



Towards a new ITU index

ITU Expert Meeting, Geneva, 10 February 2020

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Why a new index?

- Demand for a composite index from Member States (Res. 131)
- IDI is conceptually outdated
- Attempts to revise the IDI were unsuccessful
- Digital transformation requires taking a broader approach to provide a meaningful metrics for policy makers
- Decade of Action: opportunity to get ICT development on the broader policy agenda

 **DECADE OF >>> ACTION**



History

- ITU composite indices since early 2000s
 - DAI, ICT-OI, DOI, IDI
 - PP Res. 131 (Single Index – later Measuring ICT)
 - IDI for almost 10 years (2009-2017)
- ➔ Urgent need for revision



IDI Revision

- Started in 2016
- March 2017: Extraordinary Meeting of the EGTI/EGH - resulted in revised list of indicators for the IDI
- Subsequent work on calculation of the IDI revealed flaws (data quality, availability, type of indicators selected)
- Process of revision was problematic (too focused on individual indicators rather than the overall framework and objective of the index)
- Result: ITU could not publish the IDI in 2018 and 2019



A new index

A fresh approach is required:

- Forward-looking
- Flexible
- More comprehensive - taking into account the cross-cutting and pervasive nature of digital technologies and their impact on development
- Measuring *meaningful* connectivity



Why SDG framework?

- The principal framework endorsed by the international community for tracking economic and social progress through 2030
 - *“the spread of ICT and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies” (2030 Agenda)*
- UN HL Panel on Digital Cooperation: for achieving the SDGs, policy makers *need evidence* to build bridges between digital innovation and sustainability transformations
- An SDG-based digital technology index can assist governments formulate and adopt appropriate digital strategies to achieve the targets set for 2030, and brings the topic of ICT for SDGs to the level of Heads of States
- Easy-to-understand framework, globally endorsed
- In line with ITU’s overall mandate (PP Res. 71) and in particular that of the Development Sector (WTDC-2017)
- Timeframe 2020 – 2030 is ideal for a new index (UN SG: *decade of action* to deliver the Goals by 2030)

ICTs and SDGs

- Plenty of anecdotal evidence
- Need for a monitoring tool that shows policy makers how digital transformations impact on their ability to meet the SDGs
- Need for metrics that captures the entire digital ecosystem





5 Pillars of the SDGs

- SDGs encompass 17 dimensions
- Grouped into 5 themes (5 Ps) to help focus attention:
 - People
 - Prosperity
 - Planet
 - Peace
 - Partnership

Mapping the 5Ps to the SDGs





The 5Ps and digital technologies

- *People* includes goals largely related to improving lives
 - digital technologies enhance opportunities for increasing income, improving health, expanding educational opportunities and facilitating female employment
- *Prosperity* covers goals largely relating to the economy
 - digital technologies enhance productivity and create opportunities for new ways of organizing and carrying out economic activities, transforming industries from transportation to manufacturing and tourism to retail
- *Planet* consists of goals largely relating to the environment
 - digital technologies are used for monitoring, using satellites, drones and sensors.
- *Peace* regroups just one SDG
 - most important contribution of digital technologies would be more transparency and less corruption, e.g. open data sets, online public services, online transactions and digital IDs
- *Partnerships* includes just one SDG
 - ability to use new data collection techniques for monitoring the SDGs, e.g. big data



Measurement aspects

- Comprehensive approach – mapping of ICTs with 5 Ps and SDG dimensions
- Flexible approach allowing for refinements
- Rigorous and transparent methodology
- Possible areas of measurement
 - telecommunication infrastructure and household access
 - use of digital technologies by individuals
 - health
 - education
 - business, e-commerce
 - government
 - employment
 - food and agriculture
 - cybersecurity
 - gender, security and poverty dimensions
- Statistical and policy indicators
- Working in close collaboration with other UN agencies
- Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development – thematic list of SDG ICT indicators (covering 11 Goals)





Challenges

- Multiple data sources and data providers
- Need to also take into consideration potential negative effects of ICTs
- Data availability and quality
- Timeframe (publishing index in 2020)



Proposed way forward

28 January 2020	Brainstorming with potential partners
10 February 2020	Expert Meeting with Member States to discuss new proposal
February - March 2020	Finalizing conceptual framework Initial checking of data availability and description of quality profile of available indicators
March 2020	Second brainstorming with partners Present concept to TDAG
15-17 April 2020	Present progress at WTIS
17 April 2020	Expert Meeting with Member States to present and discuss the index framework/methodology (half day)
March - May 2020	Methodology preparation, data collection/compilation, indicators testing
June - July 2020	Calculation of the index, sensitivity analysis, finalization of indicators, data and results
June	Present index framework to Council
July – Sept. 2020	Drafting/analysis
Second half 2020	Launch of the new Index

Thank you

