

PROJECT DOCUMENT

Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development

Recognizing the need for improved data and indicators on information society developments, a global initiative is under way bringing together key stakeholders involved in the statistical measurement of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to create a partnership that will contribute to closing the data gap at the international level, and in particular in developing countries. Based on the commitments of the partners, which include the ITU, OECD, UNCTAD, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, UNECA, UNECLAC, UNESCAP, UNESCWA, the UN ICT Task Force and the World Bank, the partnership will work towards defining and collecting a set of common ICT indicators and assisting developing countries in their efforts to produce information society statistics.

This document explains the rationale for the partnership, describes the partners' main contributions and lays out the objectives, expected output and proposed activities. While some of the activities are covered by existing work programmes and budgets, others, in particular those related to building capacities in developing countries, will require additional funds to be raised by the partners.

1. Background

As the information society gains momentum, there is an increasing need for reliable data and indicators regarding ICT readiness, use and impact. Such data help policy makers formulate policies and strategies for ICT-driven growth, social inclusion and cohesion and monitor and evaluate ICT-related developments in both the economic and social realm; they help companies take the right investment and business decisions; and they demonstrate the challenges posed by a new form of socio-economic exclusion, termed the "digital divide". They also allow developing countries to benchmark their information economies and social programmes among each other and with those of developed countries, helping them to take policy decisions to narrow the digital divide. And they contribute towards documenting the impact of the Information Society on the implementation of the MDGs.

Currently, there is no globally agreed upon set of indicators that could be used to compare ICT developments across borders or to properly analyse global ICT developments, including the digital divide. The only source of international comparable data on ICTs in the developing world is the telecommunication indicators database maintained by the ITU. ICT usage within schools has been collected for a number of countries, both developing and developed, through a variety of international initiatives (such as PISA, SACMEQ, TIMSS, PIRLS, SITES, MLA), but only for one or two time points. The majority of national data on ICT usage by enterprises or households are collected by developed countries. In cases where developing countries collect data, indicators are often not comparable with those in developed countries. International efforts to coordinate and harmonize data collection and analysis related to the information society were first initiated in the framework of the OECD. Its Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society (WPIIS) has carried out pioneering work on definitions, methods and model surveys related to measuring ICT at the household and enterprise levels. This was done in collaboration with Eurostat that now collects and maintains a database on ICT usage statistics for EU countries.

The need to expand this work, and to develop reliable and internationally comparable statistics on ICT, is being recognized at the national, regional and international levels. Recently, a number of initiatives have emerged, aimed at enhancing the development of ICT statistics and indicators in the developing countries.

- In January 2003, ITU organized a global telecommunication/ICT indicators meeting bringing together policy makers, regulators and national statistical offices. There were 140 participants from 98 countries and 17 international organizations. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss topics related to the identification, definition, collection, processing, dissemination and use of telecommunication/ICT indicators and to enhance collaboration between the different parties involved. Key issues emerging from the meeting included, (i) the need to strengthen telecom/ICT statistics collection in developing countries; (ii) the need for identification and definition of key telecom/ICT indicators to improve international comparability; (iii) the measurement of the information society and the digital divide, particularly through composite indexes, is difficult and more attention needs to be paid to the construction, use and interpretation of the indexes; and (iv) a growing number of telecommunication regulators and national statistical offices are collecting ICT statistics through industry questionnaires and household surveys but this is primarily the case in developed economies.
- In September 2003, UNCTAD organized an Expert Meeting on "Measuring Electronic Commerce as an Instrument to Promote the Digital Economy", with the participation of 100 experts (from national statistical offices and ICT policy departments) from 40 countries and several international organisations. The meeting discussed current work at the national and international levels in the area of ICT indicators and statistics, reviewed existing data from developed and developing regions, presented a list of core indicators that could be collected by all countries, and made suggestions for further work in the area of measuring e-commerce to be carried out by international organizations, including UNCTAD. Experts from developing countries, in particular Africa, raised the issue of technical assistance that would enable them to develop their statistical programmes on ICT indicators. As a follow-up to the meeting, UNCTAD initiated a Web site and online forum on ICT indicators (*measuring-ict.unctad.org*).
- A joint UNECE/UNCTAD/UIS/ITU/OECD/Eurostat side event to WSIS on "Monitoring the Information Society" took place in December 2003 in Geneva. An important objective of the meeting was to bring ICT data and indicators into the realm of official statistics, so that current global data gaps can be identified and closed. The meeting discussed the role of ICTs in economic and societal transformations, business usage of ICTs, individual and household use of ICTs, and measuring social implications of ICTs. It concluded with an action plan, calling upon the UN Regional Commissions, in cooperation with competent regional organisations, to organise in 2004, within each region, one ICT-related meeting on the monitoring of information society issues. Both users and producers of official statistics should work together in organizing these meetings, which are intended to provide inputs for a global summary meeting in 2005, in order to prepare an action plan for the next WSIS Summit in Tunis (November 2005). UNCTAD would take the lead in coordinating with the UN Regional Commissions and other regional groups, as well as the relevant international organizations, any follow-up activities and serve as a focal point for the exchange of information in this meeting process.
- The WSIS Plan of Action makes a number of suggestions concerning the development of statistical indicators for benchmarking and performance evaluation, to follow up the implementation of the Plan of Action and to track global progress in the use of ICTs. It calls upon all countries and regions to develop tools so as to provide statistical information, and to set up coherent and internationally comparable indicator systems. It also outlines a series of "indicative targets" to be achieved by 2015, relating to the use of ICTs - in the areas of community access, education, health, science, culture, government, and broadcasting - the progress towards which would require quantitative monitoring.
- At the regional level, initiatives aimed at advancing the measurement of ICT have emerged in Africa (UNECA Scan-ICT initiative), Asia (ASEAN e-measurement group; Asia-Pacific Technical Meeting on Information Technology and Telecommunications (IT&T) Statistics), Latin America (UNECLAC's OSILAC; RICYT; and CAIBI), and Europe (eEurope+).
- A global stocktaking exercise on ICT statistics has been initiated by UNECLAC. A metadata questionnaire on ICT statistics has been prepared, in cooperation with other UN Regional Commissions (ECA, ESCAP and ESCWA), ITU, OECD, UNCTAD, and UIS. The questionnaire, which will be sent to offices having responsibility for official statistical data

collection in all developing countries, aims to take stock of the availability of ICT indicators and statistics at the national level, as well as future plans to collect ICT-related statistics.

- The UN ICT Task Force has formed a Working Party on "ICT indicators and MDG Mapping", chaired by Canada, which aims at mapping the MDGs and its targets to ICT indicators. The group's work will focus on two main tracks: (i) ICT indicators development and adoption, and (ii) impact measurement and monitoring. A road map for the work of the Task Force is currently being prepared and will be presented at UNCTAD XI (June 2004).
- The UN General Assembly will convene a high-level plenary meeting in September 2005, to undertake a comprehensive review of the progress made in the fulfilment of all the commitments contained in the Millennium Declaration. Currently, there are 48 indicators to monitor MDG progress, including three indicators related to ICTs. Further work is necessary to define how ICTs can contribute to the achievement of each of the goals.

This partnership has been created to accommodate and develop further the different initiatives at the regional and international levels. It is a joint effort among all stakeholders involved, based on an inclusive approach and the principle of equality among the partners involved. It provides an open framework for coordinating ongoing and future activities, and for developing a coherent and structured approach to advancing the development of ICT indicators globally, and in particular in the developing countries. It particularly aims at assisting developing countries in their efforts to produce information society statistics by mobilizing the resources necessary to build local capacities. This will result in an expansion of ICT statistics harmonized internationally, providing a key input to future policy and analytical work on the information society, including the digital divide.

2. Objectives and deliverables

2.1. Common set of ICT indicators

The partnership has as its first objective to achieve a common set of ICT indicators. These core indicators will be harmonized and agreed upon internationally and will constitute the basis for a database on ICT statistics. The list of indicators will be presented as an input to the General Assembly high-level plenary meeting to revisit the millennium project in September 2005, and the preparatory process of the Tunis Phase of WSIS.

Deliverables:

- By mid 2005, an internationally agreed upon list of indicators will have been identified for submission to the WSIS Tunis and the United Nations Statistical Commission.
- Regional networks in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Western Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean will have been established, or existing ones reinforced, comprising members of the countries in the region. These statistical working groups at the regional level will assure that particularities of different developing regions are recognized in the development of ICT statistics.

2.2. Capacity building in developing countries

The second objective of the partnership is 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.

Deliverables:

- At the end of 2005, a number of selected beneficiary developing countries will have the capability to implement programmes for the collection of ICT statistics and indicators, the results of which will be comparable at the international and regional level.
- Regional statistical working groups will promote discussions about the development and collection of ICT statistics, in order to allow countries to better identify and promote their interests in international forums dealing with information society indicators. This will also pave the way for identifying needs for capacity building and further cooperation. Close relations with national statistical offices and other interested partners, through continuous regional networking, will assure that the specific needs and challenges of developing countries are adequately considered.
- A training course for information society statistics will have been developed and validated in selected countries.
- A guiding manual on information society indicators will have been prepared, for dissemination among practitioners in developing countries and to be presented at WSIS Tunis.

2.3. International database on ICT indicators

The third objective of the partnership is to develop a global database on ICT indicators and to make it available on the Internet.

Deliverables:

- An inventory of available ICT statistics in the beneficiary countries will have been completed (Phase 1 of the partnership project). This will lay the ground for the development of an international database.
- Available data will have been compiled and made available to the public (Phase 1 and 2 of the partnership project).
- An online platform will have been established, for dissemination of data and information and continuous discussion at the international level (Phase 1 and 2 of the partnership project).

3. Partners and contributions

Equality among partners is one of the key guiding principles of this partnership. Each of the partners has its own work programme on ICT statistics, based on the organization's mandate and reflecting its specific area of competence. This partnership brings all of the ongoing activities together to achieve common results and proposes future activities to advance the development, production and availability of ICT indicators and statistics globally, while avoiding duplication of effort.

As of June 2004, the partners and their respective contributions to the activities of the partnership are the following:¹

ITU

As the UN specialized agency for telecommunications, ITU has a mandate for the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics in its field. This is reinforced by several resolutions and recommendations stemming from ITU conferences calling on the organization to collect and

¹ A Letter of Intent was signed in May 2004 by ITU, OECD and UNCTAD, who have closely worked together to build this partnership. A Memorandum of Understanding among all partners, specifying each partner's contributions, is envisaged in the near future.

disseminate statistics on telecommunication/ICT. This includes gathering over 100 time series in an annual questionnaire, which is sent to national government telecommunication authorities. The results are checked and harmonized to enhance international comparability, and are available in a number of formats including printed publications, CD-ROM, and by electronic download. The flagship statistical publication, the Yearbook of Statistics, has been published annually for almost three decades. Thus one strength the ITU brings to the partnership is its vast experience in collecting and disseminating ICT statistics. ITU also organizes meetings, such as the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators meeting, on the collection and use of ICT statistics, specifically aimed at providing guidance for developing nations. It also works closely with national regulatory authorities in providing advice on how to improve statistical systems, and it cooperates with regional and international organizations in the exchange of data and collaboration on joint publications. The ITU is lead agency responsible for defining ICT indicators for the UN Millennium Development Goals project.

OECD

OECD's work on ICT indicators is mainly carried out through its Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society (WPIIS). This Working Party has as mandate to: (i) Ensure the continued improvement of the methodology for the collection of internationally comparable data for measuring the supply and demand for, and impacts of, ICTs. This will include developing and maintaining standards for measurement of the ICT sector, ICT goods and services, electronic commerce, digital content and diffusion of ICT to organisations and individuals; (ii) Compile ICT statistics according to these standards and assist in developing and interpreting statistical indicators which aid formulation of ICT and related policies, and monitoring progress; and (iii) Carry out empirical analysis, based on official statistics, of the impacts of new information technologies on the economy. OECD will contribute to the partnership in the development of a common list of core indicators, by providing assistance to developing countries through its forthcoming Guide to Information Society Measurement and by participating in the development of a global database with ICT indicators, mainly by providing data for OECD countries and for some associated non-OECD countries.

UNCTAD

UNCTAD's work on ICT-related statistics is focused on the measurement of e-commerce and e-business, as a key input to its annual publication, the E-Commerce and Development Report and, eventually, the UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics. It is based on its research and policy work in the field of ICT, trade and development. UNCTAD will contribute to the partnership's three main objectives, the development of a common list of core indicators (focusing on business indicators), assisting developing countries in their efforts to produce e-business statistics, and developing a database on business indicators/collecting data from developing countries. UNCTAD will contribute expertise, knowledge, information material and substantive inputs to all of the activities of the partnership, including through its web site on measuring ICT.

UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)

UIS was established in 1999 in order to centralize statistical activities and to improve the quality and policy relevance of data relating to all of UNESCO's programme areas - education, science and technology, culture and communication. Since moving to Montreal in 2001, the UIS has been undergoing a review of its former communication statistics programme, with a view toward renewal. As a result, in 2005 the UIS will be re-launching updated and improved versions of its former press and broadcast (radio and television) surveys, the latter in response to requests for more data on the "forgotten" ICT technologies from its Member States and the WSIS Plan of Action. Capitalizing on its unique role as lead UN agency responsible for both communication and education, the UIS plans to fill the currently untapped niche of collecting international data on ICTs in education. This is in direct response to the WSIS Plan of Action, which calls for monitoring of ICT connectivity and curricula at the primary, secondary and tertiary level of school. As such, in the context of the partnership the UIS will be spearheading initiatives to encourage countries to collect data in this important area.

UN Regional Commissions

The UN Regional Commissions have the mandate to promote a regional perspective to global discussions while introducing global concerns at the regional and subregional levels. UN Regional Commissions will contribute with their natural strengths, such as ground presence, knowledge about regional particularities and close relationships with their member countries. In addition, they will coordinate statistical activities in their respective regions and liaise directly with the NSOs.

UNECA is the regional coordinator of statistical activities in Africa and launched in 1990 the Addis Ababa Statistical Action Plan for Africa. It also hosts the secretariat of the Advisory Board for Statistics in Africa (ABSA) made up of representatives from member States, regional organizations and partners working on statistics in Africa. Through the African Information Society Initiative (AISI), ECA in cooperation with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, the European Union (EU) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD) launched in 2000 the SCAN ICT project aimed at measuring the penetration and impact of the information society in key sectors of African economies. The project, initially piloted in 6 African countries is being expanded in close cooperation with NSOs to other African countries, with the support of the Government of Finland and IDRC.

UNECLAC is the acting secretariat of the Statistical Commission of the Americas. Through its Information Society observatory OSILAC, a joint activity with the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA/IDRC), ECLAC assists its member countries with methodological work, data harmonization and centralization and capacity building and technical cooperation in ICT statistics.

UNESCWA is acting as the secretariat of the Statistical Commission for Western Asia. The Information and Communication Technology Division (ICTD) in ESCWA produces periodical profiles of the information society for each of the member countries and for Western Asia as a whole. ICTD developed a Web-enabled database of ICT indicators with comparative analysis at the regional and global levels for the benefit of member countries and international organisations.

UNESCAP works to support its member countries along three main themes: "Poverty Reduction", "Managing Globalization", and "Emerging Social Issues". The concept of Information Society crosses potentially all these three themes, so that in order to respond efficiently to the challenge of measuring ICT and the Information Society in the region, several actors within ESCAP have decided to join their efforts and develop appropriate synergies among themselves and with the regional arms of other partners involved. ESCAP already supports its members in the ICT field by providing advisory services in the formulation of ICT policies. On the measurement side ESCAP intends to pursue activities along the lines envisaged by this Partnership Project Document, in particular for future capacity building initiatives in the field of measuring ICT and the Information Society. ESCAP will work to involve and extend the Partnership to other institutions active in the Asia-Pacific region that have shown interest in the field of ICT for development.

World Bank

The World Bank's work on ICT indicators is mainly carried out through its Global ICT Department and Development Data Group. It has identified the following priorities for the near term: (i) Create a database that will consolidate ICT indicators from various household and business surveys conducted by the World Bank. The database, with customized basic reporting and analysis tool, will provide one-stop access to an array of up-to-date ICT indicators from World Bank's data exchange partners and private firms for use in analytical research, MDG monitoring and World Bank ICT project evaluation; (ii) Publish "ICT at-a-glance" tables which provide country specific key ICT data (about 50 indicators) and indices. A web-based tool will also enable interactive comparison and analysis among countries; (iii) Develop a web-enabled toolkit on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of national e-strategies that suggests a framework to enable the means by which indicators and M&E best practices are integrated into e-strategy formulation and ICT implementation planning; (iv) Launch a report "Trends in Global ICT Development" at WSIS II which will include World Bank analytical work on tracking MDG ICT indicators, trends in ICT investments, the impact of ICT on the investment climate, an overview of national ICT strategies and findings from World Bank household surveys, and (v) Put together

technical notes on ICT data collection at the national level to raise awareness of the importance of these data in measuring ICT trends. The World Bank will contribute to the partnership expertise in database design and development, global knowledge and experiences in ICT development, and inputs to both the list of core indicators and the ICT database.

UN ICT Task Force

The ICT Task Force, in implementation of its mandate to help harness the potential of ICT for promoting development, and as a contribution to the Millennium Project and the World Summit on the Information Society, has launched an exercise to develop a comprehensive conceptual framework and a matrix of indicators and benchmarks that would present a quantifiable assessment of the role that ICTs play in the overall development agenda and the achievement of the MDGs. To this purpose, the ICT Task Force has established a Working Party on Indicators and MDG Mapping. The ICT Task Force will contribute to the Partnership its network and information sources, feature the work of the Partnership on the website of the Task Force, and share with the Partnership the results of the work of the Working Party, as well as other relevant knowledge and documents that may become available, in particular in the context of the WSIS process.

National Statistical Offices (NSOs)

NSOs from advanced countries will provide expertise and advice to NSOs from developing countries, and transfer knowledge in areas such as methodologies and survey programmes. Through the framework of the partnership, assistance from NSOs in advanced countries will be channelled to beneficiary countries.²

4. Phase 1: June 2004 – November 2005

The partnership will be launched at UNCTAD XI, to be held from 13-18 June 2004 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Phase 1 of the partnership would thus cover the period June 2004 up to the WSIS Summit in Tunis, which will be held in November 2005.

The following provides a list of activities for phase 1 of the partnership and identifies possible contributions to each activity by the partners, as well as additional resources required to carry out the activities. It includes ongoing and planned activities, to which the different partners can contribute given available resources, and proposes a number of new activities, for which additional resources will have to be sought.³ The activities listed should be considered complementary and building upon each other. Combined, they will contribute to achieving the goals of the partnership. Therefore, funds will be sought to cover a comprehensive package of project activities.

4.1. Inventory of information society statistics

An inventory of information society statistics will be carried out, through the collection of metadata from national statistical offices, to assess the current and future availability of information society statistics. The stocktaking exercise has been initiated by the UN Regional Commissions, ITU, OECD, UNCTAD, and UIS. A similar exercise will be carried out by the OECD with its members. The results of the surveys will show the state of ICT statistics collection around the world in order to arrive at a consensus of key statistics and where assistance should be targeted.

² So far, NSOs interested in participating in the partnership include Statistics Canada and the UK Office for National Statistics.

³ For this purpose, it is envisaged to hold a donors meeting in September/October 2004 in Geneva. At this meeting, the partnership will be presented to potential donors, which will be invited to support the partnership, particularly to finance the technical assistance activities necessary to help developing countries produce information society statistics.

Responsibilities and contributions

- UNECLAC to edit the final version of the metadata questionnaire, with inputs from other partners (June 2004)
- The questionnaires will be sent out to African NSOs by UNECA, Latin American and Caribbean NSOs by UNECLAC, Asia-Pacific NSOs by UNESCAP, Western Asian NSOs by UNESCWA and NSOs in UNECE member countries not covered by the OECD and the EU by UNCTAD. The four Regional Commissions will collect, analyse and interpret the metadata at the regional level (June - October 2004)
- OECD to collect and analyze metadata from its member countries (end of 2004)
- UNCTAD/ITU/UIS to consolidate data at the global level and prepare global analysis of results (ITU will analyse the metadata for household surveys, UNCTAD for business surveys and UIS for remaining surveys) (October – December 2004). A document comprising the final analysis and results of the survey will be presented at the February 2005 global meeting (see below).

Additional resources needed

- Staff for data analysis

4.2. Regional workshops

Regional workshops will be organized in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Western Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean (between October and December 2004), to take stock of e-measurement activities in the region, using an analysis of the inventory taken in 4.1 as well as through additional country consultation; to identify priority areas for action in the area of ICT indicators, in particular a common set of core indicators; and to prepare the groundwork for a statistical group on ICT indicators in each region.

Responsibilities and contributions

- Organizers: ESCWA (October 2004); ESCAP, in joint collaboration with ITU Asia-Pacific (11-13 October 2004); ECLAC (October 2004); ECA plans to organize jointly with ITU two workshops, one for Anglophone and one for Francophone African countries (November and December 2004)
- Substantive contributions⁴ from ITU, OECD, UNCTAD, UIS, WB, NSOs
- Financial contributions: host organizations will cover costs related to the organization of the workshops, including selected travels, venue, interpretation and documents.

Additional resources needed

- Travel of participants from developing countries and resource persons

4.3. Global ICT Indicators Meeting

An international meeting will be organized in Geneva (February 2005), to consolidate the outcomes of the regional workshops and agree on a final list of core indicators to be collected by all countries. It will also discuss developing country technical assistance needs as regards the compilation of ICT indicators, identify ICT indicators relevant to achieving the MDGs, and present ongoing work concerning the creation and maintenance of an international database on ICT indicators. This meeting is being proposed as a WSIS Thematic Meeting for phase 2 of the Summit and its outcome will be presented as an input to WSIS Tunis.

⁴ Substantive contributions include: inputs to discussions on core indicators; information and knowledge related to ongoing methodological and analytical work; comments on documents in preparation for meetings and training material.

Responsibilities and contributions

- Organizers: all partners (but mainly ITU and UNCTAD as hosts)
- Substantive contributions: all partners, including NSOs, and representatives from regions (based on outcome of discussions held at regional levels)
- ITU may provide funds for logistics (room, interpretation, etc.) as well as a limited amount of funds for some fellowships and/or bringing expert speakers.

Additional resources needed

- Costs related to venue, interpretation, documents (possibly covered by ITU)
- Travel of participants from developing countries, resource persons and staff members (possibly small portion could be met by ITU)

4.4. Capacity building and training

Capacity building will comprise four sets of activities: (i) on-site training in National Statistical Offices (NSOs), (ii) technical workshops at the regional level, (iii) development of a training course on information society statistics, and (iv) preparation of a guidebook on information society indicators.

NSO training

Advisory missions will be carried out to a number of selected developing countries to provide on-site training on the development of ICT statistical data collection (e.g. frameworks, methodologies, survey measures) (during 2005).

Responsibilities and contributions

- ITU/UNCTAD/UIS/UN Regional Commissions assist in selection of pilot countries, provide necessary background material and information on status of information society statistics in countries (based on metadata questionnaire results, see 4.1)
- Project officer/consultants carry out feasibility missions
- NSOs (advanced countries) provide on-site expertise and training (advisory missions)

Additional resources needed

- Travel of project officer/consultants/staff members
- Travel of resource persons/consultants, including from NSOs (advanced countries)
- Financing of ICT-related business and household survey expenses
- Financing of consultants' work on preparation of final feasibility analysis

Technical workshops

Technical workshops will be organized at the regional level to share expertise, develop common methodological frameworks, identify best practice and establish working relationships among beneficiary countries (during 2005).

Responsibilities and contributions

- Organizer: Host country/NSO and UN Regional Commissions
- Substantive contributions from other partners
- In-kind contributions from NSOs and other partners on content of workshops

Additional resources needed

- Costs related to venue, interpretation, documents
- Travel of participants from developing countries, resource persons and staff members

Training course on information society statistics

A specialized training course on information society statistics will be developed, for practitioners from statistical offices in developing countries (during 2005).

Responsibilities and contributions

- All partners, including NSOs (from advanced countries) provide knowledge, expertise, information material, guidance, feedback
- Project officer/consultants develop training material

Additional resources needed

- Project officer/consultant fees
- Travel of project officer/consultants
- Reproduction and dissemination of course material
- Translation of course material
- Validation of training course in selected countries (venue, equipment, documents)

Guidebook on information society indicators

Preparation of a guidebook on information society indicators for developing countries, comprising best practices, model questionnaires and suggestions on methodologies and data collection measures for developing countries (during 2005). The OECD guide on the measurement of the information society (forthcoming, 2005) contains methodological guidelines for the collection of ICT indicators in OECD countries. That methodological guidance will be used to the extent it can be adapted to developing countries needs and available survey instruments.

Responsibilities and contributions

- OECD to provide substantive material based on WPIIS work
- Partners to provide inputs concerning developing countries

Additional resources needed

- Consultancy fees
- Costs related to reproduction and dissemination of guide
- Translation of guide

4.5. International database

An international database on ICT indicators will be developed). This will be a concerted effort by all relevant international organisations involved in the collection of ICT-related statistics and indicators.

An Internet platform/interactive Website on information society statistics will be developed, to make data and information available to the public (2005).

The database development process will start in 2005 and continue during the second phase of the partnership project.

Responsibilities and contributions

- ITU/OECD/UNCTAD/ to collect and process data (regarding infrastructure, access, usage by households/individuals and businesses)
- UIS to collect data on ICT in education (as of 2005)
- ITU/OECD/UNCTAD/UIS/WB to provide data and information resources
- UNCTAD will contribute the information provided on the *measuring-ict.unctad.org* web site

Additional resources needed

- Travel of staff (coordination meetings)
- Consultant to develop/redesign web platform

5. Phase 2: November 2005 – Spring 2008

Building on the achievements of the first phase of the partnership, the objective of the second phase will be to expand the e-measurement work to other countries in the developing world and thus to increase the ICT data availability at the international level. This will be done by revising the capacity building activities of the first phase and extending the training programme to new beneficiary countries in all three regions.

The international database on ICT indicators will be expanded and improved, based on the results of the activities of the first phase.

The outcomes of the General Assembly high-level plenary meeting on the MDGs (September 2005) and of WSIS Tunis (November 2005) will be incorporated in the planning of the second phase of the partnership project.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

Regular (biannual) progress reports will be prepared.

(to be determined)