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| **Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG 38th meeting, 19-20 January 2022** |  |
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**Contribution by the Secretariat**

PARTNERSHIP ON MEASURING ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT

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| **Summary**  The document provides information on the recent activities of in the context of work of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development in addressing data gaps and data quality in countries.  **Action required**  Members are invited to note the document and explore ways of further strengthening collaboration. |

1. **Background**

Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) invited Member States *inter alia* to support, through relevant UN processes, the creation of synergies and institutional linkages between WSIS and the Post-2015 Development Agenda to continue strengthening the role of ICTs in supporting sustainable development. Member States are also invited to contribute and closely collaborate with the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development as an international, multistakeholder initiative to improve the availability and quality of ICT data and indicators, particularly in developing countries.

1. **Recent Activities and Progress Achieved**

2.1 ITU continues to be an active member of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development and together with UNCTAD and UNDESA is one of the three members of its Steering Committee.[[1]](#footnote-2) Over the years, the Partnership membership has expanded to include 14 organizations. The Partnership has been monitoring ICT development globally, tracking progress towards the WSIS Targets and raising awareness about the importance of ICT for development.

2.2 The Partnership is actively engaged in monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals. Several SDG targets refer to ICTs and technology. In the global SDG indicators framework, out of 231 indicators, seven ICT indicators are included, covering six targets under Goals 4, 5, 9, and 17. Five of the seven indicators are collected and disseminated by ITU.

2.3 This report presents the latest activities of the Partnership since its last report to the CWG-WSIS meeting held in September 2021.

2.4 Within the Partnership, ITU is responsible for collecting, harmonizing and disseminating the core ICT access and ICT household indicators and is regularly reviewing the definition of the indicators to ensure that it remains relevant to the fast-changing evolution of ICT. The Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI),[[2]](#footnote-3) and the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH),[[3]](#footnote-4) met in September 2021. EGTI discussed indicators related to 5G (with a focus on adoption and subscribers), over-the-top (OTT) applications and mobile money services (jointly with the EGH). Similarly, the EGH discussed e-waste indicators in household surveys, child online protection and measuring mobile money (jointly with the EGTI). The next EGTI and EGH meetings are planned for September 2022. Further, the ITU launched an online training course in the ITU Academy on the *Handbook for the Collection of Telecommunication/ICT Indicators*. Countries and experts are invited to participate actively in the work of the expert groups and to take advantage of the online training.

2.5 As a key contribution of ITU to measuring digital development, *Facts and Figures 2021* was released on 30 November 2021.[[4]](#footnote-5) The publication offers the most important ICT indicators, including latest data on the percentage of the population using the Internet in 2021. Through a set of unique and timely statistics, the Facts and Figures series sheds light on the multiple facets and evolving nature of the digital divide and takes stock of the progress towards closing it. It also serves as a powerful advocacy tool in efforts to put digital development at the top of the agenda of policymakers and the global development community.

2.6 Finally, the Partnership submitted a document to the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) for its 53rd session to be held from 1-4 March 2022.[[5]](#footnote-6) The UNSC is the highest decision-making body of the global statistical system bringing together the Chief Statisticians from member states to discuss international statistical activities, statistical standards and methods, and ensures their implementation at the national and international level. In the document, the UNSC is invited to endorse the revised core list of ICT indicators, urge the implementation of the list to improve the availability and quality of ICT indicators to better assess the digital readiness of countries to face crises (such as Covid-19), to recommend the use of the latest methodological material and related capacity building resources produced by Partners and request national statistics offices to explore the use of big data for measuring the information economy and society.

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1. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/intlcoop/partnership/default.aspx>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/events/egti2021/default.aspx>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/events/egh2021/default.aspx>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/statistics/facts-figures-2021/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom>. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)