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| **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **24th Meeting, Geneva, 3-5 April 2019** | C:\Users\comas\AppData\Local\Temp\Rar$DRa0.735\jpg\ITU official logo_blue_RGB.jpg |
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| REPORT ON ICT DATA AND STATISTICS 2018 | |
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| **Summary:**  This document provides a summary of the work carried out on ICT Data and Statistics in the period following the last TDAG meeting in 2018. The report covers data collection and dissemination, methodology development, data analysis, and capacity building.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.  **References:**  WTDC Resolution 8 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017); PP Resolution 131 (Rev. Dubai, 2018). | |

1. **Introduction**

The report is based on ITU’s work related to the development and collection of internationally comparable ICT statistics. This includes data collection and dissemination, methodology development, data analysis, and capacity building.

1. **Data collection and dissemination**

ITU continued to collect internationally comparable ICT statistics through three questionnaires, the World Telecommunication Indicators (WTI) questionnaire, the questionnaire on access and use of ICTs by households and individuals (household questionnaire) and the ICT Price Basket (IPB) questionnaire. These data are disseminated twice per year through the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database which, in 2018, was released in January and July. The July edition was accompanied by the ITU/World Bank joint publication “[The Little Data Book on Information and Communication Technology 2018](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/publications/ldb/LDB_ICT_2018.pdf)”. At the end of 2018, world and regional estimates on key ICT indicators were released, including data on percentage of population using the Internet which surpassed 50% by end of 2018. These data enable users to take informed decisions in the field of ICT, based on internationally comparable statistics.

1. **Methodology development**

In this area, the focus was on ensuring the achievement of improved methodologies and international standards on ICT statistics through the work of the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH). Meetings of EGTI and EGH took place in Geneva, Switzerland, in October 2018. Nearly 130 statistical experts from ICT ministries, national statistical offices telecommunication regulators, and international organizations from 54 countries attended the meetings and discussed how to better track access and use of ICTs by households and individuals, and how data from ICT service providers could be used to inform policy-makers and regulators, and help monitor and drive ICT development.

BDT also successfully organized the [16th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS-18)](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/events/wtis2018/default.aspx) in Geneva, which attracted more than 320 participants from 85 countries, representing public and private organizations including ministries, regulators, national statistical agencies, universities and research institutions, telecommunication operators, ICT firms, and regional and international organizations. WTIS-18 highlighted the important work that ITU is carrying out in terms of ICT statistics and the role of WTIS in bringing together ICT data producers and users, and the opportunities it provides in terms of discussing ICT measurement issues, sharing experiences, and learning from each other. The Symposium highlighted the continued need for high-quality, timely, and disaggregated ICT data to assess the impact of telecommunications, ICTs and emerging technologies on social and economic development. The Symposium addressed the question on why data analysis is important for assessing the economic and social impact of ICTs, and how this should feed into policy, noting that data should inform, but not drive policy. The reports by the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) were also presented and endorsed by the Symposium.

1. **Data analysis**

The [Measuring the Information Society Report 2018 Volume 1](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/misr2018.aspx) was launched during WTIS, featuring chapters on ICT trends, ICT skills, revenue and investment, and ICT prices. One of the key findings of the report is that more than half the world’s population is now online. This is driven by sustained growth in almost all of the access and use indicators collected by ITU and presented in the report. The report however noted that a lack of ICT skills may be a limiting factor for further growth. It highlighted that globally, telecommunication revenues make an important contribution to the economy but have been declining recently, because mobile users are moving from the traditional voice and SMS communication to social media communications and use of over-the-top (OTT) applications. ICT prices related to mobile cellular, mobile broadband and fixed broadband were also presented. Overall, ICT prices are declining as subscriptions to ICT services are increasing. However, ICT prices vary between regions and within regions, and prices remain high in some developing countries and LDCs.

1. **Capacity building**

BDT increased the capacity and skill-sets of producers of telecommunication/ICT statistics to carry out data collections at the national level based on international standards and methodologies via regional workshops for the CIS region (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 31 January-1 February), Africa (Lilongwe, Malawi, 20-21 March), Arab States (Manama, Bahrain, 26-27 March) and the Pacific (Nadi, Fiji, 22-23 November). National workshops were conducted in Malawi (22-23 March), Benin (2-3 May), Chad (12-15 November) and Burundi (16-20 December) all aimed at strengthening the capacity of national stakeholders and to discuss in greater detail the methodology to ICTs data and improvement of national coordination. Furthermore, BDT assisted the SADC Secretariat in conducting a Regional Capacity Building Workshop on ICT statistics (Gaborone, Botswana, 10-14 December) in the framework of the implementation of Phase 1 of a SADC ICT Observatory. In 2019, a number of capacity building on ICT data and statistics are planned. These are aimed at strengthening capacities of Member States to collect quality and timely data.

1. **International cooperation**

ITU continues to be an active member of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development and together with UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) is one of the three members of its Steering Committee. Over the years, the Partnership has grown to a total of 14 partner organizations, with the ILO joining in 2014. The Partnership has been very active in tracking the progress of the WSIS and SDG Targets and has also taken a lead role in increasing awareness about the importance of ICT for development and in international ICT monitoring.

BDT also collaborated with the Argentine G20 Presidency and the OECD in producing the "G20 Toolkit for Measuring the Digital Economy". The toolkit brings together different methodological approaches and indicators that may be used to monitor the digital transformation, and highlights critical gaps and challenges that G20 countries and international organisations involved in digitalization measurement could consider for further work.

Cooperation between OECD, Eurostat, and ITU remains strong, with representatives from these organisations attending each other’s meetings.

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