

**Working Group for the Entry into Force (WGEF)  
of the International Coffee Agreement 2022**

4<sup>th</sup> Meeting

11 March 2024

London, United Kingdom

**Comparative analysis: private sector  
and civil society participation in  
international organizations**

**Background**

1. As per the provisions of the International Coffee Agreement 2022 (ICA) 2022, an entity of the private sector and civil society will be eligible to be considered for affiliate membership once the ICA 2022 enters into force.
2. Following a request from El Salvador, and to facilitate discussions on the terms of the abovementioned non-public stakeholders' participation in the activities of the Organization, the Secretariat has compared their criteria for membership in other international organizations.

**Action**

The WGEF is requested to consider the attached comparative analysis.

**COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: PRIVATE SECTOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

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## Section A: Private sector and civil society participation in the International Telecommunication Union and the United Nations World Tourism Organization

1. This section presents a comparative analysis of the role and participation of the private sector and civil society in two major international organizations: the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The comparison focuses on several key aspects, including criteria for membership, meeting attendance, contribution payments, and other relevant factors.

2. Table 1 below provides a side-by-side comparison of private sector participation for the ITU. The ITU offers several types of membership, each designed to cater to different entities and their roles in the telecommunication and information technology sectors. The key membership categories are:

- (a) Member States: Countries that are members of the ITU and have voting rights.
- (b) Sector members: Companies, universities, and international organizations that can participate in ITU activities but without voting rights.
- (c) Associates: Entities participating in a limited range of ITU activities.
- (d) Academia: Universities and research institutions contributing to the ITU's work.

3. Each category has its own application process, contributions, and benefits, tailored to the nature of the entity and its role in the ITU's objectives.

**Table 1: Criteria for the participation of the private sector and civil society in the ITU**

Criteria	Sector Member	Associate	Academia
<b>Membership and eligibility (other than Member States and observers)<sup>1</sup></b>	Open to companies of all sizes from diverse sectors <sup>2</sup> (telecommunications, internet, IT, automotive, energy, etc.).  Role: Participating in and contributing to research and development in telecommunications.	Designed for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), as per national definitions.  Role: Participating in and contributing to research and development in telecommunications.	Over 160 universities and research institutions worldwide.  Role: Participating in and contributing to research and development in telecommunications.

<sup>1</sup> Eligibility criteria are dealt with in article 19 of the ITU Agreement

<sup>2</sup> The three Sectors are: Radiocommunication (ITU-R); Telecommunication Standardization (ITU-T); and Telecommunication Development (ITU-D). Each Sector has its own unique characteristics and activities. See <https://www.itu.int/hub/membership/how-we-are-governed/>

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Sector Member</b>	<b>Associate</b>	<b>Academia</b>
<b>Application process</b>	Submit online application; Approval by national telecommunication administration required.	Submit online application; Approval by national telecommunication administration required.	Submit online application; Approval by national telecommunication administration required.
<b>Payment contributions/fees</b>	1/60 to 40 units selected voluntarily. Specific classes reserved for certain categories.  Standard Fee for Developed countries: 1 unit = CHF 63,600; Minimum Fee for Developed Countries (ITU-R and ITU-T) = ½ unit = CHF 31,800; Minimum Fee for Developing Countries (ITU-R and ITU-T) = 1/16 unit = CHF 3,975 (for specific companies/organizations); Minimum Fee (ITU-D) = 1/8 unit = CHF 7,950.	Determined by Council based on Sector Member unit.  Standard Fee for Developed Countries (ITU-T and ITU-R): 1/6 unit = CHF 10,600; Minimum Fee for Developing Countries (ITU-D): 1/16 unit = CHF 3,975 or 1/32 unit = CHF 1,987.50; Reduced Fee for SMEs (Developed Countries) 1/16 unit = CHF 3,975; Reduced Fee for SMEs (Developing Countries) 1/32 unit = CHF 1,987.50.	As per Resolution 169 (Rev. Dubai, 2018).  Standard Fee for Developed Countries: 1/16 unit = CHF 3,97; Minimum Fee for Developing Countries (ITU-R and ITU-T) = 1/32 unit = CHF 1,987.50.
<b>Benefits</b>	Participating in standard setting and ICT development; Networking; Access to training and seminars; Discounts on ITU publications.	Contributing to Study Groups; Access to seminars and ITU resources.	Contributing to ICT research and development; Access to ITU's resources and networking opportunities.
<b>Attendance at meetings</b>	Eligible to participate across full range of Sector activities.	Eligible to participate in one Study Group per Sector.	Eligible to participate in all three Sectors.

Criteria	Sector Member	Associate	Academia
	No voting rights in Plenipotentiary Conference and Council <sup>3</sup>	No voting rights in Plenipotentiary Conference and Council.	No voting rights in Plenipotentiary Conference and Council.
<b>Membership cancellation</b>	Renewed annually.  Formal notification required for cancellation	Renewed annually.  Formal notification required for cancellation.	Renewed annually.  Formal notification required for cancellation.

4. Table 2 represents the decision-making process for ITU. As detailed therein, the ITU has several key bodies that meet at different frequencies.

**Table 2: ITU bodies' structure and decision-making processes**

Body	Description	Frequency of Meetings
<b>Plenipotentiary Conference (PP)</b>	Highest policy-making body that consists of the representatives of the Member States of the Union (193) and it is held every four years.  Members states determine ITU policies and strategic direction, and elect senior management.  Member States have voting rights.	Every four years.
<b>ITU Council</b>	Governing body in the interval between Plenipotentiary Conferences. Composed of 48 Member States.  Responsible for administrative and budgetary issues. <sup>4</sup>  Member States have voting rights.	Annually (typically once a year).

<sup>3</sup> As the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies, the Union is governed by the Plenipotentiary Conference and the ITU Council to which only Member States are parties.

<sup>4</sup> The Council ensures that the Union's activities, policies and strategies fully respond to the rapidly evolving telecommunications environment. It prepares a report on the policy and strategic planning of the ITU, and is responsible for ensuring the smooth day-to-day running of the Union, coordinating work programmes, approving budgets and controlling finances and expenditure. The Council works to facilitate the implementation of provisions and decisions of the ITU Constitution, the ITU Convention, the Administrative Regulations (International Telecommunications Regulations and Radio Regulations), Plenipotentiary Conferences and, where appropriate, other conferences and meetings of the Union. See: <https://council.itu.int/2024/en/> See also at <https://pp22.itu.int/en/about/about-pp22/>

Body	Description	Frequency of Meetings
<b>ITU Sectors (ITU-R, ITU-T, ITU-D)</b>	<p>Each sector has assemblies and study groups for decision-making.</p> <p>Sector members contribute to standards and recommendations.</p> <p>No voting rights in policy-making bodies for sector members.</p>	<p>Varies per sector; assemblies typically meet every four years, and study groups have their own schedules.</p>

5. Table 3 provides an overview of the private sector’s participation in the UNWTO. The UNWTO’s Affiliate Membership process involves several steps, including an application form, internal verification, government endorsement, review by a specialized committee, provisional admission by the Executive Council, and final admission by the General Assembly. Affiliate Members, such as businesses and organizations involved in sustainable tourism, pay an annual fee, and can participate in various UNWTO activities, contributing to sustainable tourism and having access to knowledge and innovation. They also have a voice and vote in meetings. Details on membership cancellation are not provided.

**Table 3: Participation of the private sector in UNWTO**

Criteria	
<b>Membership and eligibility (other than Member States and Observers)</b>	Affiliate Members include businesses, destinations, and civil society actors contributing to sustainable global tourism.
<b>Application process</b>	<p>Entities apply for Affiliate Membership, as outlined below. The Executive Council provisionally admits members, granting them all membership rights and obligations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Fill out the application form and submit supporting documents:</b> Complete the Affiliate Membership Application Form. Submit a signed statement of commitment to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and acceptance of the Statutes of the Organization. The UNWTO may request additional information if necessary.</li> <li><b>Internal Verification by the UNWTO:</b> The UNWTO checks the information for eligibility and compliance with the criteria set out in the Affiliate Members’ legal framework. The UNWTO requests endorsement from the Government of the State where the candidate’s headquarters is located.</li> <li><b>Endorsement from the Government:</b> The State verifies that the candidate complies with the admission requisites established in the Charter of Affiliate Membership.</li> </ol>

<b>Criteria</b>	
	<p>4. <b>Report of the Committee on Matters Related to Affiliate Membership:</b> The application is circulated to the Members of the specialized Committee for consideration. The Committee submits its report to the Executive Council on the suitability of candidatures for provisional admission.</p> <p>5. <b>Provisional Admission by the Executive Council of the UNWTO:</b> The Executive Council may provisionally admit Affiliate Members at its meetings. Provisionally admitted members assume the obligation to pay the prorated portion of the established annual contribution (€2,700) based on their date of admission.</p> <p>6. <b>Admission by the General Assembly of the UNWTO:</b> Candidatures provisionally admitted by the Executive Council are presented to the General Assembly for ratification.</p>
<b>Payments of contributions</b>	Affiliate Members are obligated to pay a prorated portion of the established annual contribution (€2,700) based on their date of admission.
<b>Benefits</b>	Contributing to sustainable tourism, access to knowledge and innovation, alignment with the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, and participating in UNWTO's activities and programs.
<b>Attendance at meetings</b>	All Affiliate Members are represented in the Plenary and have voice and vote. They can also participate in the Board of the Affiliate Members and various UNWTO events.
<b>Membership cancellation</b>	Specific details on membership cancellation were not provided in the sources reviewed.

6. Table 4 compares two entities: the Board of Affiliate Members and the AMConnected+ Online Collaborative Platform, both related to the UNWTO (United Nations World Tourism Organization). Overall, the table contrasts the structure, purpose, and functions of a formal advisory body (Board of Affiliate Members) with those of a digital collaborative platform (AMConnected+ Online Collaborative Platform) within the UNWTO framework.

**Table 4: UNWTO Affiliate Members – additional information**

<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Board of Affiliate Members</b>	<b>AMConnected+ Online Collaborative Platform</b>
<b>Role/purpose</b>	<p>Advisory body to the UNWTO Secretary-General.</p> <p>Responsible for aligning members with UNWTO's goals and work.</p>	<p>Serves as a networking and interaction platform for Affiliate Members.</p>

Aspect	Board of Affiliate Members	AMConnected+ Online Collaborative Platform
<b>Composition/features</b>	12 Regional Members elected by Affiliate Members; 8 Board Members elected by Affiliate Members.; 3 Members designated by the Secretary-General.	Features forums, resource sharing, project collaboration, and other engagement opportunities.
<b>Chair/access</b>	Chaired by an elected member based on specific rules.	Members can log in or request access to participate in the community.
<b>Meetings</b>	Meets at least twice a year, convened with a one-month notice.	Not applicable as this pertains to a digital platform.
<b>Key functions</b>	Makes administrative and technical decisions.  Provides recommendations for Affiliate Members' Programme of Work. advises on annual strategy and main objectives, and Undertakes tasks assigned by the Plenary or Committee.	Not applicable as this pertains to a digital platform.

7. Overall, the comparison highlights the distinct ways in which the private sector and civil society engage with ITU and UNWTO. While both organizations provide significant opportunities for private sector involvement, their approaches differ in line with their specific mandates and operational structures. ITU focuses on telecommunications standardization and development, offering technical and informational benefits. In contrast, UNWTO integrates the private sector into the broader mission of promoting sustainable tourism collaboration and knowledge exchange.

**Table 5: Comparison of decision-making processes of ITU and UNWTO**

Criteria	ITU	UNWTO
<b>Highest decision-making body</b>	<b>Plenipotentiary Conference (PP)</b>	<b>General Assembly</b>
	Includes representatives of 193 Member States.	Comprises all Member States.
	Determines ITU policies, strategic direction, and elects senior management.	Decides on policies, main lines of work, elects the Secretary-General and Executive Council members.
	Voting rights for Member States.	Voting rights for Member States.
	Meets every four years.	Meets every two years.
<b>Intermediate governing body</b>	<b>ITU Council</b>	<b>Executive Council</b>



Criteria	ITU	UNWTO
	48 Member States. Manages administrative and budgetary issues Voting rights for Member States. Meets annually.	Elected by the General Assembly. Implements decisions of the General Assembly Voting rights for Member States. Meets at least twice a year.
<b>Sectoral/technical decision-making</b>	<b>ITU Sectors (ITU-R, ITU-T, ITU-D)</b>  Assemblies and study groups for sector-specific decision-making; Sector members contribute to standards and recommendations; No voting rights in the highest decision-making bodies; Meeting frequency varies per sector.	<b>Affiliate Members' Committees and Working Groups</b>  Composed of businesses, destinations, and civil society actors; Contributes to sustainable tourism, innovation, and committees' work; No direct voting rights in the highest decision-making bodies; Meeting frequency varies.

8. On examining the decision-making structures of the ITU and UNWTO, some similarities in their organizational frameworks have been observed. Both entities require that applications for membership or specific roles be approved by their existing Member States. This ensures that new members or initiatives align with the collective goals of existing members.

9. In each organization, the principal decision-making body (the Plenipotentiary Conference for ITU and the General Assembly for UNWTO) consists of all Member States, reflecting a comprehensive approach to policy and strategic direction. Such a structure emphasizes collective responsibility and decision-making at the highest level. Moreover, both organizations combine strategic, high-level policymaking with sector-specific, technical groups. This dual approach balances broad strategic objectives with the nuanced input of specialized expertise, essential for the effective functioning and relevance of global organizations like ITU and UNWTO.

**Section B: Private sector participation in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), la Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) and the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF)**

**Table 6: Private sector participation in OPEC, FIFA, UEFA, CONCACAF**

Criteria	OPEC	FIFA	UEFA	CONCACAF
<b>Nature of participation</b>	Financing activities, loans, equity investments, trade finance support.	Sponsorships, partnerships, developmental activities.	Typically sponsorships and partnerships (specific details not available).	Typically sponsorships and partnerships (specific details not available).

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>OPEC</b>	<b>FIFA</b>	<b>UEFA</b>	<b>CONCACAF</b>
<b>Scope of Activities</b>	Global reach, supporting projects in various sectors.	Global initiatives for sport competitiveness and development.	European football development and tournament organization (assumed).	Football development and tournaments in North/Central America and Caribbean (assumed).
<b>Key Areas</b>	Energy, financial, agriculture, industry, transportation, telecom, health.	Technical development, grassroots programs, global football competitiveness.	European football landscape and its development (assumed).	Football landscape and development in North/Central America and Caribbean.

## **OPEC**

The private sector's role in OPEC, primarily through the OPEC Fund for International Development, is integral to supporting socioeconomic development across various sectors in over 60 countries.

## **FIFA**

Private sector involvement is crucial to FIFA's operations, especially in the organization of world-class football tournaments like the World Cup and the execution of global football development initiatives.

## **UEFA & CONCACAF**

While specific details are not available, it is generally understood that the private sector participates mainly through sponsorships and partnerships, similar to FIFA, contributing to the development and organization of regional football tournaments and activities.

## Section C: Final comparison

**Table 7: Comparison of all organizations**

Criteria	ITU	UNWTO	OPEC	FIFA	CONCACAF
<b>Membership and eligibility</b>	Private entities can be Sector Members if approved by a Member State.	Affiliate Members include companies, educational institutions, NGOs.	Primarily a governmental organization; private sector engagement in financing.	Private sector participates mainly through sponsorships and partnerships.	Private sector partnerships for football development and commercial activities.
<b>Application process</b>	Submit application through national government; subject to ITU review and approval; Member State approval needed.	Submit documents; meet criteria; subject to UNWTO; Member State approval needed.	No typical application for private entities; engagement in finance projects.	Business negotiations; proposal submission; contract agreement with FIFA.	Proposal submission; discussion; partnership agreement with CONCACAF.
<b>Payment contributions/ fees</b>	Sector Members pay contributions based on a system of classes.	Not clearly specified.	Private sector involved in funding projects.	Sponsorships and commercial partnerships.	Partnerships and sponsorships.
<b>Benefits</b>	Technical standards development, access to studies and data.	Promoting sustainable tourism, economic. Diversification.	Financing projects in sectors like energy, agriculture, industry.	Global football development, grassroots programmes.	Development of football in North/Central America and the Caribbean.
<b>Attendance at meetings</b>	Sector Members participate in activities but without voting rights in key meetings.	Affiliate Members have voice and vote in specific committees.	Not applicable for private entities.	Not directly involved in meetings; support through event partnerships.	Engages with private sector in sports summits and forums.