

Affordable telecommunication/ICT services for all

The work of the ITU's Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) is essential in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ITU-D study groups examine specific topics, called questions, and, through their work, help foster socio-economic development for all.

#ICT4SDG

Telecommunication/ICT services have become more affordable. However, prices could come down further given the cost reductions associated with provision of these services in a Next Generation Network (NGN) environment.

Prices have come down in LDCs

(per capita of GNI)

2013 **32%** 2016 **14%**



To ensure fair telecommunication/ICT service prices for all

Governments and National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) can actively contribute:



by implementing effective market regulation



by encouraging infrastructure sharing (IS)

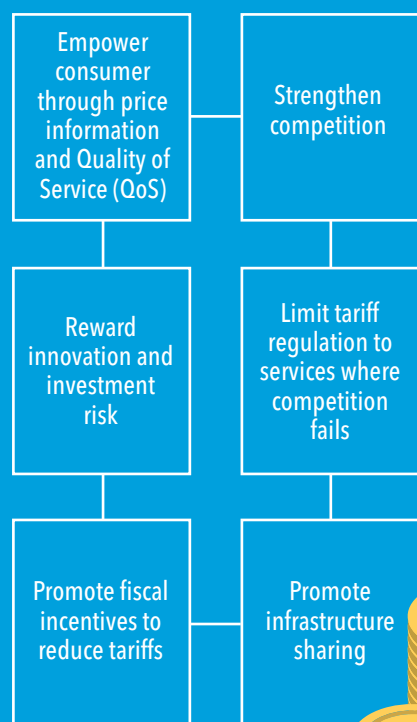


by establishing a regulatory accounting system, if necessary

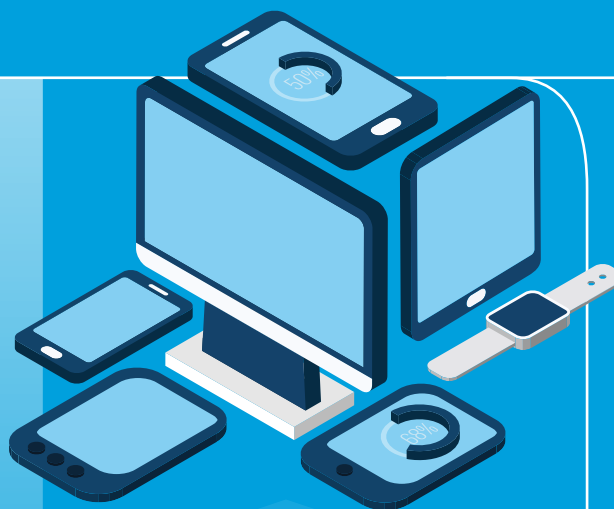


by stimulating access to and use of telecommunication/ICT services

6 key elements for effective price regulation



LOWER TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT SERVICE PRICES



MORE INCLUSION AND USAGE

RESULTING IN MORE:

- + revenue for operators;
- + investment in infrastructure;
- + coverage in rural and remote areas;
- + innovative services and business models;
- + business and job opportunities;
- + choice for consumers.

= NATIONAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ITU and telecommunication/ICT service pricing

At ITU, ITU-D Study Group 1 studies economic policies and costing methods for national telecommunication/ICT services in the framework of Question 4/1, in coordination with ITU-T Study Group 3. ITU-D's Regulatory and Market Environment (RME) Division leads research, analysis, data collection and provision of knowledge exchange tools and platforms on topical policy, regulatory, economic and financial issues.

75
out of
127

reported² that thanks to infrastructure sharing prices are decreasing!

What's next?

The challenges in the digital ecosystem are not only technological but also resulting in a shift in business models. This calls for more flexible economic regulatory regimes. There is a need for Governments and NRAs to move towards light handed and forward looking economic regulation.

20%
growth

in mobile-broadband subscriptions¹ during the last 5 years, representing more usage and inclusion.



Decreasing prices for economic growth

+ Info: www.itu.int/TREG

ITU-D study groups: www.itu.int/itu-d/study-groups

email: devsg@itu.int hotline: +41 22 730 5999



SOURCE: ITU-D Study Group 1, Question 4/1 report on "Economic policies and methods of determining the costs of services related to national telecommunication/ICT networks, including Next Generation Networks (NGN)". Available at: www.itu.int/pub/D-STG-SG01

¹ ITU ICT Facts and Figures 2017 (www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/facts) GNI: Gross National Product, LDCs: Least Developed Countries.

² ITU Tariff Policies Survey, www.itu.int/net4/itu-d/icteye/