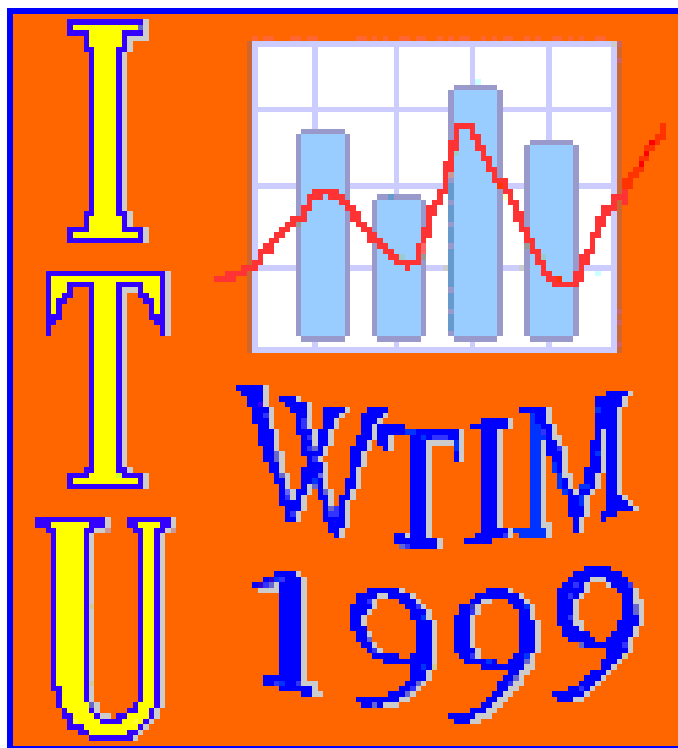


FINAL REPORT



**2ND WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION
INDICATORS MEETING**
GENEVA, 29 - 31 MARCH 1999



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

ENGLISH

2nd World Telecommunication
Indicators Meeting
(WTIM99)

Geneva, 29-31 March 1999

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INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

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- Measuring access to telecommunications: Universal service and access indicators

Mr. M. Minges, ITU, Switzerland

Other documents

Distributed for information

- Telecommunication statistics collection and dissemination in Taiwan
The Directorate General of Telecommunications, Taiwan-China
- Telecommunications data gathering in Germany
Regulatory Authority for Telecommunications & Posts, Germany
- Background Paper for Official Statistics on Telecommunications in Sweden
Swedish Institute for Transport and Communications Analysis (SIKA), Sweden
- State of telecommunications data collection and dissemination in Liberia
Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Liberia

Special ITU distribution

- World Telecommunication Indicators database on STARS (diskette)
- Telecommunication Indicators Handbook (included in diskette package)
 - Yearbook of Statistics (1988-1997)

Documents used as reference material

- Market information update - August 1998
- Traffic statistics reporting requirements for external telecommunication services
 - International telecommunications data
 - Collection and publication of international call information
 - Telephone subscribership in the United States
 - Basic indicators and cellular subscribers - 1998
- Telecommunication indicators in Hongkong submitted to ITU
for the fiscal year ending 31 March 1998

Foreword



World Telecommunication Indicators Meeting 1999

Introduction

The 2nd World Telecommunication Indicators Meeting, organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) was held at the ITU headquarters in Geneva from 29-31 March 1999. There were 82 participants from 55 countries and four international organizations (see List of Participants, Document 2).

The Chairperson of the meeting was William D. Kishanda, Tanzania while the Vice-Chairpersons were William Alberto Poveda Garzon, Colombia and Xavier Delache, France.

The agenda of the meeting is attached (Document 3). There were a number of presentations in addition to discussions about the indicators used in the telecommunication sector (See List of Documents, Document 1 for background papers issued at the meeting¹).

Country presentations of telecom statistics collection and dissemination

- *Telecommunications in Finland - A Statistical Overview*. M. Åkermarck, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Finland
- *Overview of Norway Telecommunication Statistics*. O. Hoel, Norwegian Posts and Telecom Authority
- *Telecom Statistics in a Competitive Environment*. D. Mozes, Industry Canada and Mr. H. McCarrel, Statistics Canada
- *State of Telecommunications Statistics Collection and Dissemination in BTC*. S. Mokomane, Botswana Telecommunications Corporation (BTC)
- *Socatel - Basic data*. A. Yangana, Socatel, Central African Republic
- *Statistics in Sri Lanka & Future Developments in Telecommunications*. A.S.W Bandusiri Silva, Telecom Regulatory Authority of Sri Lanka
- *Telecommunication statistics in Togo*. Séwa Mensah, Togo Telecom

This session dealt with country experiences in collecting, compiling and disseminating telecommunication statistics. The trend in developed countries is for telecommunication regulatory agencies to collect statistics while in developing countries, the main operators still carry out that function. In the case of Canada, the national statistical agency collects the statistics with input from the ministry responsible for telecommunications. The difficulty of collecting telecommunication statistics in an increasingly liberalized industry was raised. Regarding confidentiality, it was felt that the type of statistics being solicited are general enough so this is not really an issue. Furthermore it is hard to argue that some statistics are confidential in one country when they are readily available in other more competitive markets. The problems faced by many developing countries in terms of non-automated reporting systems, varying definitions and a lack of appreciation by management of the importance of the statistics was identified.

Regional and international overviews of telecom statistics

- *OECD Work on Communications Indicators*. S. Paltridge, OECD, France.
- *Eurostat's prospects on telecommunications statistics*. M. Lumio, EUROSTAT, Luxembourg
- *Telecommunication Statistics*. M.C. Gasbarro, ITU
- *Of Data Gathering and Data Storage*. O. Beauvais, ITU
- *Challenges to the Network 1999*. B. Petrazzini & L. Männistö, ITU

This session dealt with international organization involvement with telecommunication statistics. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) presented its latest telecommunication statistics and analysis report, *Communication Outlook 1999*. There was emphasis on Internet statistics since this is of growing importance in OECD member countries. Eurostat, the European Community Statistical Office, spoke about its involvement in telecommunication statistics. The difficulty of collecting statistics in the liberalized European telecommunication sector was identified. One problem is that as former monopoly telecommunication operators—which had previously been the main source of statistics—became transformed into enterprises, responsibility for data collection has shifted. On the one hand many regulators have not fully assumed this task while national statistical offices do not have the experience. The ITU presented its routine for collecting and disseminating statistics as well as some pointers for how the telecommunication statistics can be stored, maintained and disseminated in a database system. The latest ITU indicator report dealing with the Internet, *Challenges to the Network 1999*, was presented.

¹ The documents are available on-line on the ITU's World Wide Web site (<http://www.itu.int/ti/WTIM99/Documents.html>).



World Telecommunication Indicators Meeting 1999

Telecom traffic, mobile communication and universal service/access statistics

- *International traffic & tariff indicators*. T. Kelly, ITU
- *Mobile communication indicators*. M. Minges, ITU
- *Measuring access to telecommunications: Universal service and access indicators*. M. Minges, ITU

This session dealt with identifying and defining specific groups of telecommunication statistics. In the area of international telephone traffic statistics it was mentioned that as the Internet grows in importance, new types of international telecommunication traffic statistics would be needed. Regarding mobile communication statistics, it was pointed out that mobile is one of the fastest growing telecommunication market segments and therefore statistics in this area are essential. The *next World Telecommunication Development Report* would have mobile communications as its theme. A set of indicators for measuring universal service and universal access was presented.

Other

- *Data definition, data collected by different entities, data on the Internet*. M. Minges, ITU.
- *Telecom statistics from a user's perspective*. Mr. Paolo Labombarda, Consiel Management Consulting, Italy

Other issues

A representative of the TDAG Subgroup dealing with private-sector issues emphasized the importance of statistical information. He noted that he would inform the private-sector group about this meeting and hoped for closer collaboration in the future. It was also noted that the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) might be consulted for comments and advice regarding the telecommunication indicators.

Gender issues have become an important issue at the ITU with recommendations on that subject emanating from the second World Telecommunication Development Conference and the Plenipotentiary Conference. Telecommunication statistics should reflect gender as far as possible.

The representative from Colombia stated that the ITU statistics should be considered official statistics obtained from governmental sources. It was also mentioned that ITU Member States and Sector Members should be the main data suppliers.

Recommendations

The meeting made a number of recommendations:

- The formation of an Expert Group on Telecommunication Indicator Definitions. The goal of this group is to update the ITU's *Telecommunication Indicator Handbook* to reflect new indicators and definitions used in the telecommunication sector. The Group would be coordinated by Mr. Minges, ITU/BDT and initially be composed of the participants from Australia, Canada, Colombia, Portugal, Senegal, Syria, Eurostat, and OECD. The output of the group would be posted on the web for comments by all and any person wishing to participate in the group would be welcome. The group would work as far as possible by electronic means (e-mail, fax, etc.) although it could be envisaged that a meeting would be held to present the output of the group (providing sufficient resources are available). It is expected that the group would produce a draft version within one year.
- It was recommended that the next World Telecommunication Indicator Meeting be held again in 2001 in order to report to the next World Telecommunication Development Conference (2002). In the interim, holding regional meetings on the subject of telecommunication indicators is encouraged.
- The Meeting also urged the ITU/BDT to provide hyperlinks to telecommunication statistics available on the web from telecommunication ministries, regulators, operators and national statistical offices through the ITU Telecommunication Indicator web page.

Opening Remarks

Opening Remarks

H. Touré, Director, BDT

World Telecommunication Indicators Meeting

Monday March 29 1999, 9:15 am, ITU Salle B

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the second World Telecommunication Indicators meeting. This reunion arises from resolutions of different regional telecommunication development conferences—endorsed by the 1998 World Telecommunication Development Conference—to convene a global meeting dealing with the main indicators used to analyze worldwide telecommunication development.

We are all aware of the growing importance of telecommunications and the need for relevant, up-to-date and comparable statistics for analyzing the industry. This includes measurements for comparing universal service, network progress and performance as well as macro-economic measurements to gauge the impact of telecommunications on social and economic development.

There is also an urgent need to gauge the benefits and costs of liberalization, privatization, competition and globalization taking place in the sector in order to inform policy makers and others about the effects of the growing number of options. Ironically, these same trends are complicating the availability and comparability of the statistics. This meeting might want to consider how to improve the coverage of the statistics in an era of growing liberalization.

Convergence is blurring the boundaries of the telecommunications, broadcasting and computing industries, making it difficult to determine exactly what it is to be measured. Perhaps telecommunication indicators should be expanded to cover information-communication indicators. Here too, this meeting might want to provide some guidelines.

The ITU's involvement with telecommunication statistics goes back a long way. The exchange of statistics goes back through the ITU's preceding organizations to the beginning of international telegraph networks in 1848. The ITU's mandate for disseminating telecommunication information is outlined in the International Telecommunication Convention as well as the ITU's agreement with the United Nations. However it is really since the establishment of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) that the ITU has begun to regularly use statistics in an analytical way in order to gauge network developments worldwide.

The BDT is intimately involved in telecommunication indicators. It launched the telecommunication indicator series in 1990. These publications, including the *World Telecommunication Development Report*, as well as regional and topical studies, have become the global source for comparable telecommunication indicators. The BDT also works closely with national, regional and international organizations on the definition, exchange and collaboration of telecommunication indicators. Finally, the BDT has initiated several projects for assisting developing countries to improve the collection, dissemination and presentation of telecommunication indicators.

I am particularly impressed by the interest in this subject as manifested by the number of participants to the meeting. I would also like to thank those regulators, national statistical offices, operators and international agencies that have agreed to make presentations about the collection and use of telecommunication statistics in their organizations and countries. This is the true spirit of collaboration where others can learn about problems and success in order to enhance their own national telecommunication statistics.

I wish you utmost success in this second World Telecommunication Indicators meeting. Furthermore, I can assure you that the BDT remains firmly committed to this area and will endeavor to assist implement whatever recommendations arise from your deliberations over the next few days.

List of documents



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

**TELECOMMUNICATION
DEVELOPMENT BUREAU
INFORMATION SYSTEMS UNIT**

**Document WTIM99/1-E rev. 3
9 November, 1999
Original: English**

2ND WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION INDICATORS MEETING:
GENEVA, 29 - 31 MARCH 1999

2nd World Telecommunication Indicators Meeting

Final list of documents

Doc. No.	Source	Title	Language
1 rev. 3	ITU, Switzerland	Final List of Documents	E/F/S
2 rev. 2	ITU, Switzerland	Final List of Participants	E/F/S
3 rev.2	ITU, Switzerland	Final Meeting Schedule	E/F/S
4	Mr. M. Minges ITU/BDT	Measuring Access to the Telecommunications: Universal service and Access Indicators (available on Wednesday)	E/F/S
5	ITU, Switzerland	World Telecommunication Indicators database on ☆STARS☆ (diskette)	E
6	ITU, Switzerland	Telecommunication Indicators Handbook (included in diskette package)	E/F/S
7	Ms. M.C. Gasbarro ITU/BDT	Telecommunication Statistics	E/F/S
8	Mr. O. Beauvais ITU/BDT	Of Gathering and Data Storage	E/F/S
8 rev. 1	Mr. O. Beauvais ITU/BDT	Of Gathering and Data Storage	E
9	Mr. M. Äkermarck Ministry of Transp. & Comm., Finland	Telecommunications in Finland - A Statistical Overview	E
10	Mr. M. Lumio Eurostat, Luxembourg	Eurostat's Prospects on Telecommunication Statistics	E/F/S
11	Ms. D. Mozes / Mr. H. McCarrel, Statistics Canada	Telecommunication Statistics in a Competitive Environment	E
12	Mr. M. Minges ITU/BDT	Mobile Communication Statistics	E/F/S
13	Mr. T. Kelly ITU/BDT	International Traffic & Tariff Statistics	E/F/S
14	ITU, Switzerland	Yearbook of Statistics (1988-1997)	E/F/S
15	Mr. O. Hoel Norwegian Posts and Telecom. Authority	Overview of Norway Telecommunication Statistics	E

Doc. No.	Source	Titre	Language
16	Mr. S. Mokomane BTC, Botswana	State of Telecommunication Statistics Collection and Dissemination in Botswana Telecommunications Corporation (BTC)	E
17	Mr. S. Paltridge OECD, France	OECD Work on Communication Indicators	E
18	Mr. A.S.W Bandusiri Silva, TRC, Sri Lanka	Statistics in Sri Lanka & Future Developments in Telecommunications	E
19	The Directorate General of Telecom, Taiwan-China	Telecommunication Statistics Collection and Dissemination in Taiwan	E
20	Regulatory Authority for Telecom & Posts, Germany	Telecommunications data gathering in Germany	E
21	OFTEL, United Kingdom	Market Information Update – August 1998	E
22	OFTA, Hongkong Sar	Traffic Statistics Reporting Requirements for External Telecommunication Services	E
23	FCC, United States	International telecommunications data	E
24	OFTEL, United Kingdom	Collection and Publication of International Call Information	E
25	FCC, United States	Telephone subscribers Ship in the United States	E
26	Mr. A. Yangana SOCATEL, Central African Republic	SOCATEL – Données de base	F
27	Helen Asp SIKA, Sweden	Background paper for official statistics on telecommunications in Sweden	E
28	ITU, Switzerland	Basic Indicators & Cellular Subscribers – 1998 Updated on 27 March 1999	E
29	OFTA, Hongkong Sar	Telecommunication Indicators in Hongkong submitted to ITU for the fiscal year ending 31 March 1998	E
30	ITU, Switzerland	World Telecommunication Development Report 1999 Mobile Communications Questionnaire	E/F/S
31	Togo Telecom, Togo	Statistics collection and dissemination	F
32	Ministry of Posts and Telecom, Liberia	State of Telecommunications Data Collection and Dissemination in Liberia	E
33	Mr. Paolo Labombarda, Consiel Management Consulting, Italy	Telecom statistics from a user's perspective	E
34	Mr. M. Minges, BDT/ITU	Data definition, data collected by different entities (regulators, operators, statistical agencies, industry associations), data on Internet (number of this document is 34-E instead of 37-E)	E
35	Study Groups/ BDT	Definition of Questions	E/F/S
36	Ms. L. Männitö & Mr. B. Petrazzini, SPU/ITU	Challenges to the Network 1999	E

List of participants



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

**TELECOMMUNICATION
DEVELOPMENT BUREAU
INFORMATION SYSTEMS UNIT**

**Document WTIM99/2-E/final
12 March 1999
Original: Trilingual**

**2nd World Telecommunication Indicators Meeting
(Geneva, 29 - 31 March 1999)**

**2^{ème} Réunion sur les indicateurs des télécommunications mondiales
(Genève, 29 – 31 mars 1999)**

**2^a Reunión sobre indicadores de telecomunicaciones mundiales
(Ginebra, 29 – 31 de marzo de 1999)**

SOURCE: ITU, SWITZERLAND
SOURCE: UIT, SUISSE
FUENTE: UIT, SUIZA

TITLE: FINAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
TITRE: LISTE FINALE DES PARTICIPANTS
TÍTULO: LISTA FINAL DE PARTICIPANTES

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Final agenda



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**2nd World Telecommunication Indicators Meeting
(Geneva, 29 - 31 March 1999)**

SOURCE: ITU, SWITZERLAND

TITLE: MEETING SCHEDULE (FINAL)

World Telecommunication Indicator Meeting, 29-31 March 1999, Timetable

Monday, 29 March 1999	Time
<i>Registration</i>	8:00
<i>Opening Remarks</i> . Mr. H. Toure, Director, BDT	9:15
Election of chairperson, approval of agenda, etc	9:30
Country overviews of telecom statistics collection and dissemination	9:45
<i>Telecommunications in Finland - A Statistical Overview</i> . Mr. M. Åkermarck, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Finland	10:00
<i>Coffee Break</i>	10:30
<i>Overview of Norway Telecommunication Statistics</i> . Mr. O. Hoel, Norwegian Posts and Telecom Authority	11:00
<i>Telecom Statistics in a Competitive Environment</i> . Ms.D. Mozes, Industry Canada and Mr. H. McCarrel, Statistics Canada	11:30
<i>Lunch</i>	12:30
Country overviews of telecom statistics collection, continued	
Discussion	14:30
<i>State of Telecommunications Statistics Collection and Dissemination in BTC</i> . Mr. S. Mokomane, Botswana Telecommunications Corporation (BTC)	15:00
<i>Coffee Break</i>	15:30
<i>Socatel - Basic data</i> . Mr. A. Yangana, Socatel, Centr. African Rep.	16:00
Discussion	16:30
Tuesday, 30 March 1999	
Regional and international overviews of telecom statistics	
<i>OECD Work on Communications Indicators</i> . Mr. S. Paltridge, OECD, France.	9:00
<i>Coffee Break</i>	10:00
<i>Statistics in Sri Lanka & Future Developments in Telecommunications</i> . Mr. A.S.W Bandusiri Silva, Telecom Regulatory Authority of Sri Lanka	10:35
<i>Eurostat's prospects on telecommunications statistics</i> . Mr. M. Lumio, EUROSTAT, Luxembourg	11:15
Discussion	12:00
<i>Lunch</i>	12:30
ITU data collection and dissemination activities	14:00
<i>Telecommunication Statistics</i> . Ms. M.C. Gasbarro, ITU	14:15
<i>Of Data Gathering and Data Storage</i> . Mr. O. Beauvais, ITU	14:45
<i>Telecom statistics from a user's perspective</i> . Mr. Paolo Labombarda, Consiel Management Consulting, Italy	15:15
<i>Coffee Break</i>	15:45
Telecom traffic & mobile communication statistics	
<i>International traffic & tariff indicators</i> . Mr. T. Kelly, ITU	16:15
<i>Mobile communication indicators</i> . Mr. M. Minges, ITU	16:45
Discussion	17:00
Wednesday, 31 March 1999	
<i>Telecommunication statistics in Togo</i> . Mr. Séwa Mensah, Togo Telecom.	9:00
Universal service/access indicators	
<i>Measuring access to telecommunications: Universal service and access indicators</i> . Mr. M. Minges, ITU.	10:00
<i>Challenges to the Network 1999</i> . B. Petrazzini & L. Männistö, ITU	10:45
<i>Coffee Break</i>	11:00
<i>Comments on measuring access to telecommunications</i> . Mr. M. Fazio, Ministry of Communications, Italy.	11:30
<i>Lunch</i>	12:30
<i>Data definition, data collected by different entities, data on the Internet</i> . Mr. M. Minges, ITU.	14:15
Discussion	14:40
Conclusions, approval of final report, any other business	15:00
Close of meeting	16:10