

2008 Global Event on Measuring the Information Society

Geneva, 27-29 May 2008

Information Note





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1. Background

The demand for information and communication technology (ICT) statistics has greatly increased as countries recognize the benefits and potential of ICTs as a tool for social and economic development. To take advantage of the rapidly changing Information Society, governments need to monitor and benchmark progress in order to design and review national policies and strategies. ICT data and indicators are critical to documenting the impact of the Information Society on the achievement of development goals, including the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals. In addition, the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) called upon countries to produce official statistics to monitor the Information Society.

The *Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development* is a multi-stakeholder initiative to improve the availability and quality of internationally comparable ICT statistics. It helps government officials in producing statistics in order to formulate policies, particularly in developing countries. The 2008 Global Event on Measuring the Information Society is organized jointly by the members of the *Partnership*: ITU, OECD, UNCTAD, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Eurostat and the World Bank.

Since its launch in 2004, the *Partnership* has contributed to closing the global ICT data gap by taking stock of the availability and lack of country-level ICT data, and by developing and promoting the adoption of a standardized core list of ICT indicators, endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2007, on ICT access and infrastructure, ICT use by households and individuals, ICT use by businesses, the ICT sector and trade in ICT goods. The *Partnership* is currently working to further develop these core indicators and to define new ones in the areas of ICT in education and ICT in government.

2. Objective

The 2008 Global Event will discuss the latest progress made in ICT measurement worldwide. It will consider the policy aspects of ICT measurement, proposals for new core ICT indicators on education, revisions to the existing core list of ICT indicators, impact measurements, e-government, the development of a global ICT database, and technical capacity building needs.

The Event is the only forum at the global level for debate on official ICT statistics. It provides a unique opportunity for stakeholders to discuss ICT indicators and make suggestions on future work in this area.

The outcome of the Global Event will provide recommendations to countries in order to enhance the availability of ICT statistics to support their policies. It will also

contribute to determining the Partnership's future work to complement country efforts, including plans for technical assistance. The report of the meeting will be presented at the fortieth session of the UN Statistical Commission in 2009 and will be widely disseminated to the international community.

The Global Event is included in the cluster of WSIS-related events 2008 taking place in Geneva.

3. Provisional agenda

Tuesday 27 May

10:00 – 11:00 Session 1: Opening and introduction

11:00 – 13:00 Session 2: Global overview of Information Society measurement

15:00 – 18:00 Session 3: International standards on ICT statistics (revision of the core list of ICT indicators and new indicators in education)

Wednesday 28 May

10:00 – 13:00 Session 4: Measurement of ICT impact

15:00 – 18:00 Session 5: Future ICT measurement issues (e-government, security)

Thursday 29 May

10:00 – 12:00 Session 6: Capacity building on Information Society measurement

12:00 – 13:00 Session 7: Conclusions and the way forward

4. Documentation and methods of work

The documentation for the meeting will consist of presentations and background documents supplied by countries and organizations. Participants are welcome to contribute brief papers related to the agenda, including on their countries' experiences in ICT measurement. Such papers should be submitted before 9 May 2008, and will be made available in the form and language in which they are received.

5. Participants

The Global Event is aimed at representatives from government offices responsible for ICT statistics, telecommunication authorities, ICT-related Ministries, as well as other stakeholders interested in the measurement of the information society. Representatives of all Member States of the United Nations, interested intergovernmental organizations, as well as other WSIS stakeholders. The language of the Global Event will be English, and there will be interpretation in Spanish.

6. Logistics

Registration

Invitees who wish to participate in the meeting should register online, from 7 April, through the webpage <http://www.itu.int/wsis/implementation/>.

Venue and Accreditation

The meeting will take place at the United Nations Office in Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room 26 on the 1st floor of the E building (Bâtiment E).

Upon arrival, participants are requested, before entering the Palais des Nations, to collect their badges at the United Nations Security Service, Pregny Gate entrance, 14 Avenue de la Paix. The Security Service is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Because of the security measures in force, participants are strongly advised to arrive before 9 a.m. in order to complete entry procedures in good time and proceed to the meeting in the E-Building (Bâtiment E) of the Palais. Participants are requested to carry a passport or similar national identity card with them. Taxis are not allowed to enter the grounds of the Palais des Nations, and visitors will therefore be dropped off at the entrance gates. Furthermore, luggage may not be brought into the buildings unless the United Nations Security Service gives special clearance.

Entry requirements for Switzerland

All participants are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. Applications for visas should be made as soon as possible at the Embassy of Switzerland in the country in which the participants reside.

Travel and accommodation

Participants are expected to cover their own expenses and arrange for their own travel and accommodation. However, there will be limited funds available to finance participants from least developed and developing countries. Requests for financing should be sent to the contact person below (section 6 of this note) **no later than 14 April 2008**.

Information on accommodation in Geneva can be obtained at the official website of Geneva tourism: <http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/>. Further information and suggestions on practical matters and accommodation will be made available on the website <http://measuring-ict.unctad.org/>.

6. Further information

Further information about the 2008 Global Event can be obtained at the website <http://measuring-ict.unctad.org/> or from the contact person below:

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