

Programme 3: E-strategies and ICT applications⁷

1 Purpose

To assist developing countries, through the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and telecommunication networks, to advance the achievement of national, regional and the internationally agreed development goals, by promoting the use of ICT-based products, networks, services and applications, and to help countries overcome the digital divide.

To undertake joint actions with relevant partners in the UN system aimed at enhancing access to and use of secure, cost-effective and socio-economically beneficial ICT applications, so as to contribute to reducing the social divide and improving quality of life, good governance, access to health services, business opportunities, sustainable development, distance learning, employment, and other benefits of ICTs, by taking into account the requirements and conditions in rural, isolated and poorly served areas.

Access to the information society should be a high-priority goal of this programme through close collaboration with all relevant entities concerned.

Priorities

a) Cybersecurity: Enhance security and build confidence in the use of ICT applications

Security concerns have been identified as a barrier to the use of current and next-generation networks for certain mission-critical services (e.g. e-commerce, e-governance, e-payment and e-health), where it is important to ensure confidentiality, integrity and availability of information systems. While the telecommunication network security concerns will be dealt with in Programme 2, it is necessary to address cybersecurity concerns in this programme in order to realize the potential of networks for providing secure and accessible e-service applications. This programme should also develop a common understanding of the issues of spam and cyberthreats, including countermeasures. To minimize, prevent and detect cyberthreats, it is also necessary to facilitate further outreach and cooperation in order to support the collection and dissemination of cybersecurity-related information, and to exchange good practices to support effective mutual assistance, response and recovery among members and between government, business and civil society.

BDT should also act as a facilitator for regional and interregional cooperation, and support appropriate capacity-building activities at the regional level.

This could include, *inter alia*, the development of MoUs among interested Member States to enhance cybersecurity.

b) Internet protocol: Integrate IP-based applications and value-added services in the development of all kinds of telecommunication networks

The development of telecommunication infrastructure needs to be integrated in the deployment of IP-based applications and value-added ICT applications, by taking into account advances in technologies, the importance of internet multilingualization, the integration of data and voice, user requirements and socio-economic conditions.

⁷ Relevant WSIS references: Lines C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C8, C10, C11 of the Geneva Plan of Action and several references to the Tunis Agenda.

- c) *ICT applications: Promote ICT applications (e.g. e-government, e-business, e-learning, e-health, e-employment, e-environment, e-agriculture, e-science, etc.) in developing countries*

To assist developing countries in the implementation of relevant ICT applications for government services, business, education, health, employment, environment, sustainable development, agriculture and science.

- d) *Multipurpose community telecentres (MCTs) and multipurpose platforms (MPPs): Continue to expand the implementation of multipurpose platforms (MPP) and multipurpose community telecentres (MCT) and to introduce ICT applications*

MCT and MPP projects should be continued and expanded, but with quantifiable, measurable and time-bound objectives based on user needs. To increase the number of services and the benefits of MCTs, especially in rural, isolated and poorly serviced areas, ICT applications should be introduced in current and planned MPP and MCT projects to extend the notion of universal access beyond basic voice telephony.

- e) *E-strategies: Developing national e-strategies and enhancement of ICT literacy, building public awareness*

Development of national e-strategies, including the necessary human capacity-building to ensure long-term sustainability and widespread use of ICTs taking into account different national circumstances. Basic skills are necessary for citizens to enjoy the benefits and the opportunities of ICTs. Priority should be given to increasing basic knowledge on the potential and possibilities of ICTs and to stimulating increased use of ICT applications.

- f) *Internet multilingualization: Contribute the ITU's expertise to the development of multilingualization of the internet and support the process of introduction of various tools for multilingualization*

2 Tasks

2.1 Creation of tools

- a) Develop guidelines, planning tools and manuals on the technology and policy aspects of cybersecurity, internet protocol and ICT applications.
- b) Develop cybersecurity, internet protocol and ICT applications toolkits for policy-makers and other relevant sectors.

2.2 Creation of training material

Develop training materials on technology strategies and technology evolution for the implementation of cybersecurity, internet protocol and ICT applications.

2.3 Assistance to members

- a) Organize workshops, meetings and seminars to address technical, policy, legal and strategy issues for cybersecurity, ICT applications and internet protocol, promote public awareness on ICTs and foster use of the internet.
- b) Develop strategies for the implementation of internet protocol and ICT applications in current and future MCTs and telecommunication networks in order to strengthen their viability and expand their use.
- c) Provide assistance to Member States in developing laws and model legislation for the prevention of cybercrime.

- d) Provide expert assistance in project definition, management and implementation, including the identification of project requirements and feasibility studies for MPPs and MCTs aimed at providing a wide range of ICT applications, taking into account the needs of rural, isolated and poorly served areas and groups with special needs.
- e) Assist in the implementation of ICT applications and internet protocol projects and formulate plans for the integration of voice and data services and the migration to IP-based networks.
- f) Advise Member States in formulating relevant national and regional e-strategies and policies for the development and use of internet protocol and multilingual ICT applications.
- g) Identify cybersecurity requirements and propose solutions for the development of secure ICT applications. Assist in raising awareness and identify key issues to support a culture of cybersecurity, and recommend models of good practice to support ICT applications and minimize cyberthreats.
- h) Conduct studies aimed at promoting the use of IP-based networks.
- i) Study and implement the necessary means to support the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

2.4 Information sharing

Develop tools to facilitate information sharing on technology and policy issues, and on best practices relating to cybersecurity, internet protocol and ICT services, taking into account the importance of multilingualism.

2.5 Partnerships

- a) Explore opportunities for collaboration and work with identified potential partners, based on project requirements and recognized sources of expertise, and facilitating the creation of mutually beneficial and multistakeholder partnerships.
- b) Work in close collaboration with appropriate organizations (e.g. UNDP, WTO, UNCTAD, UPU, UNESCO, UNIDO, WHO, ILO, WMO, UNEP, UN-Habitat, ICAO, FAO, ECOSOC, IADB, World Bank, etc.) for ICT applications in their relevant domains.
- c) Explore opportunities to create a forum for a viable and sustainable business model.
- d) Take account, as appropriate, of the relevant work of other stakeholders: OECD and signatories to key agreements on cybersecurity and spam such as the *London Action Plan* and the *Seoul-Melbourne Anti-Spam Memorandum of Understanding*.

2.6 Resolutions and recommendations relevant to this programme

Reference	Title
Resolution 5 (Rev.Doha, 2006)	Enhanced participation by developing countries in the activities of the Union
Resolution 11 (Rev.Doha, 2006)	Telecommunication/information and communication technology services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas and indigenous communities
Resolution 13 (Rev.Doha, 2006)	Resource mobilization and partnership for accelerating telecommunication and information technology development
Resolution 15 (Rev.Doha, 2006)	Applied research and transfer of technology
Resolution 17 (Rev.Doha, 2006)	Implementation of regionally approved initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels
Resolution 20 (Rev.Doha, 2006)	Non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication and information technology facilities and services
Resolution 29 (Rev.Doha, 2006)	ITU Telecommunication Development Sector initiatives on Sector Member issues
Resolution 30 (Rev.Doha, 2006)	Role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
Resolution 35 (Rev.Doha, 2006)	Support for the African information and communication technology sector in the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development
Resolution 37 (Rev.Doha, 2006)	Bridging the digital divide
Resolution 39 (Istanbul, 2002)	Agenda for connectivity in the Americas and Quito Action Plan
Resolution 45 (Doha, 2006)	Mechanisms for enhancing cooperation on cybersecurity, including combating spam
Resolution 50 (Doha, 2006)	Optimal integration of information and communication technologies
Resolution 53 (Doha, 2006)	Strategic and financial framework for the elaboration of the Doha Action Plan
Resolution 54 (Doha, 2006)	Information and communication technology applications
Resolution 55 (Doha, 2006)	Promoting gender equality towards all-inclusive information societies
