

Agenda item: PL 2.4

Document C14/19(Rev.1)-E  
18 March 2014  
Original: English

## Report by the Secretary-General

### ITU TELECOM EVENTS

#### Summary

This report summarizes ITU Telecom World 2013 and outlines plans for 2014.

#### Action required

The Council is required to **note** the report.

#### References

[Resolution 11 \(Rev. Guadalajara, 2010\)](#), Council documents [C12/13](#), [C13/19](#)

### ITU Telecom World 2013

1. Continuing and building on the format of the last two editions of Telecom events, ITU Telecom World 2013 took place in Bangkok, Thailand from 19-22 November. The event featured an action-packed programme of networking, knowledge sharing and innovations showcasing. It brought together the brightest minds and most influential leaders to debate key issues relating to the dramatic transformations that the ICT sector is undergoing, and how this change can be harnessed to improve people's lives everywhere.
2. The event welcomed some 6000 total participants, 239 speakers, 300 media from 20 countries and 120 outlets including print and broadcast. There were 166 showfloor participants from 33 countries and 25 partners and sponsors. Key players at the event, and who took part on the showfloor as major sponsors or as event partners, included Angola, China Mobile, Huawei Technologies, Ooredoo, Alcatel-Lucent, Asia Broadcast Satellite, AIS Group, AT&T, BBC World News, CNN, Dynamic Spectrum Alliance, DTAC, Gabon, Intel, Côte d'Ivoire, LS telcom, McKinsey, Microsoft Lync, Mitsubishi, NICT, Nigeria, NTT Group, Qualcomm, Rohde & Schwarz, Senegal, TDIA, Telenor, Telkom South Africa, True and Zimbabwe. Twenty-two national and thematic pavilions showcased ICT innovations from across the world including Argentina, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, China, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Lao P.D.R, Malaysia, Nigeria, Rwanda,

Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand (including supporting partners MICT, NBTC and TCEB), Uganda and Zimbabwe.

3. Under the theme of "Embracing Change in a Digital World", a host of expert speakers debated key topics shaping the ICT industry, and the world in which we live, from the contrasting perspectives of business, technology and policy. A series of panel discussions, Big Conversations moderated by major global media, workshops, ministerial roundtables and showfloor sessions encouraged lively interactive debate on areas as diverse as:

- the nature and impact of new technologies such as network virtualization, TD LTE, mobile cloud networks, software defined networks, and IPv6;
- the current and future impact of machine-to-machine communications and the internet of things, including smart solutions and smart cities;
- the challenges of spectrum supply in a data-hungry, increasingly connected world;
- the range of potential new business models needed in response to OTTs;
- the opportunities and possible dangers of big data, including monetizing big data analytics, serious issues of establishing public trust, and the need for new security and privacy frameworks;
- new approaches to regulation as the pace of technological development outstrips current regulatory systems, and as industry sectors converge;
- the transformative impact of mobile broadband in education globally, and on Africa's economy in particular; and
- the meeting of art, technology and society in fields such as robotics, big data and 3D printing.

4. Conversations were shared not just by the 6000 total participants in Thailand but around the world through live webcasts and discussions on social media platforms during the event, with 1400 tweets from 621 contributors, with a reach of over 4 million people worldwide and 5 million more on Weibo.

5. The showfloor saw much activity during the event, including spectacular showcases and presentations highlighting the latest cutting-edge technologies from business in the broadband era, new opportunities in voice and messaging, IPv6, TD-LTE technology, mobile security challenges, next-generation surveillance systems, ICTs for disaster relief, data-driven governance, and art, technology and society.

6. Innovation was high on the agenda at the event. For the first time, the event featured The Lab, a dynamic, futuristic space within the InnovationSpace on the showfloor. The Lab featured a compelling set of installations, enabling participants to interact directly with the technologies of tomorrow, including origami-inspired robotics, life-size striking silhouettes, thought-powered gaming and more. The Lab provided a visually striking, highly interactive complement to the activity on the showfloor and was widely visited by attendees throughout the event.

7. Building on the successful format pioneered at previous events, the event also featured the third edition of the ITU Telecom World Young Innovators competition, which brought together young people from across the globe to showcase their winning solutions using ICTs to find real-life solutions to real-world problems. The ten winners of the competition, which sought digital

solutions in the form of start-ups or initial concepts, travelled to Bangkok to attend the event, where they were able to take part in the accelerator programme, which featured one-on-one mentorship sessions with start-up mentors and business experts, hands-on workshop training, peer mentoring from the winners of the 2012 competition. They also benefitted from the opportunity to showcase their projects to the event's influential audience at the InnovationSpace on the showfloor.

8. ITU's Cybersecurity Pavilion, also on the showfloor, provided a global showcase for ITU's activities in this vital field, including a showfloor session on the lessons learned from ITU-IMPACT and partners' current global cybersecurity efforts; the launch of the Global Cybersecurity Index ranking the cybersecurity capabilities of nation states from different regions in one global index; ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Sector's presentation of ITU's "Standards on Security and Identity Management"; Nuix's demonstration on host-based investigations; and the Child Online Protection: Vision post BYND2015 briefing, attended by COP Champion, the First Lady of Nigeria, Dame Patience Jonathan. ITU's valued Cybersecurity Pavilion partners included ABI Research, High-Tech Bridge, ITA Oman, IMPACT, Nuix, Symantec, and The Cyber Guardian.

9. New debates and knowledge-sharing features at ITU Telecom World 2013 included:

- Meet a Leader sessions, providing small groups of participants with the opportunity to debate specific challenges and issues directly with selected executives, experts and leaders from the ICT sector.
- The one-day Investment Workshop aimed exclusively at investment project leaders within National Pavilion delegations seeking expert input on ICT investment projects for foreign partners such as smart cities, data centres, cloud computing, and outsourcing.
- Creative Conversations in The Lab bringing together leading thinkers in telecoms and ICT with artists making creative use of the new technologies reshaping society.

10. Networking is a core component of all ITU Telecom World events. At ITU Telecom World 2013, participants took part in a series of vibrant social occasions including the ITU World club dinner, sponsored by Huawei; Nigeria Night, sponsored by the active and committed Nigerian delegation; and Qatar Night, sponsored by the host country of ITU Telecom World 2014. Lunches and networking receptions were also offered by China Mobile, sponsors of the glittering Opening Ceremony, Zimbabwe, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Gabon. The well-received and much-visited Event App provided an additional platform for event participants to network, share comments, views and photos, and connect directly with one another.

11. World 2013 was the ideal stage for ITU, leading ICT players and ITU Member States to deliver their visions, key news and announcements, including:

- the Visionary Keynote speech presented by Telenor CEO Jon Fredrik Baksaas outlining the company's vision of connecting the unconnected in Myanmar and beyond;
- press conferences organized by South Sudan, the latest country to join the ITU, Senegal, Rwanda, Tanzania, plus press conference with McKinsey & Company, launching their report on the transformative impact of the internet on the economies of Africa; and
- the launch of the ITU & ABI Research Global Cybersecurity Index ranking cybersecurity capabilities of nation states from different regions in one global index.

## **Output from 2013**

12. Following in-depth analysis of over 50 interactive sessions at World 2013, ITU Telecom will release a full report of the major findings from the event in March 2014. "ITU Telecom World 2014: The Outcomes" will be available via the dedicated microsite at [telecomworld.itu.int](http://telecomworld.itu.int). This document is widely shared within the event community to inform, guide discussions and also to provide the foundations for future ITU Telecom debates. This output is sent to event participants, distributed to global media, and is also available in a limited print version as well as via its microsite.

## **Key financial results**

13. After the first year of the new event format, 2011, net results saw a steady improvement, from a negative result in 2009 to making a CHF 640,154 profit in 2012. The 2013 event is forecasted to generate a profit estimated around CHF 1.6m. These positive figures serve to show that ITU Telecom events are adapting well to new market conditions and needs.

## **Moving towards ITU Telecom World 2014 and beyond**

14. ITU Telecom World 2014 is due to take place from 7 to 11 December 2014 in Doha, Qatar. It will build on the features, format and innovations pioneered during the previous three ITU World Telecom events. The debate agenda will build on the outcomes drawn from ITU Telecom World 2013.

15. A call for bids for 2015 is to be launched during the first quarter 2014, and the venue for 2015 will be announced in November 2014.

16. Based on experience staging ITU Telecom events from 2011-2013, Member States may wish to amend Resolution 11.

---