



**Statute of the Islamic States
Telecommunication Union**

(ISTU)

PREAMBLE:

The Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation;

Guided by the objectives of the Organization as stipulated in the Charter;

Convinced of their desire to develop and promote cooperation among themselves in the economic, social, cultural, scientific and religious fields, and to mobilize their economic resources and the available capabilities to the optimum in order to fulfil this desire;

Recognizing that telecommunications is an important element of this cooperation, and that development of telecommunication links and communications will lead to progress and contribute to the general welfare of the Member States to their mutual interest and benefit;

Anxious to establish a sound and efficient structure for the telecommunications network as a foundation for improving local and international communications to enable their propels to get better acquainted with each other;

Appreciating the important recommendations of the Third Islamic Summit Conference and the Council of Foreign Ministers to ensure cooperation and coordination in the field of telecommunications;

Approve the Statute of the Islamic Telecommunications Union;

Declare their complete readiness to put the Statute into effect in letter and spirit; and

Express their sincere wish to exert every efforts to achieve its aims and objectives.

DEFINITIONS

The following words as mentioned throughout the Statute shall mean the following:-

1.	The Statute	The Statute of the Islamic States Telecommunications Union
2.	The Union	The Islamic States Telecommunications Union
3.	The General Assembly	The General Assembly of the Union
4.	The Executive Board	The Executive Board of the Union
5.	Members	The States which sign and ratify this Statute
6.	The Organization	The Organization of Islamic Cooperation

Article 1: Establishment of the Union

A Union is hereby established, within the Organization's framework, to deal with telecommunications affairs, as a specialized organ. The Union shall enjoy the status of a full legal personality. Its Headquarters will be in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Article 2: Objectives of the Union

The Union aims at achieving the following objectives:

- (i) To promote Islamic solidarity in the telecommunications field;
- (ii) To ensure self-sufficiency, integration and coordination among Member States in the telecommunications area, as much as possible;
- (iii) To protect the Members' interest within similar international organizations and forums, by all possible means, and to provide advice, consultancy and suggested solutions in matters referred by the Members.
- (iv) To propose plans, undertake studies and pursue research with view to develop and modernize telecommunications according to advanced international technical and technological standards;
- (v) To extend all possible assistance to the Members for training manpower and establishing centres and institutes specializing in telecommunications;
- (vi) To make the maximum possible use of the manpower, expert services and training facilities available in the Member States;
- (vii) To expedite the modernisation of the technical methods and operation works, and offer the available technical and technological services to upgrade the standard of services in the member states;
- (viii) a) To continue encouraging the use of the Arabic alphabet and Arabic language as an official language, besides English and French, in all similar international forums and Conferences;
b) To encourage, as much as possible, the use of the Arabic alphabet in telecommunications among the member states;
- (ix) to encourage the Members to set up industries for manufacturing telecommunications equipment and material; and to coordinate the Members' endeavours towards the technical, technological and economic integration of such industries;

- (x) to encourage effective participation by Member States and coordination of their positions in the regional, international and other conferences relating to telecommunications;
- (xi) to develop cooperation among members in establishing telephones, telegraph, telex, data and other telecommunications services, and to enhance telecommunications networks, as well as to ensure the complementary of ground and space networks through coordination with similar regional and international organizations;
- (xii) pursue any other task which is of interest and mutual benefit to the Member in the field of telecommunications, and the general objectives of the Union.

Article 3: Immunities and Privileges

The provisions of the Agreement on Immunities and Privileges of the Organization shall apply to all the organs, Conferences and Committees of the Union, to the members' representatives to that Union, and to the Union's staff;

Article 4: Membership

The Union shall be composed of the Member States of the Organization who sign and ratify the present Statute;

Article 5: Organs of the Union

The organs of the Union shall be:-

- a) the General Assembly
- b) the Executive Board
- c) the Secretariat General

Article 6: The General Assembly

a) Composition and Meetings

- (i) The General Assembly is the highest authority to the Union. It consists of all the Union's Members represented by high-level delegates having specialized experience;
- (ii) The General Assembly shall hold an ordinary session once every 3 years. Its extraordinary sessions may be held at the request of any Member or the Director General with the approval of two-third of the Members. Quorum for any session shall consist of a majority of the Members.

- (iii) Each Member shall be entitled to one vote.
- (iv) The General Assembly shall adopt its resolutions on ordinary matters by a simple majority, and on other matters by two-third majority.
- (v) The General Assembly shall hold its meetings in the Headquarters of the Union. It may also hold its meetings outside the Headquarters at the invitation of any Member.
- (vi) The General Assembly may invite to its meetings, in an observer capacity, organizations, federations, agencies or experts.
- (vii) The General Assembly may either establish or form such specialized organs and advisory committees as it may deem necessary to achieve the objectives of the Federation.

b) Power and Duties of the General Assembly:

- (i) Elect the President and the Vice President.
- (ii) Elect the Executive Board on the basis of equitable geographic distribution.
- (iii) Elect the Director General and his Assistant in accordance with the present Statute and upon the proposals and recommendations of the Members.
- (iv) Draw-up the general policy which would ensure the achievement of the Union's objectives.
- (v) Work-out the Union's by-laws.
- (vi) Establish the financial policy and general programme of the Union.
- (vii) Adopt recommendations, resolutions and reports, and approve the agreements which the Union may enter into with the States and other Organizations.
- (viii) Deal with cases in which a Member does not honour his obligations towards the Union.
- (ix) Reviews the activities and work of the Executive Board.

Article 7: The Executive Board

a) Composition and Meetings

- (i) The Executive Board shall be composed of 11 Members elected by the General Assembly on the basis of equitable geographic distribution, for a three year period renewable once.
- (ii) The Director General of the Union and a representative of the General Secretariat of the Organization would also be Members of the Executive Board but without voting powers.
- (iii) The Executive Board shall meet at least once a year. It shall elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman at each ordinary session.
- (iv) The Executive Board may hold extraordinary session at the request of a Union member, and with the approval of four Board members, or at the request of the Director-General.
- (v) The Executive Board shall be responsible to the General Assembly. It has the full power to implement the resolutions and recommendations issued by the General Assembly with the purpose of realising the Union's objectives.
- (vi) The Executive Board shall adopt its decisions on ordinary matters by a simple majority, and on other matters by a two-third majority.
- (vii) The Executive Board may set up adhoc ordinary Committees as it deems necessary.

b) Powers and Duties of the Executive Board

- (i) Take measures required for the implementation of the General policies drawn-up by the General Assembly.
- (ii) Prepare all the necessary regulations and instructions for the smooth running of the Union's activities and follow-up their execution.
- (iii) Consider the reports of the Union's Secretariat General on its activities, and submit them to the General Assembly with appropriate recommendations.
- (iv) Approve the Union's annual budget in the light of the rules and basis laid by the General Assembly
- (v) Approve the Union's annual closing accounts

- (vi) Specify the necessary rules for auditing the Union's accounts, and appoint a Chartered Accountant for such an auditing.
- (vii) Delegate to the Director General any of its duties and responsibilities.
- (viii) Prepare the agenda and documents for the meetings of the General Assembly.
- (ix) The Executive Board may invite observers or guests to attend its meetings without voting rights.
- (x) Considering the activity and work of the Executive Council.

Article 8: The Union's Secretariat

1. The General Secretariat of the Union shall be composed of a Director General responsible for its overall management, an Assistant Director General, and a number of staff members who are to be appointed by the Director General with due regard to their capabilities, integrity and the principle of equitable geographic distribution.
2. The Director General, in exercise of his duties, will be responsible to the Executive Board.

Article 9:

A. Election of the Director General

- (i) The Director General shall be elected by the General Assembly in coordination with the Secretary General of the Organization for a term of 3 years, renewable by one term only.
- (ii) The Director General shall be a Muslim national of one of the Member States, and should be highly qualified in telecommunications.
- (iii) The Assistant Director General shall be elected on the same terms and conditions laid down for the election of the Director General.

B. Powers and Duties of the Director-General

- (i) Implementation and supervision of the General policy of the Union and the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Executive Board.

- (ii) Administrative and technical supervision of the Staff, and follow-up of the activities of the Union.
- (iii) Preparation of the annual draft budget and its submission, along with the final accounts, to the Executive Board.
- (iv) Presentation of reports on the Union's activities to the General Assembly and the Executive Board.
- (v) Carrying out studies and research in accordance with the resolutions and recommendations of the General Assembly and the Executive Board.
- (vi) Preparation of the annual work plan and its submission to the Executive Board.
- (vii) Preparatory work of various conferences and meetings of the Union.
- (viii) Coordination of the view-points of the Members.
- (ix) Submission of all relevant matters along with background notes and other documents to the various conferences and committees.
- (x) Compilation, classification and circulation of data and information in the telecommunications field to the members of the Union.
- (xi) Preparation of the Union's organogram and its submission to the Executive Board.
- (xii) The Director General shall be responsible for the Union's funds, and for expenditure in accordance with the financial regulations to be drawn up by the General Assembly.

Article 10: Financial Resources of the Union

The financial resources of the Union shall consist of:-

- (i) Contributions from Member States, which shall be assessed according to the basis applied in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation;
- (ii) Donations and voluntary contributions as approved by the General Assembly;
- (iii) Revenues for services rendered;

- (iv) Any other resources approved by the General Assembly or the executive Board.

Article 11: Relations with Other Organizations

The Union, with the approval of the General Assembly may establish and maintain relations with international or regional organizations; Telecommunications Administrations in non-Member countries; and recognized private operating agencies dealing with telecommunications, except organizations in racist and Zionist countries.

Article 12: Emblem of the Union

The emblem of the Union shall be in harmony with the emblem of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and shall reflect the purposes and goals of the Union. The emblem, whose specifications and contents will be laid down by the General Assembly, shall be used in the official communications and dealings of the Union.

Article 13: Other Agreements between the Member States

The Member States shall keep into view all the provisions of this Statute while concluding bilateral or multilateral agreements with one another in the field of telecommunications. They shall also transmit to the Secretariat of the Union copies of such agreements.

Article 14: Settlement of Disputes

In case a dispute should arise between two or more Members out of the interpretation or application of the provisions of this Statute and should remain unsolved, it shall be referred to the next meeting of the General Assembly following the occurrence of the dispute, for a final settlement.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 15: Entry into Force

This Statute shall enter into force following the deposit of instruments of the ratification by 15 Member States with the General Secretariat of the Organization.

Article 16: Withdrawal

- a. Any Member may withdraw from the Union by written notification transmitted to the General Secretariat of the Organization which, in turn, will advise other Members of the Union of the withdrawal.

- b. The member applying for withdrawal shall be bound by its obligations until the end of the fiscal year during which the application withdrawal is submitted.

Article 17: Amendment of the Statute

The Statute may be amended by the General Assembly by a two-third majority of the Members. The amendment shall be submitted for approval to Council of Foreign Ministers, and shall become effective after ratification by the two-third of the Member States.

Article 18: Dissolution of the Union

- a. The Union can only be dissolved by a decision of a four-fifth majority of the General Assembly at an extra-ordinary of the General Assembly at an extra-ordinary session held for this purpose.
- b. Dissolution shall become effective after approval of Council of Foreign Ministers.
- c. The property of the Union, after dissolution, shall be transferred to the Organization.

Article 19: Official Languages

The official languages of the Union shall be Arabic, English and French. This Statute has been drawn up in these three languages each being equally authentic. However, in case of discrepancy, the Arabic text shall prevail.