Q. 14/1   The role of telecommunications in social and cultural development, including the protection and promotion of indigenous culture and identity.

1   Question for study
The role of telecommunications in social and cultural development, including the protection and promotion of indigenous culture and identity.

2   Statement of the situation
The development of telemedicine and distance learning facilities are already recognized as providing significant social benefits. In a similar way access to and participation in improved telecommunications facilities can provide significant benefits in the cultural development of a country. This is particularly so when indigenous people are not the majority culture of a country.

3   Question or Issue for study
What are the barriers to access telecommunications systems and facilities by indigenous peoples.

4   Description of output expected
Identification of any existing barriers, together with a recognition that policies and development activities will need to take account of any barriers.

5   Timing
Study period 1998-2002.

6   Project sponsors
WTDC2-Malta.

7   Sources of input
Member States, NGOs and other organizations representing indigenous peoples, UNESCO.

8   Target audience
Policy-makers, telecom regulators, national planning authorities, wherever cultural development of indigenous peoples are being considered.

9   Methods of handling question
Within study groups - over study periods and within all regular BDT activity.

10   Coordination
With regular ITU-D studies, other study group questions and regional organizations.