

COVERING NOTE

Telecommunication Development Bureau (ITU-D)

Geneva, 2 April 2011

Subject: Corrigendum to:
World Telecommunication/ICT Development Report 2010
Monitoring the WSIS targets

Replace page 193 by the following:



Target 10: Ensure that more than half the world's inhabitants have access to ICTs within their reach

Introduction

The extent to which citizens use ICTs is perhaps the most objective measure of a country's success in creating an information society. Therefore, the goal of ensuring that more than half of the world's inhabitants have access to ICTs within their reach is possibly the most relevant of the ten WSIS targets.

Target 10 is related to all of the WSIS action lines, since giving people access to ICTs is one of the most fundamental requirements for creating an information society. Indeed, for some action lines, there is a very direct linkage:

- Action Line C2 (Information and communication infrastructure: an essential foundation for the information society) is a basic requirement for providing access to ICTs.
- Action Line C3 (Access to information and knowledge) is arguably the most relevant to Target 10, since access to ICTs is essential for allowing “...people, anywhere in the world, to access information and knowledge almost instantaneously. Individuals, organizations and communities should benefit from access to knowledge and information.”¹
- Action Line C6 (Enabling environment) has a major bearing on Target 10, insofar as a suitable regulatory environment can encourage investment in the telecommunication sector and lead to more infrastructure availability. Universal service/access regulations can also assist in expanding access to more people. Laws and regulations governing electronic transactions promote greater user trust in ICTs.

Another important issue, however, is ensuring that once ICTs are within reach, they are actually used. Action Lines