



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

**TELECOMMUNICATION  
DEVELOPMENT BUREAU**  
**ITU-D STUDY GROUPS**

**Document 1/051-E**  
**9 June 1999**  
**Original: English**

SECOND MEETING OF STUDY GROUP 1: GENEVA, 30 AUGUST - 3 SEPTEMBER 1999  
SECOND MEETING OF STUDY GROUP 2: GENEVA, 6 - 10 SEPTEMBER 1999

---

*FOR INFORMATION*

Question 13/1: Promotion of infrastructure and use of the Internet in developing countries

### **STUDY GROUP 1**

**SOURCE:** CHAIRMAN OF FOCUS GROUP ON QUESTION 13/1

**TITLE:** CHAIRMAN'S PROGRESS REPORT OF THE FOCUS GROUP ON  
QUESTION 13/1

---

#### **Abstract:**

The document contains the first Rapporteur's progress report of the Focus Group on Question 13/1 (Promotion of infrastructure and use of Internet in developing countries).

This progress report was presented at the TDAG meeting in April 1999.

---

**Contact point:** Mr. Dietmar Plesse, Bonn, Germany / Tel.: +49 228 6152941  
Fax: +49 228 6152964 / e-mail: d.plesse@ndh.net/plesse@itu.int

## **INTRODUCTION**

Further to discussion in the Plenary of ITU-D Study Group 1 (SG1), the meeting decided that Question 13/1 "Promotion of infrastructure and use of the Internet in developing countries" would be handled by a Focus Group for at least one year. The issues to be studied in the Focus Group within the framework of this Question would reflect Document 209 (WTDC-98, Valletta), a joint document submitted at the Conference by the United States of America and Telefónica de España.

In keeping with the decision made during the Plenary of Study Group 1, the membership of the Focus Group should ensure balanced participation from all regions. However, the Group is open to all Sector Members interested in these issues.

The Group conducts its work, as much as possible, electronically. The BDT has set up a conferencing facility for the focus group so that members can exchange views and input documents. The conference is restricted to Focus Group members and can be reached at the following web address <http://wwwp.itu.ch:8080/~2/login>. The conference can also be reached from the web address <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D-UniversalAccess/> - visible under the **Internet** section.

The Focus Group will submit this preliminary report to TDAG. A report on the results achieved so far will be presented at the next Study Group meeting in September 1999. Study Group 1 should then reconsider its decision to establish a Focus Group and might decide to deal with this Question within the framework of the Study Group.

## **ANALYSIS OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED**

For the documents received for the first meeting of the Focus Group see Annex 2 (list of documents). The contributions were mainly of a general manner and did not fit into the draft outline of the Focus Group's report, as the latter was discussed at the meeting itself for the first time.

ITU-T SG2, Working Party 1/2, Q1/2 "Applications of numbering and addressing plans for fixed and mobile services", at its meeting (3-13 November 1998) issued a liaison statement directed to ITU-D SG1 Focus Group on promotion of infrastructure and use of the Internet in Developing Countries for action and reply by April 1999. While the question raised in that liaison statement is not covered by the Focus Group's original mandate, it turned out that the Focus Group is considered as ITU-D's focal point for Internet and IP-based networks' issues.

## **ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN IN RELATION WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME 1998-1999**

The first meeting of the Focus Group "PROMOTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND USE OF THE INTERNET IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" took place in Bonn/Germany, 15 and 16 December 1998 at the kind invitation of the German Administration. The meeting gathered 23 participants from 13 countries representing all of the 5 BDT regions except the Arab States, the UNESCO and the ITU.

The main topics on the Agenda were the questionnaires to be sent to Administrations and the private sector, and the outline of the report of the Focus Group (for the Agenda, see Annex 1).

11 documents were received either prior to the meeting or at the meeting itself.

## MAIN CONCLUSION

### ITU-T SG2's liaison statement [from Working Party 1/2, Q1/2 "Applications of numbering and addressing plans for fixed and mobile services"]

At its meeting in Bonn the liaison statement was introduced to the Focus Group (Document 03-E), however it was not discussed in detail due to lack of time.

Nevertheless, the Chairman drafted an answer to this liaison statement, that had been published on the conferencing facility for comments by focus Group members. No comments were received and the answer was transferred to ITU-T, stating among others, that

“The impact of voice over Internet applications and "IP Telephony" on the existing accounting/charging procedures and on the telecommunication revenues of developing countries was not explicitly mentioned as subject to be studied by the Group in its Terms of Reference. The Focus Group is working toward providing practical suggestions for increasing Internet infrastructure build-out and use. In particular, it focuses on how to create a capital-attracting, pro-competitive policy environment that will foster infrastructure build-out, as well as the policy environment suited to best foster Internet development. This question is also geared toward developing human capacity in technical expertise related to the Internet.

"IP Telephony" is one of the many applications using this infrastructure once it is established. The main target of bringing Internet into developing countries is to close the information gap. Certainly any possible impact on the revenue of the operators of the circuit-switched networks should not prevent the introduction of Internet in developing countries. The need may arise to discuss how to the extent technically feasible regulation of "IP Telephony" could minimise the impacts referred to by ITU-T SG2 or whether the use of local instead of global numbering resources will help to avoid these impacts. Finally, it has to be taken into account whether compared to the macroeconomic and cultural advantages related to the access to the global information highway these impacts may be of a negligible magnitude.

This discussion however, within ITU-D SG1, can take place at its next meeting in September 1999 at the earliest.”

### Questionnaires to be sent to Administrations and the private sector

The draft questionnaires were discussed at the meeting and on the conferencing facility.

Unfortunately it was too late to include these questionnaires in the package sent out by the ITU-D for the 1999 Telecommunication Regulatory Survey. With respect to the questionnaire to be sent to Administrations, the possible procedure is:

- To have a short questionnaire (if any) to supplement the information already available at ITU based on the Regulatory Survey and to undertake a joint ITU-UNESCO survey restricted on education using the UNESCO National Commission's network.
- Entrust ITU's Regional and Area Offices to provide data as contained in Michael Minges table - *Internet monthly access charges, selected economies* - for a set of surrounding developing countries (Tegucigalpa for Central America, Bridgetown for the Caribbean etc.)

The questionnaire to be sent to the private sector will be sent to selected Sector Members and should be completed as soon as possible.

### Draft outline of the report of the Focus Group

The topics to be covered by the report as well as its structure were discussed at length. Finally, a compromise was reached based on the Chairman's proposal to enable the work to start. Rapporteurs were appointed for each chapter of the report (see Annex 3). However, Rapporteurs when drafting the text are requested to take into account, as far as applicable, the methodology proposed by Hassane Makki (Switzerland):

Player	Interests	Obstacles	Proposed solutions
Users (1)			
Service Providers			
Network Operators			
Governments			

- (1) Private Sector (business) users  
    Individual (residential) users  
    Public Sector (governmental) users

The draft texts (except for the CONCLUSION part) should be available for the Chairman end of June 1999. A first draft report shall be presented to the ITU-D Study Group 1 Meeting in September 1999.

The possibility to use liaison statements to other Questions in our Study Group or other Sector's Study Groups to facilitate our work will be discussed at the next meeting in September 1999.

In the meantime proposals for liaison possibilities are welcome, in particular by the Rapporteurs for the topic they are responsible.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ACTIONS**

The scope of the Question itself should not be enlarged – otherwise the rapid regulatory and technological development will certainly increase the workload beyond the available human resources dedicated to the Focus Group activities. However, it was deemed necessary to have a contact point for ITU-T's Study Groups for Internet and IP-based networks' issues in ITU-D's Study Group structure. The Focus Group may be authorised to be this contact point.

The co-operation with other International Organisations (e.g. WTO, OECD) dealing with similar issues as well as with NGO-type Internet organisations should be strengthened, mainly to decrease the workload for the Rapporteurs and to avoid duplication of work. The Chairman will follow closely OECD's activities, as a member of the Working Party on Telecommunication and Information Services (TISP).

### 3 Annexes

- Agenda of the Meeting
- List of Documents
- Topics to be covered by the report

ANNEX 1

Question 13/1: Promotion of infrastructure and use of the Internet in developing countries

**STUDY GROUP 1**

SOURCE: CHAIRMAN OF THE FOCUS GROUP

TITLE: AGENDA OF THE MEETING

---

1. Opening of the meeting
  2. Approval of the agenda and working hours
  3. Report on decisions taken at Minneapolis Plenipotentiary Conference
  4. Report on the questionnaires to be sent to administrations and private sector
  5. Background documents and sources of information
    - 5.1 Review of the position papers received so far
    - 5.2 Review of other available documentation
  6. Outline of the report of the Focus Group
    - 6.1 Issues to be covered
      - TELECOMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE  
Demand and Infrastructure, Policy Principles (for infrastructure development)  
Terminal equipment  
Local loop (including alternative local loops)  
Backbone network  
Mobile and wireless (including satellites)  
Broadcasting
      - ACCESS TO INFRASTRUCTURE PLATFORMS  
Main policy principles (for the access - including universal service)  
Extending competition and facility convergence  
Market access  
Interconnection and peering
      - THE USE OF THE INTERNET  
Applications (education, healthcare, agriculture, etc.)  
Electronic commerce  
Diversity of culture and languages
      - RELATED ISSUES  
Internet traffic flow  
IP-numbering and Domain Name System  
Taxes and custom duties on information technology
    - 6.2 Responsibility for each chapter of the report
    - 6.3 Report to the next TDAG (February 1999)
  7. Proposed workplan for the future
  8. Any other business
-

ANNEX 2

GROUPE SPÉCIALISÉ SUR LA PROMOTION ET L'UTILISATION  
DE L'INFRASTRUCTURE INTERNET DANS LES PAYS EN DÉVELOPPEMENT  
BONN (ALLEMAGNE), 15-16 DÉCEMBRE 1998

FOCUS GROUP ON PROMOTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE  
AND USE OF THE INTERNET IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
BONN (GERMANY), 15-16 DECEMBER 1998

GRUPO TEMÁTICO DE PROMOCIÓN DE LA INFRAESTRUCTURA  
Y DEL USO DEL INTERNET EN LOS PAÍSES DESARROLADOS  
BONN (ALEMANIA), 15-16 DE DICIEMBRE DE 1998

**Liste des Documents**

*List of Documents*

**Lista de Documentos**

01	Agenda of the meeting	Chairman
01/2	Ordre du jour	Président
Temp01	Liaison statement 2 (extract from Doc. 03)	ITU-T SG 2
02	An overview of Internet connectivity in Africa	South Africa (Rep. of)
02/2	Connectivité à Internet en Afrique	Sudafricaine (Rép.)
03	Liaison Statement to TSAG and SG 13 on studies on IP based networks	ITU-T SG 2
04	Proposed survey question	USA
05/1	Cuestionario	Telefónica de España
05/2	Questionnaire	Telefónica de España
05/3	Questionnaire	Telefónica de España
06 (new)	A study of compatible and sustainable international charging arrangements for Internet services	Telecom Authority of Singapore
07	The Swiss Federal Council's strategy for an information society in Switzerland	OFCOM
07/1	Stratégie du conseil fédéral suisse pour une société de l'information en Suisse	OFCOM
08	Internet diffusion trends	ITU-BDT
09	Resolution COM5/14 - Internet protocol (IP) based networks	ITU
09/2	Résolution COM5/14 - Réseaux fondés sur le protocole Internet	UIT
10	Resolution COM5/15 - Management of Internet domain names and addresses	ITU
10/2	Resolution COM5/15 - Gestion des noms de domaine et adresses Internet	UIT
11/2	Proposition d'une stratégie de développement de l'infrastructure Internet dans les pays en développement	Sénégal

### ANNEX 3

#### **Topics to be covered by the report**

##### INTRODUCTION (Rapporteur: Chairman)

Statement of the problem, goals (increased Internet infrastructure and use), methodology (identify general problems and obstacles to achieve the goals in developing countries and propose solutions)

##### TELECOMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE (Rapporteur: Lynne Gallagher)

Demand and Infrastructure

User equipment

Local loop (including alternative local loops)

Backbone network

Mobile and wireless (including satellites) and broadcasting

##### ACCESS TO INFRASTRUCTURE/POLICY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

(Rapporteurs: Roxanne McElvane and Pierre Fontaine)

Extending competition and facility convergence

Market access

Interconnection

Pricing, tariffs as far as the access to Internet is concerned, subsidies

Summary of existing Information Society related policy frameworks

##### THE USE OF THE INTERNET (Rapporteur: John Rose)

Applications, focused on the needs of developing countries (education, healthcare, agriculture, etc.)

Electronic commerce (Rapporteur: Jane Coffin)

##### LOCAL CONTENT (Rapporteur: John Rose)

Diversity of culture and languages (including local and regional content)

##### INTERNET TRAFFIC (Rapporteurs: Raul Sejas and Roxanne McElvane)

Internet traffic flow, imbalance of traffic, interconnection and peering

##### HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Rapporteur: Chairman)

Telecenter issues, shared access

Training

##### RELATED ISSUES (Rapporteurs: Chairman and Jane Coffin)

IP-numbering and Domain Name System

Taxes and custom duties on information technology

##### CONCLUSIONS (Rapporteur: tbd)

Policy Guidelines [e.g. Policy Principles for Infrastructure development, access including universal service, and service provision] (Rapporteur: Pierre Fontaine)

Technology neutral guide to options for Internet build-out

Human capacity building

Development of local content

[Conclusions will be the base for a Recommendation]