

ITA Mission Statement

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« ITA, the leading international organization promoting the use of tunnels and underground space through knowledge sharing, technical advance and ethical business practice »

Founded in 1974 by the initiative of nineteen Nations, the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association (ITA) which aims are:

- to encourage the use of the subsurface for the benefit of public, environment and sustainable development and
- to promote advances in planning, design, construction, maintenance and safety of tunnels and underground space, by bringing together information thereon and by studying questions related thereto.

To fulfil the mission, the General Assembly in 2017 has adopted a [strategic plan](#) and in 2019 validated the [action goals](#) for the coming year.

Members

Since then, ITA has considerably developed. Any independent nation, may through the medium of a National Organization become an ITA "Member Nation". Presently, ITA gathers 78 Member Nations.

Corporations and individuals (as far as they fulfill the conditions) can participate in the activities of the Association by becoming an "Affiliate member". ITA gathers 300 Corporate or Individual Affiliate Members.

Among the Corporate members some are more involved inside ITA being Prime Sponsors or Supporters.

The General Assembly, which met annually, resolves all questions concerning the organisation and conducts of the affairs of the Association; it shall approve the budget of receipts and expenditure, and appoint and organise all Committees of the Association; it shall decide on the admission of new adhering national Organisation and of the new affiliate member.

The General Assembly is host by a Member Nation at the occasion of the yearly World Tunnel Congress.

Aims

Briefly, some of the current goals of ITA include:

- To encourage new uses of underground space for the benefit of the public, environment, and sustainable development.
- To encourage studies of underground alternatives to surface construction, not only considering construction costs but also indirect life-cycle costs and savings as well as social and environmental advantages.
- To stimulate the development of guidelines for a positive public strategy to take advantage of subsurface potential.
- To encourage the development of better and cheaper methods for planning, geo-investigation, design, construction, operation, maintenance and safety of underground structures by using improved methods such as new technical developments and risk management principles.
- To improve training of everyone, especially young professionals, by conducting workshops, by

improving and coordinating academic programs worldwide, and by improved on-the-job training.

- To bring together engineers, owners and others involved in the development of underground space, such as architects, planners, authorities, economists, lawyers, insurers, financiers and politicians.
- To arrange international exchange on developments in underground technology and experience from its use.

Means

To reach its objectives, ITA has set up international working groups (WG) to study and report on specific topics. Today, 14 working groups are active.

ITA has 4 committees:

- **ITA-COSUF**, Committee on Operational Safety in Underground facilities with the cooperation of the World Road Association-PIARC and all the major European fire research organizations.
- **ITA-CET**, Committee on Education and Training, nicknamed « University Network »
- **ITA-CUS**, Committee on Underground Space
- **ITAtch**, Committee on New Technologies

ITA has also another group called [Young Members Group](#)

Statutes

- [Our Statutes \(2020\)](#) can be downloaded here.

ITA by lawS

- [Click here](#) to download the document "ITA By-Laws 2021".