

International Telecommunication Union

**WORLD  
TELECOMMUNICATION  
DEVELOPMENT  
REPORT**

Access Indicators for the  
Information Society



 world summit  
on the information society  
Geneva 2003 - Tunis 2005

 International  
Telecommunication  
Union

2003

# ITU Digital Access Index

## Chapter 5 2003 *World Telecommunication Development Report* Access Indicators for the Information Society

Press Briefing  
19 November 2003

UN

# Why measure access?

“We, the representatives of the peoples of the world, assembled in Geneva from 10-12 December 2003 for the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, declare our common desire and commitment to build a people-centered, *inclusive* and development oriented Information Society, where *everyone* can create, *access*, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life...”

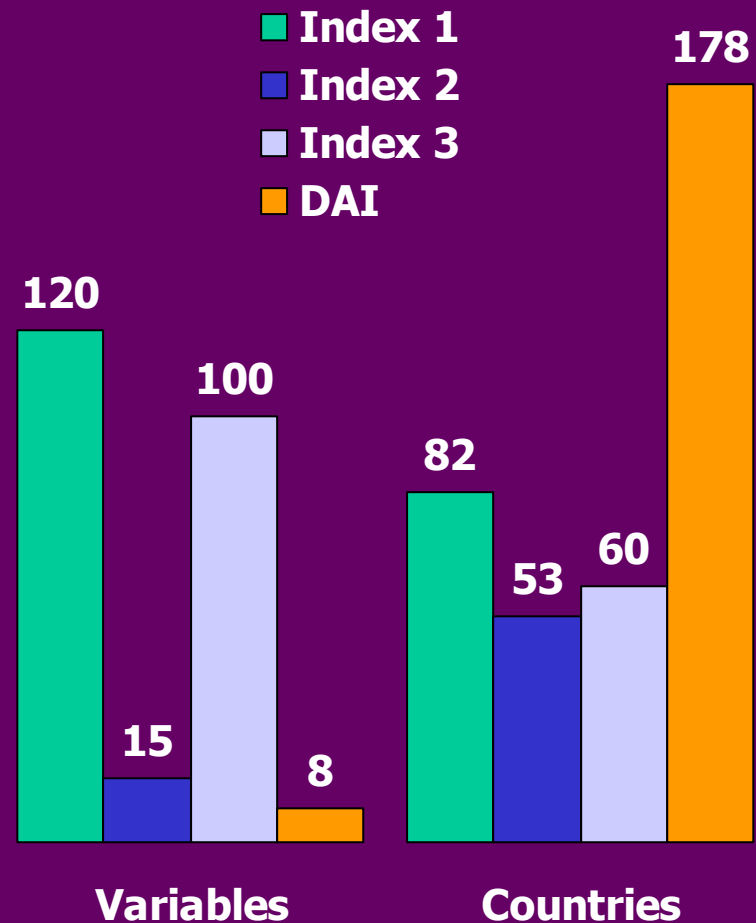
—World Summit on the Information Society,  
Declaration of Principles, Draft of 14 November 2003

# Why an index?

A selection of indicators compiled into an index gives a better overview than any single indicator

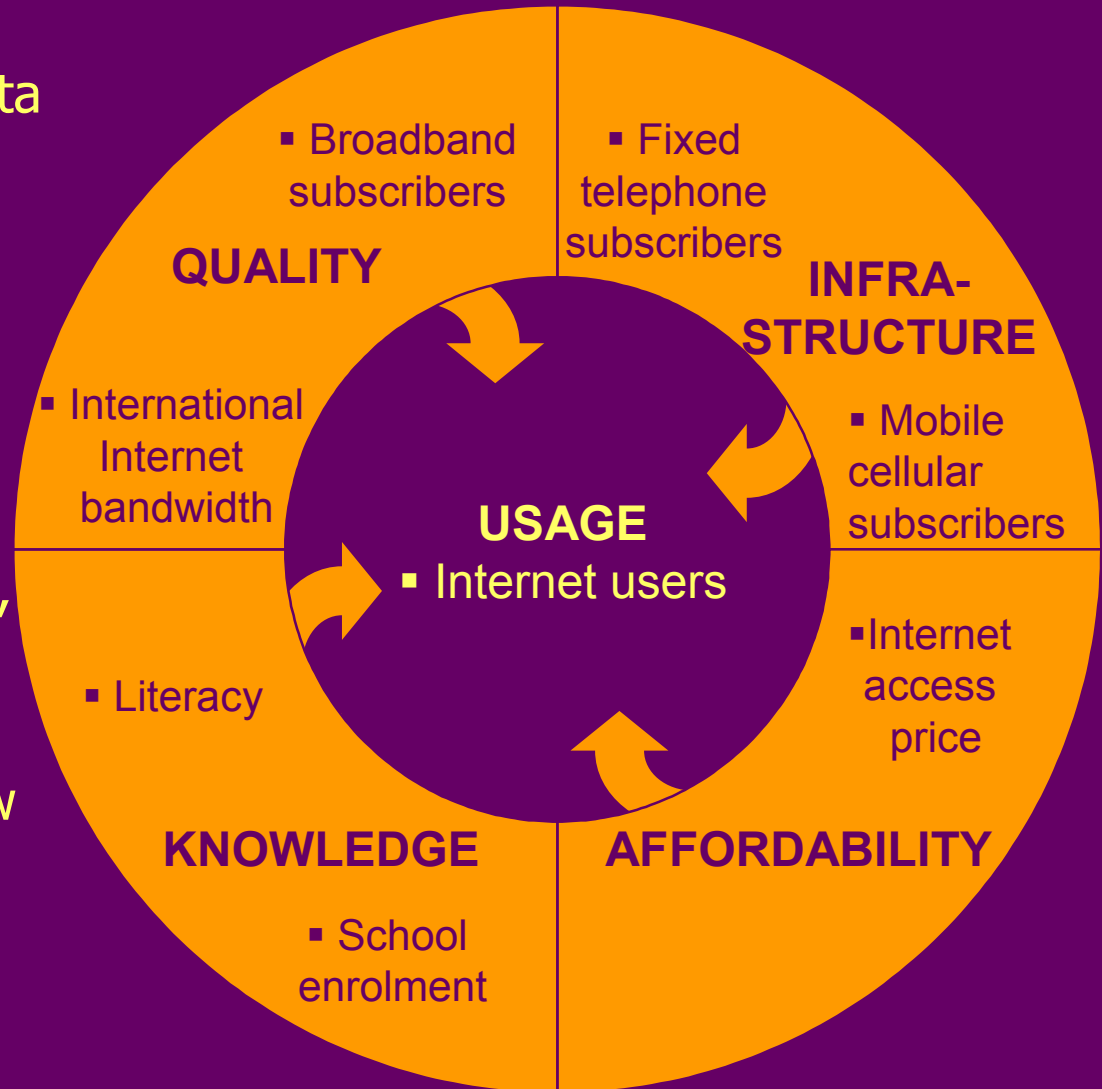
# Why an another ICT index?

- Almost all existing ICT indices concentrate primarily on developed economies
- Some do not use internationally comparable indicators and some have methodological snags or are susceptible to distortions due to the use of qualitative variables
- Most are not specifically targeted at measuring ICT access
- Wherever these indices use too many variables, transparency compromised



# Digital Access Index

- ITU expertise:
  - Leading source of ICT data
  - Analysis and research strength
- Inclusive:
  - 178 economies, most of any other ICT index
- Transparent:
  - 5 categories, 8 indicators, easy to decode
- Classifications:
  - High, upper, medium, low
- Flexibility:
  - gender sub-index
  - national indices
  - index over time



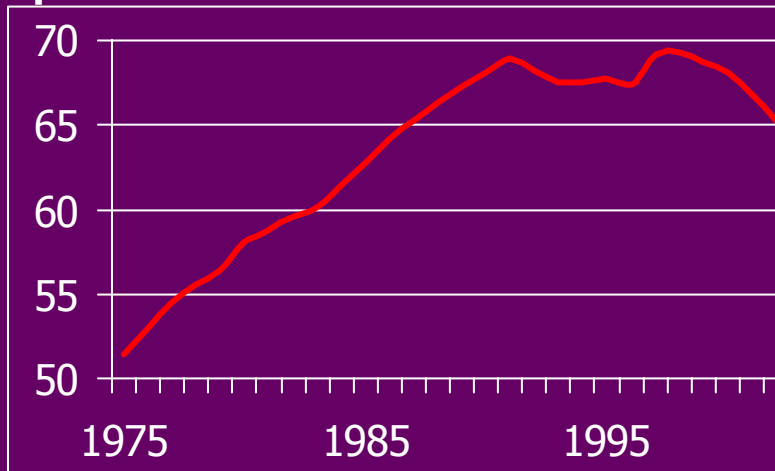
# Compiling DAI: Hong Kong, China

Category	Variable	HK, China	÷ Goal-post	= Indicator	* Weight	= Index value	
1. Infra-structure	1. Fixed telephone subscribers per 100 inhabitants	56.6	60	0.94	½	0.47	<b>0.93</b>
	2. Mobile cellular subscribers per 100 inhabitants	91.6	100	0.92	½	0.46	
2. Afford-ability	3. 1 – (Internet access price as percentage of per capita income)	99.8	100	0.998	1	<b>0.998</b>	
3. Know-ledge	4. Adult literacy	93.5	100	0.94	2/3	0.62	<b>0.83</b>
	5. Combined primary, secondary and tertiary school enrolment level	63.0	100	0.63	1/3	0.21	
4. Quality	6. International Internet bandwidth (bits) per capita	1'867	10'000	0.88 <sup>a</sup>	½	0.44	<b>0.68</b>
	7. Broadband subscribers per 100 inhabitants	14.6	30	0.49	½	0.21	
5. Usage	8. Internet users per 100 inhabitants	43.0	85	0.51	1	<b>0.51</b>	
<b>Digital Access Index (Average of 5 categories above)</b>						<b>0.79</b>	

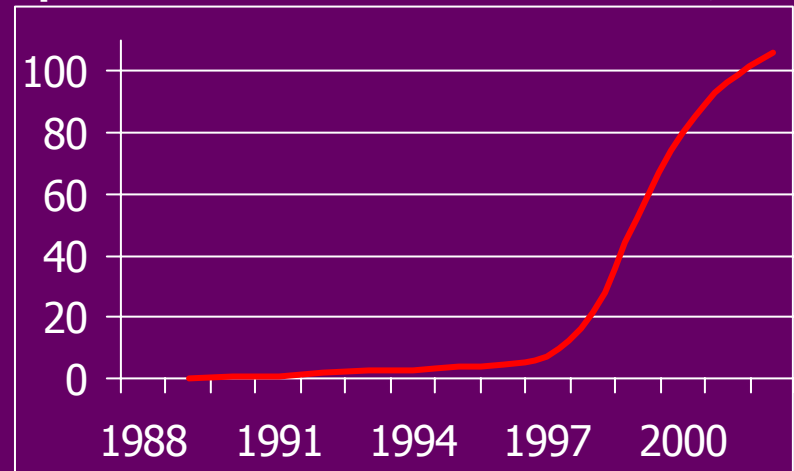
Note: a) Because of the large spread of values among economies, a logarithm is used to calculate this value:  $(\text{LOG}(1'867) - \text{LOG}(0.01)) / (\text{LOG}(10'000) - \text{LOG}(0.01))$

# Where ICTs are headed

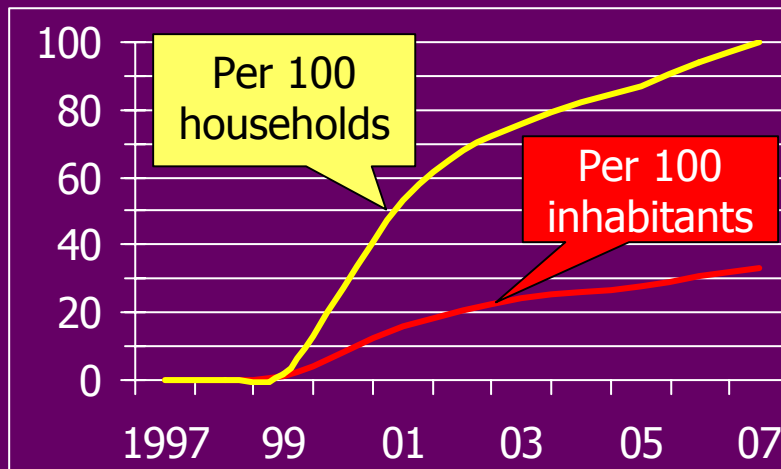
## Fixed telephone subscribers per 100 inhabitants in Sweden



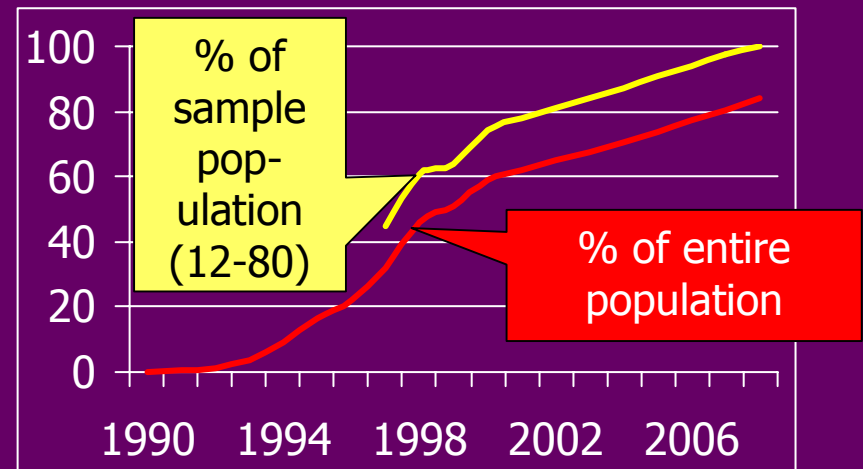
## Mobile telephone subscribers per 100 inhabitants in Taiwan, China



## Broadband Internet subscribers in Korea (Rep.)



## Internet users per 100 inhabitants in Iceland

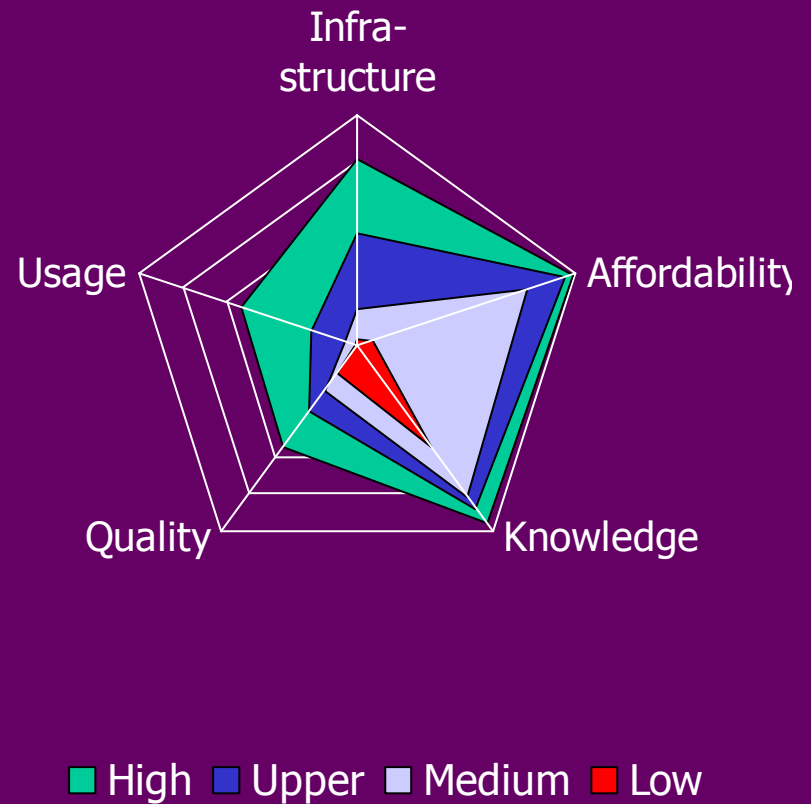
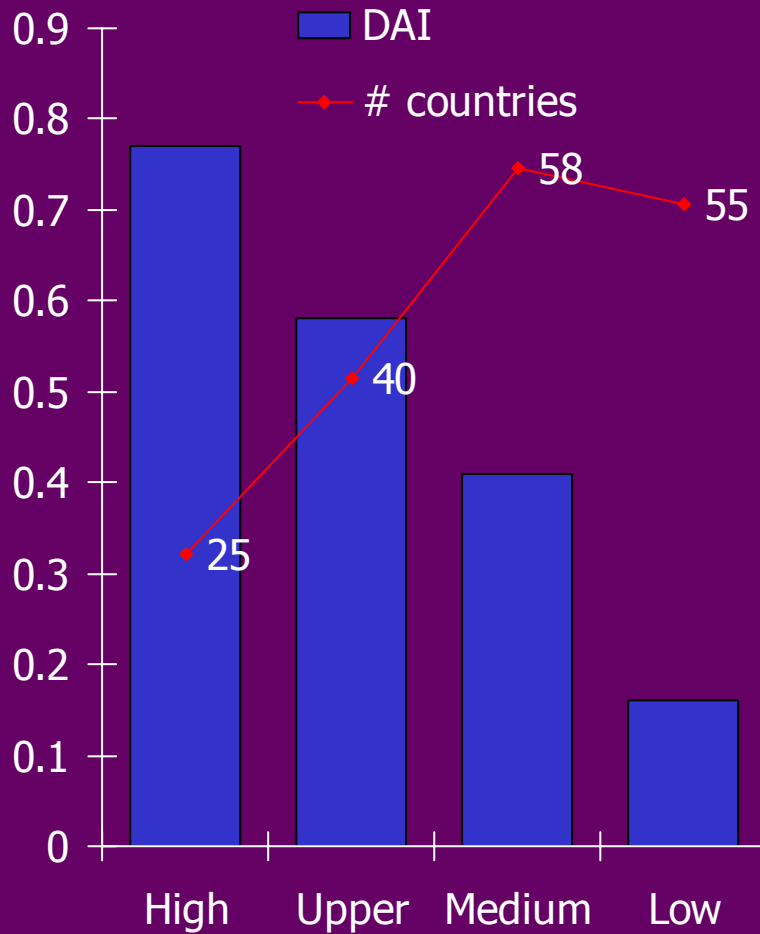


# Top 10

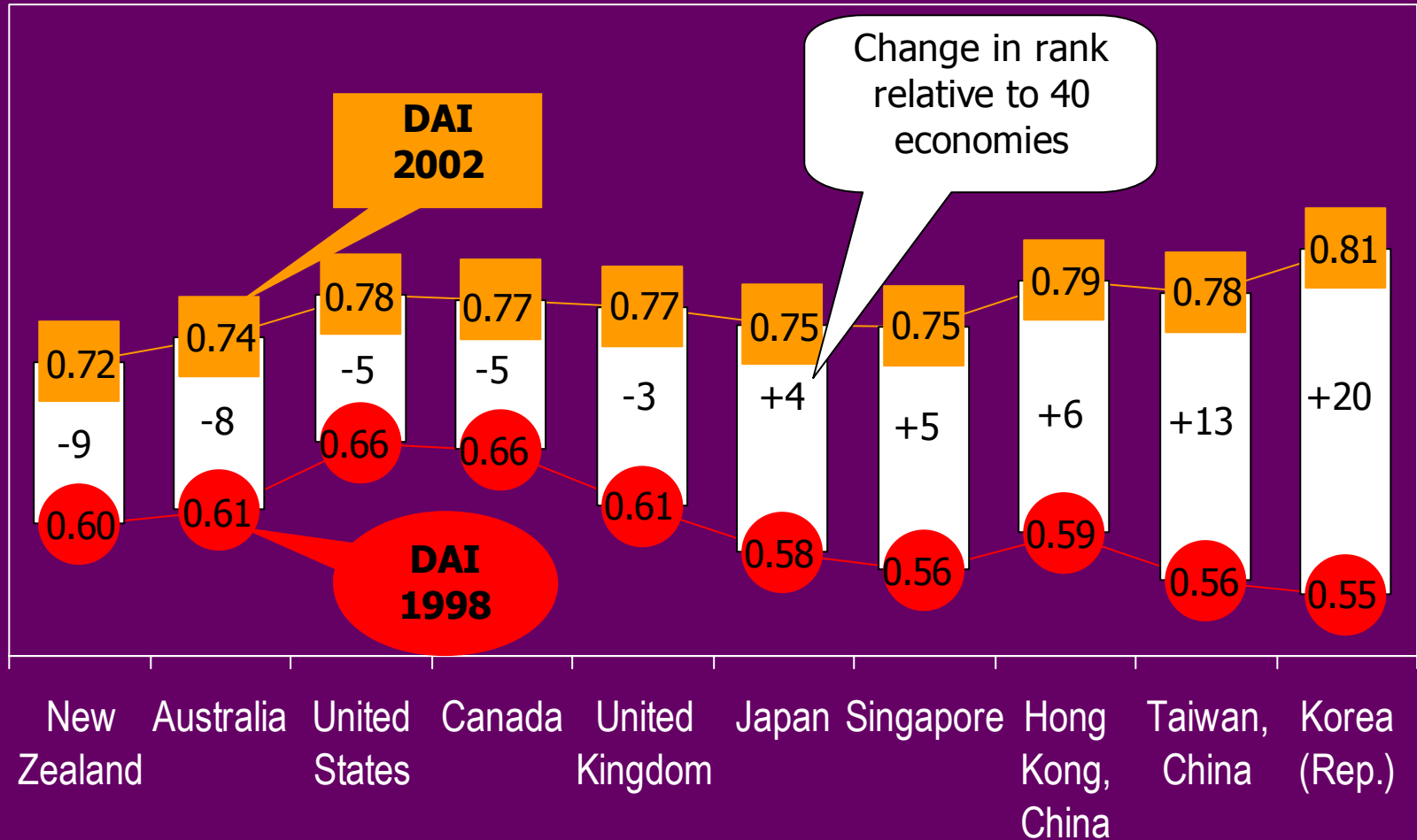
	<b>Economy</b>	<b>Infra-structure</b>	<b>Afford-ability</b>	<b>Know-ledge</b>	<b>Quality</b>	<b>Usage</b>	<b>DAI</b>
1	Sweden	0.94	0.99	0.99	0.64	0.67	0.847
2	Denmark	0.89	0.99	0.99	0.66	0.60	0.828
3	Iceland	0.89	0.99	0.96	0.50	0.76	0.820
4	Korea (Rep.)	0.74	0.99	0.96	0.74	0.65	0.817
5	Norway	0.84	0.99	0.99	0.55	0.59	0.793
6	Netherlands	0.78	0.99	0.99	0.61	0.60	0.792
7	Hong Kong, China	0.93	1.00	0.83	0.68	0.51	0.790
8	Finland	0.81	0.99	0.99	0.55	0.60	0.786
9	Taiwan, China	0.98	0.99	0.95	0.56	0.45	0.786
10	Canada	0.69	0.99	0.97	0.64	0.60	0.779
11	United States	0.74	0.99	0.97	0.54	0.65	0.778
24	Slovenia	0.78	0.97	0.94	0.44	0.44	0.716



# State of the world



# Reversal of fortune



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2003

## 2003 *World Telecommunication Development Report*

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Launch 8 December 2003

World Summit on the  
Information Society (WSIS)  
[Geneva, December 2003]

Main event [December 10-12]

<http://www.itu.int/wsis>

Statistical event [December 8-9]

[http://www.unece.org/stats/doc  
uments/2003.12.wsis.htm](http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2003.12.wsis.htm)

**Thank you!**

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