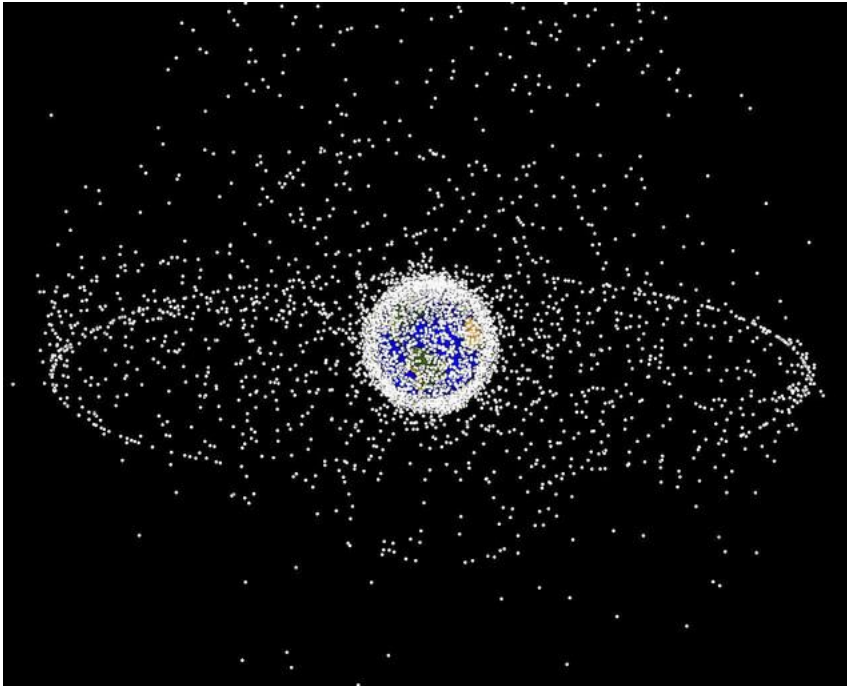
An artist's impression of Sputnik in orbit (Source: Gregory R Todd via Wikimedia Commons)

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UIT 1962



Satellites and debris surround Earth. The cluttered circle is the geostationary orbit.
(Source: NASA)

The Geostationary Resource

One of ITU's most important responsibilities is to monitor the use of a limited natural resource:

the geostationary orbit around Earth.

It is used today by hundreds of satellites, observing the planet and carrying communications worldwide.



UIT 1968



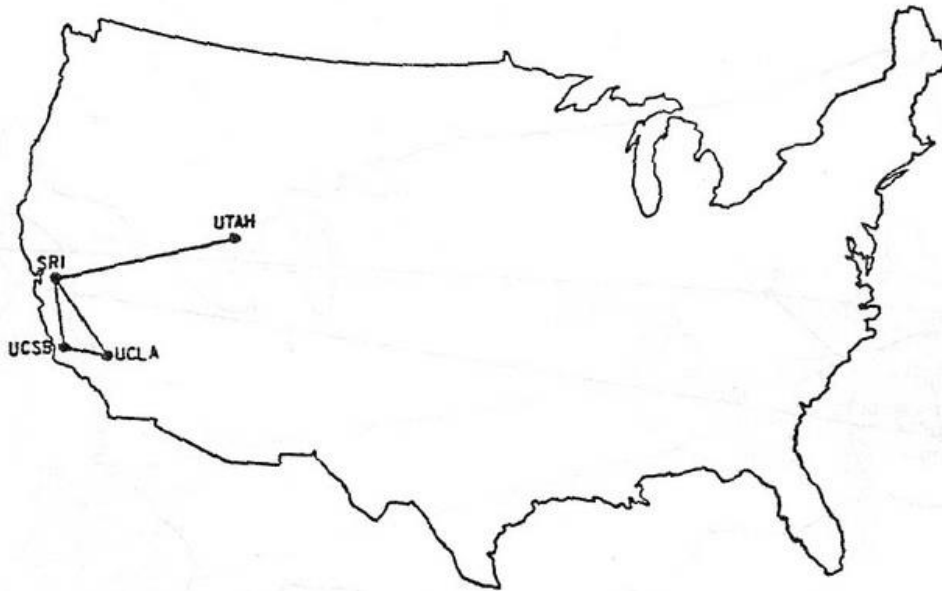
Fax machine buttons (Source: Dave Crosby)

The Fax

It is perhaps surprising to learn that [the fax dates back to the 1840s](#) -- a longer history than the telephone. [In 1968, ITU approved the first international standards](#) for the modern version of the technology, significantly spurring its growth. The heyday of the fax has passed, but ITU constantly keeps up with such developments, as it looks to the future.



UIT 1969



The ARPANET in December 1969

Map of [ARPANET](#) as of December 1969
(Source: BBN/DARPA)

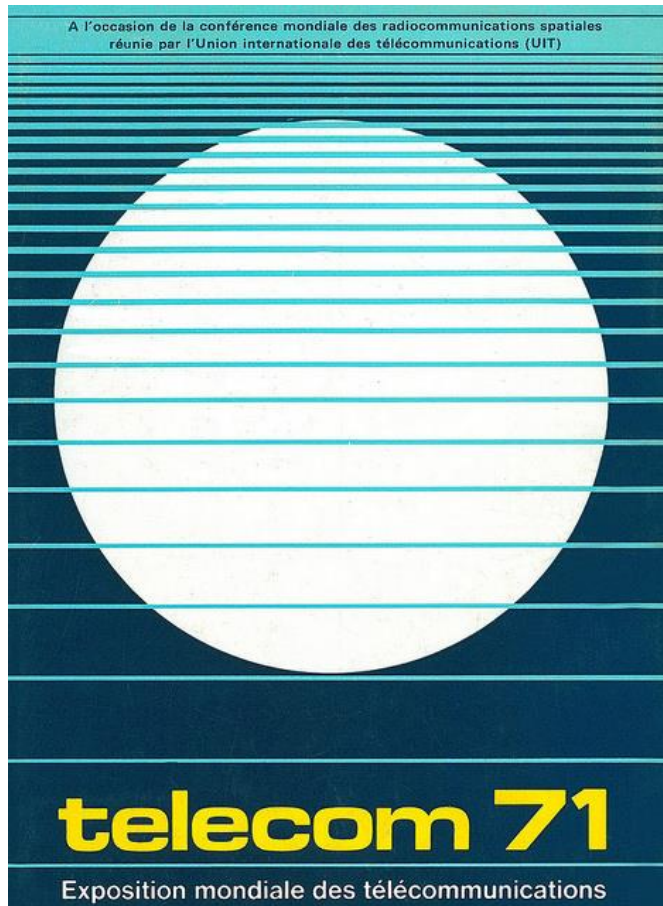
Internet Origins

The World Wide Web plays such an important role in many people's lives, that sometimes it is mistaken for the Internet itself.

But the Internet is far bigger than the Web that it carries - and it originated twenty years before, in 1969.



UIT 1971



Telecom World

In addition to its regular conferences, ITU hosts events where stakeholders in the public and private sectors discuss not only technical matters, but also wider issues. As an industry showcase and high-level forum, **ITU Telecom World began in 1971 in Geneva**. Since then it has been held regularly, at venues around the world.

Poster for the 1971 ITU Telecom Exposition (Source: ITU)



UIT 1973



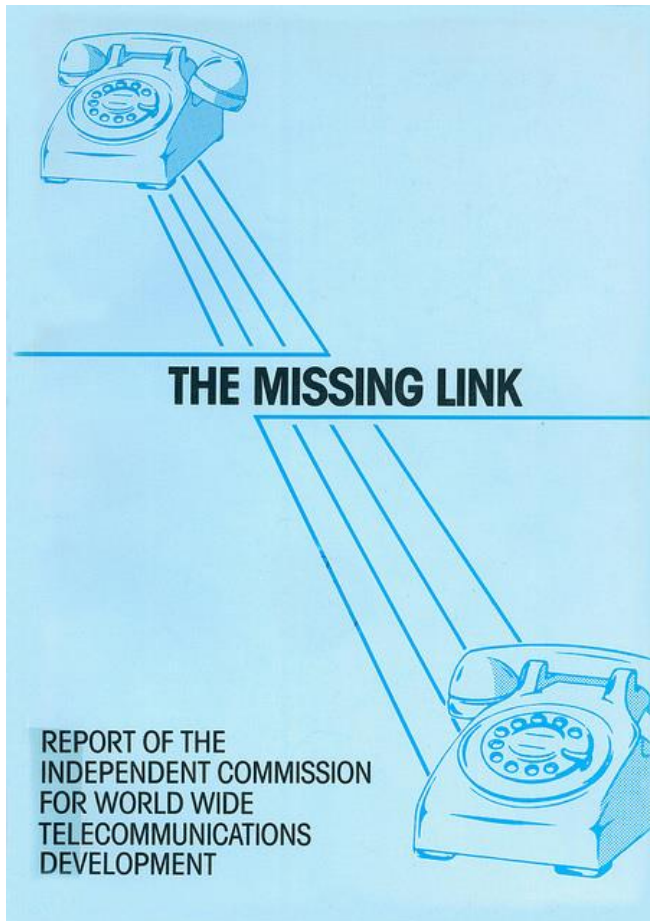
World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

On 17 May 1865, the first International Telegraph Convention was signed in Paris. Since 1973, there has been an formal celebration each year of that important day and ITU's origin. A topical theme is chosen, and events take place around the world.

Poster for World Telecommunication Day 1973 (Source: ITU)



UIT 1981



Bridging the Digital Divide

The need to support the expansion of telecommunications to people everywhere has long been recognized by ITU. From the early 1980s, efforts were stepped up towards that goal, following publication of the landmark report *The Missing Link*.

Missing Link Report (Source: ITU)



UIT 1984



ITU develops digital technology standards (Source: Shutterstock)

Going Digital

Communications - via telephone, computer and more - saw a landmark change with the coming of digital technologies. Networks could carry more information, faster than ever before. ITU had a pivotal role in this progress. In 1982, for example, it issued a technical standard for worldwide digital television; later, it became a founder member of the group that produced the crucial JPEG standards for digital imagery. In 1984, work began on digital telephony, leading to ITU standards for the fibre-optic networks of the future.



UIT 1990



World Wide Web (Source: Shutterstock)

The World Wide Web
The code for the World Wide Web was made freely available to all in 1990. It began a revolution in how people around the globe could gather and share information. The Internet, and the multitude of applications it carries - including the Web - has become a fundamental aspect of infrastructure, economic and social life, around the world.



UIT 1992

ITU's Sectors appear

The Additional Plenipotentiary Conference held in Geneva in 1992 closed on 22 December with the signature of the new ITU Convention and new ITU Constitution.

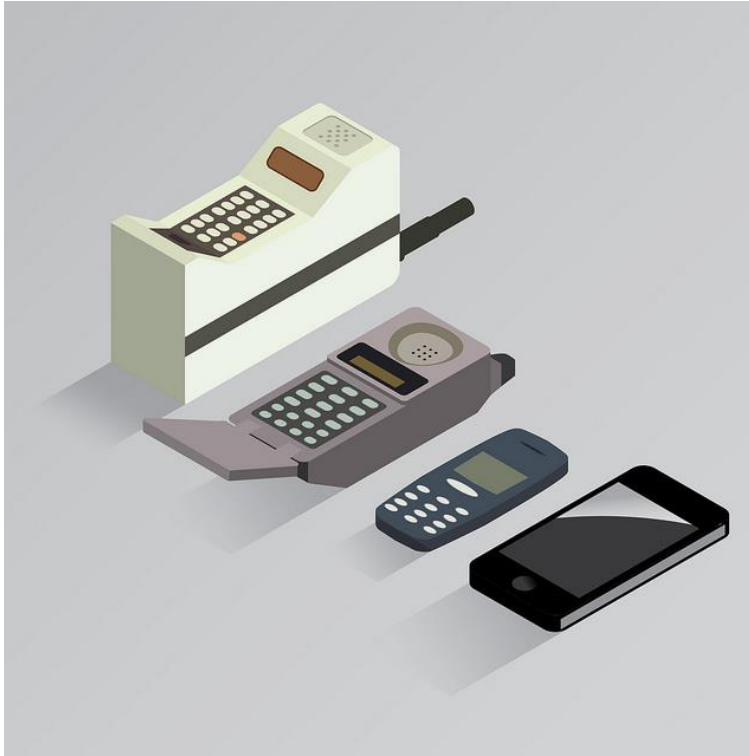
The conference recognized the need to adapt the Union's structure to ever-accelerating progress in telecommunications and the need to keep pace with the increasing demands this creates.

ITU's new structure was organized into three sectors, dealing with:

- development,
- standardization and
- radiocommunication.



UIT 2000



Several generations of mobile phones
(Source: Shutterstock)

Mobile Phones go global

The device that has perhaps done most to connect people in modern times is the mobile phone – and ITU has been at the heart of its spectacular progress. In 2000, a decision reached at an ITU conference meant that previously incompatible mobile communication systems could be linked worldwide for the first time. And it laid the foundation for today's high-speed wireless devices connected to the Internet.



UIT 2003



[World Summit on the Information Society](#)

The World Summit on the Information Society took place in 2003 and 2005 under the patronage of the United Nations.

The proposal for the first-ever international gathering to discuss the impact and potential of information and communication technologies was adopted at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in 1998.

ITU spearheaded preparations for the summit, and has taken a leading role in following up its recommendations and activities.

WSIS logo (Source: ITU)

ŚDTiSI 2015



UIT 2007



ITU and Climate Change (Source: ITU)

The Challenge of Climate Change

The Earth's climate is changing. This brings global challenges in dealing with the effects, and in preventing further damage.

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are central to these tasks, and ITU is committed to supporting and promoting the use of ICTs to help safeguard our world.



UIT 2008



ITU-IMPACT: an operational centre for protecting cybersecurity (Source: ITU)

Ensuring Cybersecurity

As more and more of the world relies on the Internet — from individuals to industry — there is an ever growing need to protect networks from criminals. Countries' critical infrastructure, as well as personal privacy, are vulnerable to attack. Establishing the necessary global response took a step forward with the creation in 2008 of

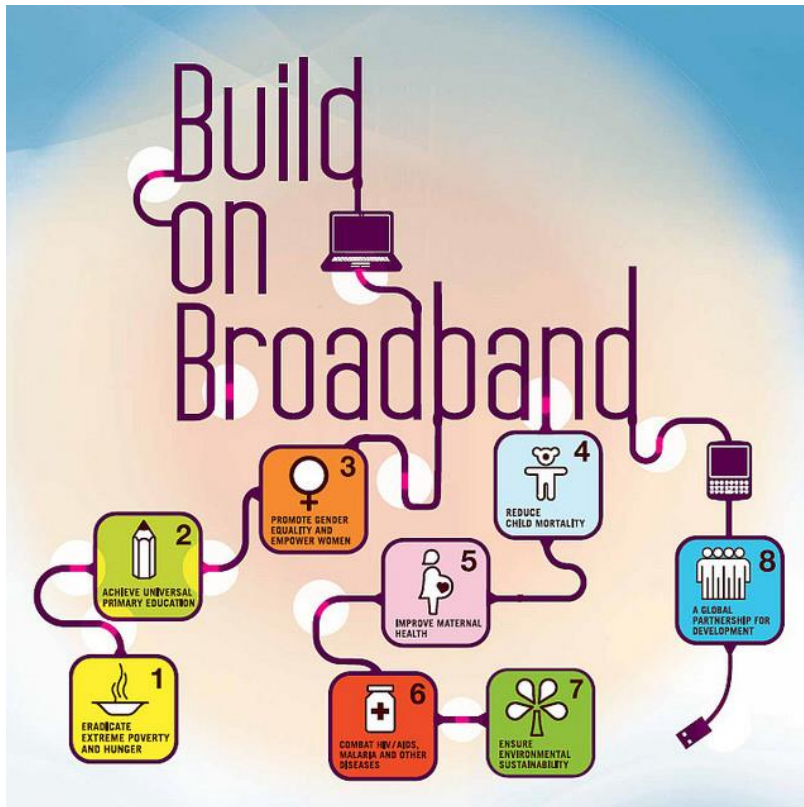
[ITU-IMPACT: an operational centre for protecting cybersecurity.](#)



UIT 2010

Broadband — a Platform for Progress

Fast, high-capacity connections to the Internet — broadband — deliver big benefits to economies and societies. For instance, better delivery of healthcare, education and financial services can be provided, as well as more efficient infrastructure and industry. To promote expansion of the technology, in 2010 the **Broadband Commission** was established by ITU, together with UNESCO



MDG on broadband (Source: ITU)



UIT 2013



Accessibility and ICTs

Accessibility for all

It has been estimated that about **1 billion people worldwide are living with some form of disability.**

They can be greatly helped by information and communication technologies (ICTs) that expand access to knowledge, careers, and key public services.

ITU is active in promoting this progress – as well as in making sure that ICT devices themselves can be used by everyone. Digital inclusion is an essential in ITU's mission to connect the world.





STOWARZYSZENIE ELEKTRYKÓW POLSKICH

ŚWIATOWY DZIEŃ TELEKOMUNIKACJI I SPOŁECZEŃSTWA INFORMACYJNEGO

17 maja 2007



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