# 8<sup>th</sup> World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Meeting (WTIM-10)

Geneva, Switzerland, 24 - 26 November 2010



Contribution to WTIM-10 session 3

Document C/19-E 25 November 2010

**English** 

**SOURCE**: ITU/BDT

TITLE: Progress in measuring household ICT access and individual ICT use





## 8th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Meeting 24-26 November 2010 Geneva, Switzerland

# Progress in measuring household ICT access and individual ICT use

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- **>** Background
- ➤ ITU households questionnaire progress & challenges
- Measuring ICT indicators progress & challenges
- ➤ Conclusions

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# Why is measuring ICT access and use via households survey important?

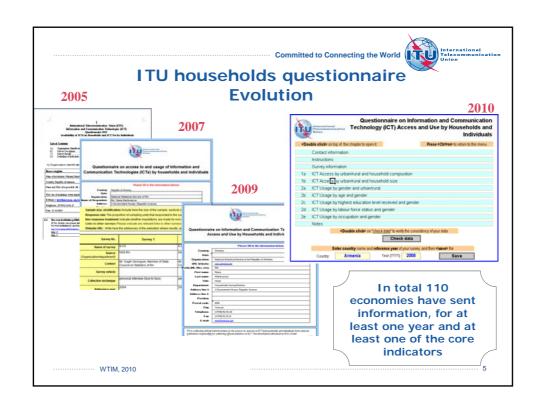
- ➤ Better way to measure the actual demand (access and use) of ICTs by households and individuals
- For designing, evaluating and reformulating policies
- For monitoring and assessing digital divide
- For analysing the impact of ICT on development
- For international and regional benchmarking
- For tracking progress towards achieving some of the WSIS goals (2015)

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## **Background**

- ❖ Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development
  - Core ICT Indicators (Minimum recommended basis)
- ITU Indicators
  - > ICT infrastructure and access
  - > ICT access and use by households and individuals
- ITU Manual for measuring ICT access and use by households and individuals
  - Training courses for developing countries
- ITU Questionnaire on ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals
  - **>** 2005, 2007, 2009, 2010

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## ITU households questionnaire

Countries that have completed the questionnaire and have included at least one core ICT access indicator in a households survey, by reference year of survey\*

Region	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Number of countries by Region
Africa	1	1	2	4	2	43
Arab States	1	1	2	2	1	21
Asia & Pacific	1	3	2	8	6	38
CIS countries			4	4	4	12
Europe (32 countries via Eurostat)	27	30	34	34	34	43
The Americas	2	5	6	11	8	35
All ITU members	32	40	50	63	55	192

Note: \* Refers to countries that have completed the 2007 and/or 2009 ITU questionnaire and reported data in absolute numbers. Only data from 32 European countries have not been obtained via the ITU households questionnaire, but via Eurostat.

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# ITU households questionnaire remaining challenges

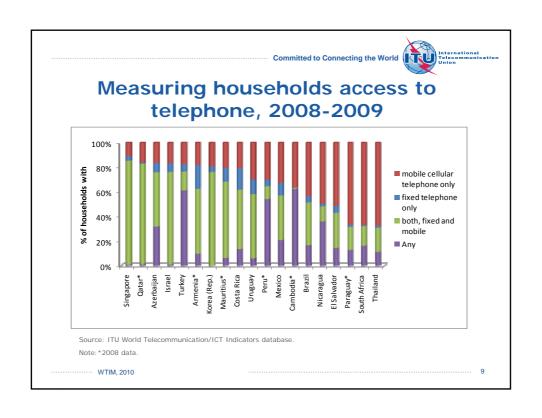
- Some developing countries have included the core ICT access indicators in existing households surveys, but results are not reported to ITU
- Some countries do not report absolute numbers (only proportions)
  - > ITU believes those proportions are weighted, but survey information (metadata) is not always detailed enough to verify
- Some countries are reporting total population instead of in-scope population
  - ➤ For next round of the questionnaire, ITU may need to ask for both.
- Survey information, metadata is not always complete and detailed.

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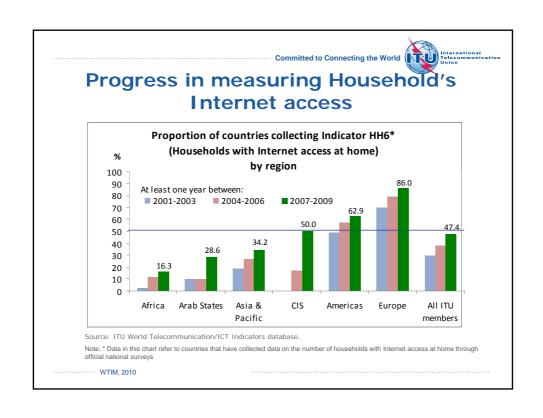


# ITU households questionnaire – remaining challenges (Cont')

- Indicator HH3 Households with telephone
  - This indicator is divided into 3 components:
    - HH3a: Households with fixed telephone only
    - HH3b: Households with mobile telephone only
    - HH3c: Households with fixed and mobile
  - Sometimes, countries report all households with fixed telephony under HH3a. Idem for mobile...
  - It is important to report them individually to see, for example, the uptake of mobile in the absence of fixed telephony





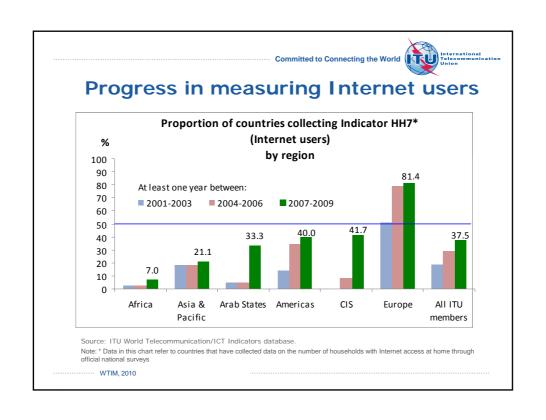


# Proportion of countries measuring ICT access via households surveys, by region at least once in 2007-2009 (%)

Region	HH1	HH2	HH3f	HH3m	нн4	нн6	Total Countries
Africa	39.5	37.2	39.5	39.5	16.3	16.3	43
Arab States	19.0	28.6	33.3	28.6	33.3	28.6	21
Asia & Pacific	23.7	42.1	31.6	28.9	42.1	34.2	38
CIS	41.7	75.0	58.3	41.7	66.7	50.0	12
Europe	4.7	39.5	18.6	16.3	88.4	86.0	43
The Americas	42.9	54.3	48.6	48.6	62.9	62.9	35
World (ITU members)	27.1	43.2	35.4	32.8	51.0	47.4	192
Developing economies	33.6	44.5	40.4	37.7	39.7	34.9	146

Source: ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators database.

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## Countries that have measured Internet users (HH7) Have measured HH7 Total economies at least once between 2001-2008 | 2007-2009 All ITU 192 77 72 (37.5%) members Developing 146 39 34 (23.3%) economies Source: ITU. WTIM, 2010



# Internet users - remaining challenges

- Age scope: minimum age scope available for comparisons: 16-74 years old
- Age scope recommended for measuring:

## **Entire population**

- What is the optimal age scope?
  - One that is suitable to calculate the number of Internet users over the total population
- Reference period: last 12 months
  - > several options are used:
    - last month, last 3 months, last 6 months.

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# Internet users (HH7) Population included

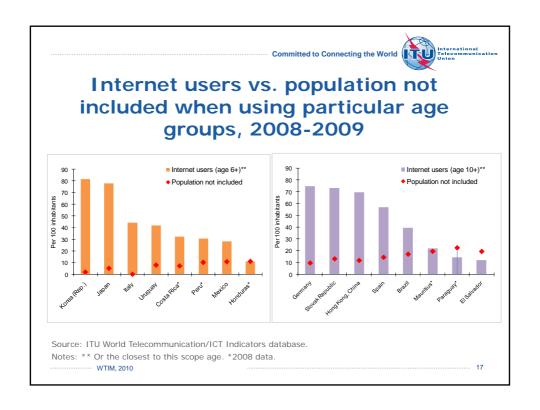
Maximum in scope population covered	Number of Economies
All population	4
Population age 3+,5+,6+,7+	18
Population age 10+,12+*	13
Population age 14+,15+,16+	7
Population age 16-74 (mainly Europe)	27
Population age 18+,20+	3
Population less than 74	1

Source: ITU.

Note: Three of these countries restrict it to 74 in the upper limit

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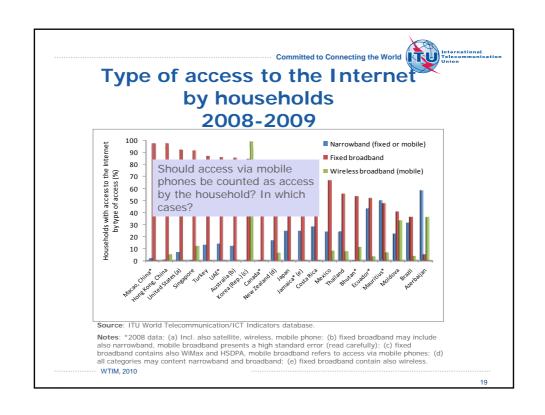


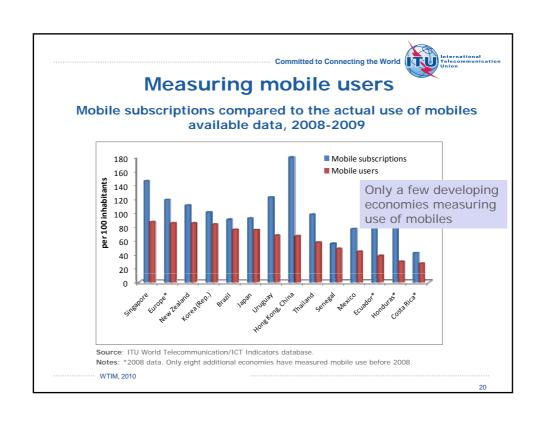
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## Measuring Households' access to the Internet

- New devices and type of connections to access Internet
  - Services available over wireless technologies are growing (via mobile devices)
- Surveys need to reflect changes and progress in technology
- ITU has a new definition of wireless broadband which can be used
  - Core indicators will be revised to take this revision into account

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### Conclusions

- Many developing economies (107) have never measured Internet users
  - Some commitment is needed to measure this very important core indicator
- When measuring Internet users, take into account entire population or suitable age scope.
- There are new technologies available to access the Internet (e.g. mobile wireless, fixed wireless, satellite)
  - Measuring Internet use based on administrative records (i.e. subscriptions) is becoming more complex (undercounting and double counting)
  - Measuring access and use of Internet over these new technologies needs to be considered in surveys in the near future



#### Conclusions

- There has been progress in measuring ICT access over time
  - Indicator available for 68 developing economies (by National Official Organizations). But it has not been yet measured in 78
  - ➤ This indicator could help to certain degree to estimate the number of Internet users
- When data is available, it is important to publish them and communicate to ITU (visibility).

When submitting data via the ITU households questionnaire, please keep in focus the questionnaires' challenges presented here.

