



world summit on the information society

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WSIS Thematic Meeting “Measuring the Information Society”

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Background

- WSIS Geneva Plan of Action 2003, called upon countries and regions to develop tools to provide statistical information on the information society
- *Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development* was launched in the occasion of UNCTAD XI, Brazil, June 2004
- Partners include the ITU, OECD, EUROSTAT, UNCTAD, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, UN Regional Commissions (ECLAC, ESCWA, ESCAP, ECA), UN ICT Task Force, World Bank and some NSOs from developed countries

Objectives of Partnership

1. To achieve a common set of core ICT indicators, to be harmonized and agreed upon internationally, which will constitute the basis for a database on ICT statistics
2. To enhance the capacities of national statistical offices in developing countries and build competence to develop statistical compilation programmes on the information society, based on internationally agreed upon indicators
3. To develop a global database on ICT indicators and to make it available on the Internet

WSIS Thematic Meeting: Measuring the Information Society

- 7-9 February 2005, held in Geneva (hosted by UNCTAD)
- Attended by 270 delegates from 85 UN member countries, intergovernmental organizations and civil society
- Participants from National Statistical Offices (NSOs), Telecom Regulatory Authorities and Ministries, Ministries related to Information Society activities

What were discussed?

- Global ICT indicators stocktaking results(business and households)
- Core list of ICT indicators and methodological issues
- Needs of NSOs in developing countries (Capacity Building)
- ICT Indicators and MDG - Benchmarking and Monitoring
- WSIS Tunis and Beyond - the future of the Partnership

Infrastructure and access core indicators

Basic core

- A-1 Fixed telephone lines per 100 inhabitants
- A-2 Mobile cellular subscribers per 100 inhabitants
- A-3 Computers per 100 inhabitants
- A-4 Internet subscribers per 100 inhabitants
- A-5 Broadband Internet subscribers per 100 inhabitants
- A-6 International Internet bandwidth per inhabitant
- A-7 Percentage of population covered by mobile cellular telephony
- A-8 Internet access tariffs (20 hours per month)
- A-9 Mobile cellular tariffs (100 minutes of use per month)
- A-10 Percentage of localities with public Internet access centres

Extended core

- A-11 Radio sets per 100 inhabitants
- A-12 Television sets per 100 inhabitants

Core indicators for households and individuals

Basic core

- HH-1 Proportion of households with a radio
- HH-2 Proportion of households with a TV
- HH-3 Proportion of households with a fixed line telephone
- HH-4 Proportion of households with a mobile cellular telephone
- HH-5 Proportion of households with a computer
- HH-6 Proportion of individuals that used a computer
- HH-7 Proportion of households with Internet access at home
- HH-8 Proportion of individuals that used the Internet
- HH-9 Location of individual use of the Internet
- HH-10 Internet activities undertaken by individuals

Core indicators for households and individuals

Extended core

- HH-11 Proportion of individuals with use of a mobile telephone
- HH-12 Proportion of households with access to the Internet by type of access from home
- HH-13 Frequency of individual access to the Internet in the last 12 months

Reference indicator

- HH-R1 Proportion of households with electricity

Business core indicators

Basic core

- B-1 Proportion of businesses using computers
- B-2 Proportion of employees using computers
- B-3 Proportion of businesses using the Internet
- B-4 Proportion of employees using the Internet
- B-5 Proportion of businesses with a website
- B-6 Proportion of businesses with an intranet
- B-7 Proportion of businesses receiving orders over the Internet
- B-8 Proportion of businesses placing orders over the Internet

Business core indicators

Extended core

- B-9 Proportion of businesses accessing the Internet by modes of access
- Response categories should allow an aggregation to narrowband and broadband
- B-10 Proportion of businesses with a Local Area Network (LAN)
- B-11 Proportion of businesses with an extranet
- B-12 Proportion of businesses using the Internet by type of activity
- Internet e-mail
 - Getting information
 - About goods or services
 - From government organisations/public authorities via websites or e-mail
 - Other information searches or research activities
 - Performing Internet banking or accessing other financial services
 - Dealing with government organisations/public authorities
 - Providing customer services
 - Delivering products online

Business core indicators

ICT sector basic core

- ICT-1 Proportion of total workforce involved in the ICT sector
- ICT-2 Value added in the ICT sector
- ICT-3 ICT goods imports as percentage of total imports
- ICT-4 ICT goods exports as percentage of total exports

Purpose of the list

- o Provides useful guidance for countries wishing to start collecting ICT indicators
- o Constitutes the basis for developing internationally comparable statistics on the information society
- o Should be amended and new policy-relevant statistical indicators added to as experience is gained

Future and supplementary indicators

- o ICT Impact indicators
- o Education
- o E-government
- o Health
- o Indigenous status
- o Language

Capacity Building

- Partnership has prepared a comprehensive framework for ICT statistical capacity building in developing countries covering activities at the national, regional and global levels, to be submitted to interested donor agencies
- Tools/training materials such as « *Guide to Information Society Measurement* » developed by OECD Working Party on indicators for the IS should be used
- Training materials combined with input that would reflect reality of recipient country
- International capacity building programmes of World Bank, UNDP, and UNESCO

Conclusions (cont.)

- Capacity building for ICT should be integrated with existing activities in statistical capacity building and focus on sustainable systems.
- Training workshops should be conducted for local staff involved in the collection of ICT indicators; and for policy makers and regulators to raise awareness about the importance of indicators for monitoring ICT policies and carrying out impact analysis.
- Based on the successful regional consultations, regional networks and technical working groups should be established or deepened, to advance the development on information society indicators, to continue discussions on indicators, model questions and survey implementation at the regional level and to ensure the harmonisation of ICT data and statistics across countries of the region.

Conclusions

- The *Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development* is encouraged to engage in activities to assist the statistical community in developing countries to build, or co-ordinate the building of capacity for the collection of information society statistics.
- The *international community* is called upon to provide the necessary support to advance the production of internationally comparable information society statistics in developing countries.
- Capacity building and technical assistance programmes should cover areas such as methodologies and definitions, survey implementation and data collection, data verification, database development and analysis.

Conclusions (cont.)

- Developing countries should be involved in international discussions aimed at developing common approaches towards the collection of ICT data and statistics and at harmonizing the work on ICT indicators at the global level.
- Internationally agreed indicators and definitions should be used as basis of data collection to increase comparability between countries.
- Collaboration between different ICT players in the country is crucial in the collection and dissemination of ICT statistics. ICT policy makers and regulators should liaise with their statistical office to ensure that required data are collected.

WSIS Tunis and Beyond - The future of Partnership

- The outcome of the Thematic Meeting was brought to the attention of delegates attending the WSIS PrepCom2, 17 to 25 February 2005, for consideration in the final documents resulting from Tunis
- Members of the UN Statistical Commission would be informed of the results of the Thematic Meeting, at their next meeting in March 2005
- A WSIS Tunis side event on measuring the information society should report on progress made since this Thematic Meeting, in particular as regards the amendment of the core list of indicators to include other relevant sectors, such as education, e-government or health
- The Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development should continue its valuable work on improving the availability of information society indicators in developing countries by addressing its three main objectives



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<http://measuring-ict.unctad.org>

www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/partnership/