



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE ORGANIZATION



About ITSO

ITSO is an **Intergovernmental organization** with **149 member states**, that incorporates the principle set forth in **Resolution 1721(XVI)** of the General Assembly of the **United Nations**, which established that communication by means of satellite should be available to the nations of the **world** as soon as practicable on a **global and non-discriminatory basis**. Originally established in 1973 as **INTELSAT**, the **International Telecommunications Satellite Organization** was restructured in 2001. The restructuring led to the creation of a private entity, Intelsat S.A., and to the continuation of the intergovernmental organization with a new acronym (ITSO). Since then, ITSO has been responsible for overseeing Intelsat's compliance with its public service obligations—a role that now extends to SES, following **SES acquisition of Intelsat** in July 2025. **ITSO's mission** is to **monitor** the performance of **SES/Intelsat's public service obligations** and to **safeguard the Parties' Common Heritage**.

Who we are

Intergovernmental organization, regionally diverse membership split among 5 regions.

REGION A

AMERICAS
26 MEMBERS

Argentina - Bahamas - Barbados - Bolivia - Brazil - Canada - Chile - Colombia - Costa Rica - Cuba - Dominican Republic - Ecuador - El Salvador - Guatemala - Haiti - Honduras - Jamaica - Mexico - Nicaragua - Panama - Paraguay - Peru - Trinidad and Tobago - United States of America - Uruguay - Venezuela

REGION B

WESTERN EUROPE
27 MEMBERS

Austria - Belgium - Croatia - Cyprus - Denmark - Estonia - Finland - France - Germany - Greece - Hungary - Iceland - Ireland - Italy - Liechtenstein - Luxembourg - Malta - Monaco - Netherlands - Norway - Portugal - Spain - Sweden - Switzerland - Türkiye - United Kingdom - Vatican City

REGION C

EASTERN EUROPE
& NORTHERN ASIA
14 MEMBERS

Armenia - Azerbaijan - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Czech Republic - Georgia - Kazakhstan - Kyrgyzstan - Montenegro - Poland - Romania - Russian Federation - Serbia - Tajikistan - Uzbekistan

REGION D

AFRICA
45 MEMBERS

Algeria - Angola - Benin - Botswana - Burkina Faso - Cameroon - Cabo Verde - Central Africa Republic - Chad - Comoros - Côte d'Ivoire - Democratic Republic of Congo - Egypt - Equatorial Guinea - Eswatini - Ethiopia - Gabon - Gambia - Ghana - Guinea - Guinea-Bissau - Kenya - Libya - Madagascar - Malawi - Mali - Mauritania - Mauritius - Morocco - Mozambique - Namibia - Niger - Nigeria - Republic of Congo - Rwanda - Senegal - Somalia - South Africa - Sudan - Tanzania - Togo - Tunisia - Uganda - Zambia - Zimbabwe

REGION E

ASIA &
AUSTRALASIA
37 MEMBERS

Afghanistan - Australia - Bahrain - Bangladesh - Bhutan - Brunei Darussalam - China - Federal State of Micronesia - Fiji - India - Indonesia - Iran - Iraq - Israel - Japan - Jordan - Kuwait - Lebanon - Malaysia - Mongolia - Nepal - New Zealand - Oman - Pakistan - Papua New Guinea - People's Republic of Korea - Philippines - Qatar - Republic of Korea - Saudi Arabia - Singapore - Sri Lanka - Syrian Arab Republic - Thailand - United Arab Emirates - Vietnam - Yemen

Milestones

1973

Establishment of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT) with the mission to **ensure the availability of international telecommunications services to all countries** of the world on a **non-discriminatory basis**.

Intelsat's restructuring to reflect regulatory and competitive pressures while ensuring the ability to continue to meet its universal service and access commitments in the long term. The restructuring **resulted in the creation of a private entity, Intelsat S.A.**, and the continuation of the **intergovernmental organization** under a new acronym (ITSO) and mission.

2001

The **35th Assembly of Parties decided that the performance by Intelsat of its Public Service Obligations remains as important as it was in 2001**, that the ITSO Agreement plays a crucial role in ensuring that the principles, obligations and objectives as defined during the restructuring continue to be adhered to and; that it is essential to continue to have a mechanism in place for upholding and protecting the Public Service Obligations as well as the Parties Common Heritage Assets.

2012

The Amendment to **Article XII, Paragraph (c)(ii)** of the ITSO Agreement **entered into force on January 16.**

2025

SES has completed its acquisition of Intelsat.

2017

ITSO Agreement

- The main purpose and Core Principles of ITSO
- Maintain global connectivity and global coverage
- Serve lifeline connectivity customers
- Provide non-discriminatory access to SES/Intelsat's system
- The supervisory role of ITSO to ensure that SES/Intelsat carries out the performance of the Core Principles
- The protection of the Parties Common Heritage orbital locations and associated frequency assignments which are unique in their capability to ensure global coverage
- The structure of ITSO, which is comprised of the Assembly of Parties and an executive organ, headed by the Director General, responsible to the Assembly of Parties
- The rights and obligations of the Parties
- The dispute resolution mechanism.

Effective from January 16th, 2017, the amended Article XII, Paragraph (ii) of the ITSO Agreement ensures that if SES/Intelsat or any future entity using the Common Heritage frequency assignments, waives such frequency assignment(s), uses such assignment(s) in ways other than those set forth in the ITSO Agreement, or declares bankruptcy, the Notifying Administrations shall authorize the use of such frequency assignment(s) only by entities that have signed a public services agreement, which will enable ITSO to ensure that the selected entities fulfill the Core Principles.

Goals and Objectives

Objective 1

Maintain the continuity of the provision of international public telecommunications satellite services.

Objective 2

Protect the Parties' Common Heritage orbital locations and associated frequency assignments.

Objective 3

Contribute to the promotion of a global information and communications infrastructure.

Membership Benefits

- Vested interest in Parties' Common Heritage orbital locations and associated frequencies assignments.
- Non-discriminatory access to SES/Intelsat's systems.
- Protection under Article IV(b) of the ITSO Agreement for certain domestic public telecommunications services for areas with difficult topography, which could be considered on the same basis as international public telecommunications services.
- Dispute Resolution mechanism under the ITSO Agreement.
- Taking part in promoting international public telecommunications services to meet the needs of the information and communication society.
- Assistance on customer-related issues with SES/Intelsat
- Advice regarding ICT policy and regulation.
- Participating in and benefiting from studies on specific ICT-related topics.
- New opportunities that might arise during the implementation of the Amended to Article XII, Paragraph (c) (ii) of the ITSO Agreement.

No monetary contribution is required for membership.

EXECUTIVE ORGAN

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