



About the International Tunnelling Association, its vision and how this could be applied in Africa

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About ITA-AITES



- Non-Profit and Non-Governmental Organisation
- Funded in 1974, and based in Geneva
- Special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 1987
- Promotes the use of underground space for sustainable development
- Act as a global platform for knowledge exchange and innovation
- Largely driven by voluntary contributions from professionals around the world



ITA's Vision: Underground Solutions for a Better World



- **Be committed to UN Sustainable Development Goals**
- **Advocate and raise awareness** on the use of tunnelling and underground space.
- **Facilitate** interaction and joint activities between Member Nations and industry.
- **Empower** decision makers and professionals to make informed choices about efficient, reliable, sustainable and resilient underground infrastructure for current and future generations.
- **Share** technical knowledge, experience and best practices.
- Create a platform for **Education and Training**.

Hubs of expertise: ITA Working Groups and Committees

15 ACTIVE WORKING GROUPS

WORKING GROUP 2
Research

WORKING GROUP 3
Contractual
Practices

WORKING GROUP 5
Health and Safety
in Works

WORKING GROUP 6
Maintenance and
Repair

WORKING GROUP 9
Seismic Effects

WORKING GROUP 11
Immersed and
Floating Tunnels

WORKING GROUP 12
Sprayed Concrete
Use

WORKING GROUP 14
Mechanized
Tunnelling

WORKING GROUP 15
Underground and
Environment

WORKING GROUP 17
Long Tunnels at
Great Depth

WORKING GROUP 19
Conventional
Tunnelling

WORKING GROUP 20
Urban Problems,
Underground
Solutions

WORKING GROUP 21
Life Cycle Asset
Management

WORKING GROUP 22
Information
Modelling in
Tunnelling

WORKING GROUP 23
Design &
Construction of
Shafts

Hubs of expertise: ITA Working Groups and Committees

5 COMMITTEES AND A YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP

 ITA COSUF ITA Committee on Operational Safety of Underground Facilities	Committee on Operational Safety of Underground facilities	 itacus for an urban underground future	Committee on Underground Space
 ITAttech	Committee on new Technologies	 ITA sustainability committee	Special purpose committee on sustainability
 ITA-CET Committee on Education and Training	Committee on Education and Training	 ITAYm	ITA Young Members Group

Publishes technical guidelines, reports, and case studies

WORKING GROUP GUIDELINES



MUIR WOOD LECTURE



ITATECH GUIDELINES



International Conferences and Training Programmes

- Annual ITA World Tunnel Congress
- Annual ITA Tunnelling Awards
- ITACET Trainings
- ITACET Lunchtime Lectures
- Supporting Member Nations' events across the globe

ITA-AITES
WTC
2026
Montréal



Member Nations

81



Collaboration Beyond Borders, Languages and Cultures

Membership means joining the global platform for tunnelling and underground space

- **Member Nation:** organisation representing its country inside ITA
(independent national association with goal to develop knowledge in tunnelling and use of underground space or a Committee of a wider organization active in civil engineering, mining, geotechnics,...)
- **Affiliate Members:** open to corporations and individuals
- **Prime Sponsors**
- **Supporters**



<https://about.ita-aites.org/members>

ITA's Support for Member Nations

- **Global Visibility:** National projects and innovations are highlighted at ITA events, in publications and across ITA's digital channels (ITA@news, ITA website, webinars,...).
- **Networking:** with decision-makers, clients, and experts of the global tunnelling community worldwide.
- **Recognition:** ITA Awards celebrate outstanding achievements.
- **Participation:** Committees, Working Groups, Young Members.
- **Capacity Building:** Access to technical guidelines, training, and peer support for emerging markets.
- **Possibility to hosting and co-organising** international events (WTCs, ITA Tunnelling Awards).



South African National
Committee on Tunnelling



ITA Engage Africa initiative

As African nations confront rapid urbanisation, climate pressures, and growing infrastructure demands, alongside the opportunities presented by Agenda 2063 and the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA), the need to **strengthen technical capability, institutional readiness, and policy alignment** in underground infrastructure has become increasingly urgent.



Special Strategic Session between ITA and the members from Africa to **support the needs and requirements from Africa.**

A brainstorming and interactive session aiming to develop a **sustainable and coordinated framework** to contribute accelerating the **development for tunnelling and underground space use across Africa.**

We want this initiative to be a success for Africa and for this we need your engagement and participation as SANCOT.

Thank you!

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ITA Engage Africa initiative