



ITU: Three Sectors at a Crossroad

Does the ITU need to be reformed?

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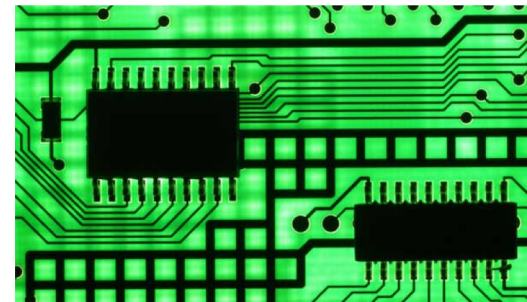
Criticisms

- Too slow-moving to keep up with pace of technological change
- Made wrong decisions
 - WRC-15
 - 28 GHz
 - 600MHz
- Moved beyond its proper role
 - i.e. international spectrum harmonisation



Why is international harmonisation slow-moving?

- Why do we need it?
 - To deal with interference
 - extends beyond national boundaries
 - Needs legally robust international agreement
- Harmonisation reduces manufacturing costs
 - Huge economies of scale needed for \$1/chip
 - Markets of 200M and above
 - Bigger than almost all countries (But not regions!)
 - International cooperation required for ***functioning*** market



Who's to blame for slow speed?

- Some businesses need harmonisation
 - Aviation
 - Pharmaceuticals
 - Telecoms
- Agreement for 160 countries is tough!
- The testing required is a long process
 - ITU tried two-year WRCs in 1993, 1995 and 1997
 - Many items postponed because studies not complete
- ITU is a facilitator not an actor
 - Administrations are to blame for delays
- Slow speed is the nature of the beast...
 - At least to some extent!



Could the ITU speed things up?

- Spectrum harmonisation decisions are taken by consensus not by vote
 - The only international body to do this (I think!)
- Not just idealistic internationalism
 - Provides certainty
 - Decisions will not be voted down at next WRC
 - You know it has global support



Criticisms of ITU by FCC Commissioner Michael O'Rielly

- Not focusing on primary responsibility: global spectrum harmonisation
 - Data security, privacy, AI etc not relevant
 - Structural reform to ensure tech neutrality and focus
- But...mission agreed by UN
 - ??/insert details??
- Too much staffer power
 - perpetuate personal views
 - choose projects often unrelated to spectrum
- But....common criticism if you dislike policies
 - Do we expect executive only to follow not lead?

Criticisms of ITU by FCC Commissioner Michael O’Rielly

- ITU “used by authoritarian governments to push myopic agendas to the detriment of other countries, including America, and technology advancement”
 - Governments may make proposals, but these need consensus
 - WRC-19 agenda item on unauthorized satellite terminals unlikely to succeed
- US contributes “half of ITU’s funding”
 - ITU says top 10 countries contribute 34% of funding

The wider political context matters

- Very tough times for international organisations
 - Brexit
 - US withdrawal from Paris accord
 - Iran nuclear deal
 - NATO
 - United Nations
- Same themes:
 - A bad deal
 - Payments don't justify benefits
 - Our good nature is being exploited

The goose that lays the golden egg



- If we increased the power of the richest countries, what would happen?
 - 28 GHz and 600 MHz may have been agreed
 - But would they have been implemented?
- A danger of splinter groups of poorer countries
 - Probably diminishes richer countries power
 - If ITU can't deliver protect services, what's the point?
- The more harmonisation, the more money suppliers can make
 - E.g. Google and Facebook need international co-op to crack the developing world

Are things really so bad?

- Many countries look set to adopt 28 GHz
 - May well get ITU recognition
 - Big countries can get results without ITU
- Satellite industry boom makes ITU essential
 - Satellite need international co-ordination
- Slow moving - compared to what?
 - UK Prime Minister: two years to achieve Brexit compromise
 - Not got agreement of own party
 - Bring in the ITU!

