



Enabling sustainable development through ICTs: leaving no one behind

*A session organized by the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development
At the WTIS 2018
Geneva, 10 December*

Scarlett Fondeur Gil
Economic Affairs Officer, ICT Policy Section, UNCTAD



The Partnership in SDG Monitoring



- Goals 4, 5, 9, 17



Current situation

- Data mostly from developed countries
- More data needed from developing countries, and specially LDCs
- Official statistics mainly from household surveys, some from enterprise surveys
- Use of proxy indicators due to lack of specific ones
 - For example, indicators on the enabling environment for the digital economy, rather than on the digital economy itself



UNCTAD indicators

- Target 8.2: “achieve higher levels of productivity of economies through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors”
 - PI035-Value added in the ICT sector (as a percentage of total business sector value added)
 - PI036-Employment in the ICT sector as a share of total employment
 - SPI003-Business' use of broadband subscriptions



UNCTAD indicators

- Target 8.3: “promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises including through access to financial services”
 - PI036-Employment in the ICT sector as a share of total employment
 - PI037-Businesses using the Internet for Internet banking; for accessing other financial services



UNCTAD indicators

- Target 17.8: “fully operationalize the Technology Bank and STI (Science, Technology and Innovation) capacity building mechanism for LDCs by 2017, and enhance the use of enabling technologies in particular ICT”
 - PI048-Proportion of businesses using the Internet
 - PI059-Proportion of businesses receiving orders over the Internet
 - PI060-Proportion of businesses placing orders over the Internet



Example of the digital economy

- UNCTAD indicators in the thematic list are focused on enterprises using the internet, and engaging in e-commerce.
- But developing countries also want to know:
 - What is the size of the ICT sector, both goods and services?
 - What is the value of ICT-enabled/digital services exports and their share in total services exports?
 - What is the value of domestic and cross-border e-commerce sales?
 - To what extent and in what other ways do enterprises of different sizes use ICT?
 - To what extent are women and other groups participating and benefiting from the digital economy?



Example of the digital economy

- The evolving digital economy raises many policy issues that should be addressed, and for which the current situation and progress should be measured regarding:
- Implications of digitalization in the labour market (including potential job creation and destruction) and skills development
- Consumer protection, data privacy and data protection
- Taxation
- The environment (management of resources)



The limits to the Partnership list of ICT indicators for SDG monitoring

- Like the SDG indicator framework, the thematic list made choices based on feasibility of collection and availability
- It excludes newly developed indicators, or new sources of data
- The thematic list is only a first step to help bridge the gap
- There is plenty of room for national initiatives to track more detailed indicators on progress in ICT for SDGs
- **But it's important to refer to it as a baseline for international comparability. The core list of indicators has been endorsed by the UNSC.**



Looking forward

- Continue to raise awareness of need to mainstream ICT statistics in national statistical systems, and use them for development policies
- Multi-stakeholder approach will be key for SDG monitoring
- Need to consider other sources of data (administrative and big data)
- **UNCTAD:** Working Group on Measuring E-Commerce and the Digital Economy (exp. October 2019)



THANK YOU!

scarlett.fondeur.gil(at)unctad.org

Concept note for Working Group on Measuring E-Commerce and the Digital Economy:

https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/tdb_ede2d3_en.pdf