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| C:\Users\ponder\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Word\BDT-25th_anniversary_2017-Logo_411959-3_transparent.png | **World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17)**  **Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9-20 October 2017** | C:\Users\ponder\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Word\BDT-25th_anniversary_2017-Logo_411959-1_transparent.png |
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| PLENARY MEETING | | **Addendum 3 to Document WTDC-17/21-E** |
|  | | **8 September 2017** |
|  | | **Original: Arabic** |
| Arab States | | |
| Revision to Resolution 8 | | |
| Collection and dissemination of information and statistics | | |
|  | | |
| **Priority area:**  – Resolutions and Recommendations  **Summary:**  Amendment to Resolution 8 - Collection and dissemination of information and statistics.  **Expected results:**  –  **References:**  – | | |

**MOD** ARB/21A3/1

RESOLUTION 8 (REV. BUENOS AIRES, 2017)

Collection and dissemination of information and statistics

(Valetta, 1998; Istanbul, 2002; Doha, 2006; Hyderabad, 2010; Buenos Aires, 2017)

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017),

recalling

Resolution 131 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on measuring information and communication technologies to build an integrating and inclusive information society,

considering

*a)* that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D), as the main source of international information and statistics on telecommunications/ICTs, performs a key role in the collection, coordination, exchange and analysis of information;

*b)* the importance of the existing Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) databases, in particular the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (WTI) database and the regulatory database;

*c)* the usefulness of analytical reports published by ITU‑D, such as the World Telecommunication/ICT Development Report, the Measuring the Information Society report and the Trends in Telecommunication Reform report;

*d)* that numerous regional and international organizations make use of and rely upon the statistics prepared and published by the Union in their indicators and reports;

*e)* that the 2017 session of ITU Council instructed the Secretary-General to grant all Member States the right of free electronic access to ITU publications relating to statistics and indicators,

considering further

*a)* that the ICT sector at the national level is reforming at an incredible pace;

*b)* that policy approaches vary and countries can benefit from the experiences of others,

recognizing

*a)* that, by acting as a clearing house for the exchange of information and statistics, BDT will be able to assist Member States in developing informed national policies;

*b)* that the countries must participate actively in this endeavour in order to make it successful;

*c)* that § 116 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society stresses that all indices and indicators must take into account different levels of development and national circumstances, bearing in mind that statistics need to be improved in a collaborative, cost-effective and non-duplicative fashion;

*d)* the importance of the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS),

recognizing further

*a)* that ICT statistics are extremely useful for the work of the study groups and in assisting ITU to monitor and evaluate ICT developments and measure the digital divide;

*b)* the new responsibilities to be held by ITU‑D in relation to this subject, pursuant to the Tunis Agenda, in particular §§ 112 to 120 thereof,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to support this activity by providing adequate resources and according it the necessary priority;

2 to continue to work closely with Member States for the sharing of best practices concerning policy and national ICT strategies;

3 to continue to survey countries and produce world and regional analytical reports which highlight country lessons and experiences, in particular on:

• trends in telecommunication sector reform;

• world telecommunication developments at regional and international level;

• trends on tariff policies, in collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector;

4 to rely primarily on official data provided by Member States based on internationally recognized methodologies; only in the absence of such information, other sources could be used and after informing the Member States concerned of the other sources used to obtain the information;

5 to establish and collect community connectivity indicators and to participate in the development of core indicators to measure efforts to build the information society and, by doing so, to illustrate the scale of the digital divide and the efforts of developing countries to close the gap[[1]](#footnote-1)1;

6 to continue to convene WTIS on an annual basis, to seek to ensure that it does not coincide with any major events, conferences or assemblies of the Union and, as far as possible, to hold it in each of the regions in turn;

7 to continue to convene regular meetings of the expert groups on telecommunication/ICT indicators in view of their importance;

8 to monitor the development and improvement of methodologies relevant to indicators and methods of data collection, through consultation with Member States and experts, particularly by means of World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS);

9 to review, revise and further develop benchmarking and ensure that ICT indicators and the single ICT Development Index (IDI) and the ICT Price Basket reflect the real development of the ICT sector, taking into consideration different levels of development and national circumstances, in application of the WSIS outcomes;

10 to encourage countries to collect statistical indicators and information illustrating national digital divides as well as the efforts made through various programmes to close the gap, showing, as much as possible, the impact on gender issues, persons with disabilities and different social sectors;

11 to strengthen ITU‑D's role in the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development by acting as a member of the steering committee and through active participation in discussions and activities geared to achieving the partnership's main objectives;

12 to provide statistics and regulatory information on the ITU‑D website, and to establish appropriate mechanisms and modalities for countries which do not have electronic access to obtain this information;

13 to encourage Member States to bring together different stakeholders in government, academia and civil society in raising national awareness about the importance of the production and dissemination of high-quality data for policy purposes;

14 to provide technical assistance to the Member States for the collection of ICT statistics, in particular by means of national surveys, and for the development of national databases containing statistics and regulatory policy information;

15 to develop training material and conduct specialized training courses on information society statistics for developing countries, favouring collaboration with members of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development when necessary, including the statistical department of the United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);

16 to organize regional workshops on statistics in cooperation, when required, with relevant regional and international organizations, with the aim of spreading awareness about ways and means of collecting data and statistics in particular for developing countries; they should be held once every two years and at the request of several Member States in the regions; regional workshops should be held adequately in advance of WTIS;

17 to unify all BDT information and statistical databases on the BDT website so as to respond to the objectives stated in §§ 113, 114, 115, 116, 117 and 118 of the Tunis Agenda, and to play a primary role in relation to §§ 119 and 120;

18 to assist countries with indigenous populations in developing indicators to evaluate the impact of ICTs on indigenous peoples that enable the achievement of the objectives set forth in § C8 of the Geneva Plan of Action;

19 to continue to cooperate with the relevant international bodies, in particular the United Nations Statistics Division, and other international and regional organizations, such as OECD, involved in the collection and dissemination of ICT-related information and statistics;

20 to consult regularly with Member States as to the definition of indicators and methodologies for data collection;

21 to encourage and support Member States in the setting up of national centres for statistics on the information society and in the advancement of existing centres;

22 to post all reports and publications relating to the statistics and indicators published by ITU-D, particularly the reports and publications relating to the statistics and indicators which rely on data submitted by Member States, in one page on the website of the Union to make them easy to identify and access,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to participate actively in this endeavour by providing the statistics and information solicited, and by engaging actively in discussions with BDT on ICT indicators and data-collection methodologies;

2 to establish national systems or strategies for strengthening the consolidation of statistical information related to telecommunications/ICTs;

3 to contribute with experiences of policies that have a positive impact on ICT indicators;

4 to strive to harmonize their domestic statistical data-collection systems with the methods used at the international level,

encourages

donor agencies and relevant United Nations agencies to cooperate in providing relevant support and information on their activities.

**Reasons:** To update Resolution 8 to reflect developments and to request further support for developing countries concerning the collection of information and statistics.

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1. 1 Includes least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)