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International Telecommunication Union –
150th anniversary

Dear Sir/Madam,

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2015. ITU was founded on 17 May 1865, with the signing in Paris, by the twenty founding members, of the first International Telegraph Convention. The International Telegraph Union (the first incarnation of ITU) was established to oversee subsequent amendments to the agreement. That significant date – 17 May – eventually came to be marked as World Telecommunication and Information Society Day.

ITU took its present name in 1932, and in 1947 became a specialized agency of the United Nations.

For a century and a half since 1865, ITU has been at the centre of advances in communications – from telegraphy, through to the modern world of satellites, mobile phones and the Internet.

The story of ITU is one of international cooperation among governments, private companies and other stakeholders. The continuing mission is to achieve the best practical solutions for integrating new technologies as they develop, and to spread their benefits to all.

ITU and its members are organizing a range of activities to celebrate the organization's 150th anniversary. Some member countries may choose to issue commemorative stamps in 2015. An ITU 150th anniversary stamp design package is available for interested member countries, which can adapt it to their own national requirements.

We invite all UPU member countries to get actively involved in the celebrations. For further information, please visit www.itu150.org, or contact the ITU Secretariat at itu150@itu.int.

Yours faithfully,

Juliana Nel
Director of Markets Development