Executive Training: Role of ICT in Development of Inclusive Society for Persons with Disabilities
ICT accessibility policy and regulatory framework

ITU Regional Initiative 3 on ensuring accessible telecommunication/ICT, in particular for persons with disabilities

Legal, policy and regulatory framework

- ICT accessibility policies need to be made by the responsible policy maker and included in the general policy framework.
- Different stakeholders, including the NRA, the private sector, civil society and organizations representing PWD, make inputs into the policy process.
- Policy needs to be turned into legislation, regulations, and/or licence conditions to make it enforceable.
- Universal Service legal and regulatory framework should include accessibility as an explicit goal.

ICT accessibility legislation

Changes that are necessary to be included in existing ICT legislation to promote ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities, include developing definitions, require:

- Revising existing ICT policies, legislation and regulations to promote and refer to ICT accessibility;

- Consulting with persons with disabilities on the development of such revised ICT policies, legislation and regulations, including by establishing a Committee on ICT Accessibility;

- Making persons with disabilities and organizations of persons with disabilities aware of revised ICT policies, legislation, and regulations;

Role of National Regulatory Authorities (NRA)

- NRAs can represent a driving force in ensuring accessible ICTs.

- Regulations, are made following a consultative process, which includes PWD.

- Providers require licences which authorize them to provide specified services (may also include multiple services, usually technology neutral) under conditions that are agreed between the issuing authority (usually the NRA) and the licensee.

- It is beneficial to ICT accessibility regulations to put in place rules that apply broadly across the sector, and that enable the implementation of consistent standards and requirements and ensure a coordinated approach.

Regulatory models of accessible ICTs

- ICT accessibility requirements are included in licence conditions.

- ICT accessibility are included in general regulations.

- In cases where countries allow for self or co-regulation, ICT accessibility is achieved through codes of conduct.

- Many developed countries are in the process of amending their broadcasting or ICT legislation to address issues such as convergence and the introduction of broadband.

Key considerations for policy makers

Key issues to be considered to implement policy and regulatory framework for telecommunications and ICT accessibility:

- The Universal Service obligation should take into account the needs of persons with disabilities about access to ICTs.

- The Universal Service legal and regulatory framework should include accessibility as an explicit goal for Universal Service and consideration within the Universal Service Fund.

- At all levels of education, the use of accessible ICTs should be promoted by all stakeholders involved in education delivery.

Key considerations for policy makers

- Any general policies or laws developed or updated that incorporate considerations of accessibility for ICTs should include clear targets and annual reporting on its implementation.

- Involvement of persons with disabilities representatives and related bodies/organizations in the development and implementation of policies, legislation, and regulation, is key to ensuring successful outcomes.

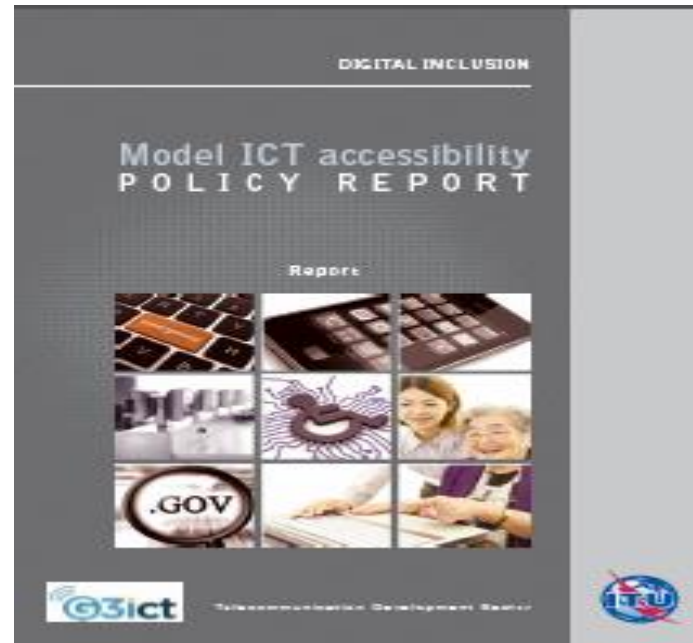# Key considerations for policy makers

Raising awareness and educating all stakeholders about accessibility policies and technology trends to strengthen advocacy effectiveness:

- Accessibility for persons with disabilities should be mainstreamed and thus normalizing its status in an inclusive society.

- There should be an attempt at making access services commercially profitable.

- Accessibility should be included in all standardization since is a basic precondition to avoid market fragmentation.

- Accessibility is a great opportunity to work towards social inclusion and empowerment for everyone.

Promotion and advocacy in ensuring implementation of accessible ICTs

- Raising awareness and education of all stakeholders about legal and regulatory framework, as well as trends accessible ICTs, are key in advocating for their implementation.

- Promotion and advocacy joint efforts by all stakeholders.

- Accessible ICTs as precondition for development of inclusive society.

ITU-G3ICTModel ICT accessibility Policy Report

http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital Inclusion/Pages/Reports.aspx

Thank you!

More information :
www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/
www.itu.int/accessibility