



12<sup>th</sup> Meeting (online), 13-15 September 2021

## SUMMARY

1. The 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ITU Expert Group on Telecommunication / ICT Indicators (EGTI) took place in a fully virtual setting from 13 to 15 September 2021, back-to-back with the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH), which was held on 15-16 September 2021. Joint sessions with EGH were held on 15 September.
2. The meeting was attended by a total of 207 participants, including 178 delegates representing 72 Member States countries, 3 participants from Palestine<sup>1</sup>, 21 participants from ITU-D Sector Members. Participants from other UN agencies and regional organizations (UNCTAD, OECD, the Arab Regulators Network, Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority, ACSIS, ICANN, WWW Foundation) as well as Scientific or Industrial Organizations and recognized operating agencies (including Intel, Microsoft, Algérie Télécom, ICOSNET, Telkom SA SOC, Telefónica, and Swisscom), as well as academia (including the London school of Economics, and the Colegio Oficial de Ingenieros de Telecomunicación) attended the meeting. Out of the total number of participants, 46% were women. Experts from the ITU-D and ITU-R sectors also attended the meeting, as did from ITU-D Regional Offices. ITU staff from the ICT Data and Analytics Division acted as the secretariat of EGTI. Mr. João Noronha, Head of Statistics and Market Research, Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações, Portugal chaired the 12<sup>th</sup> EGTI meeting.
3. The topics discussed in the 12<sup>th</sup> EGTI meeting were those identified by the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators, which took place in Geneva on 14-18 September 2020. In particular, the agenda covered the following topics: indicators for measuring 5G; measurement of over-the-top (OTT) services; experience with collecting data for the 2021 ICT price baskets and collecting indicators on spectrum for IMT systems; future work; the EGTI/EGH joint session on measuring mobile money services; as well as information sessions introducing new ITU statistical products. The meeting also discussed the inputs received in the EGTI online forum in 2021.
4. At its 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting in 2020, EGTI agreed to extend the mandate of the subgroup on **5G indicators** (initially established at the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of EGTI in 2019) with the aim to develop indicators measuring adoption and subscription. In his presentation, the sub-group coordinator, Mr. Inigo Herguera, summarized the results of the ad-hoc questionnaire on deploying 5G networks and presented the proposal of the sub-group. EGTI discussed the proposal of adding two new indicators, to refine the scope of existing indicators measuring mobile-cellular and mobile

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)

broadband subscriptions and indicators on spectrum for IMT services. During the discussion, the issue of reviewing the long questionnaire was proposed.

5. After the discussion on the sub-group proposal, EGTI agreed to:
  - a. add as new indicators:
    - 1) active mobile broadband subscriptions to 5G/IMT-2020, and
    - 2) mobile cellular subscriptions with access to 5G/IMT-2020, as a new sub-indicator of active mobile cellular subscriptions;
  - b. refine the the scope of the following existing indicators as proposed in the subgroup report:
    - 1) active mobile subscriptions with 4G/LTE (this will include any more advanced technology)
    - 2) active mobile broadband subscriptions (this will include any broadband with 5G/IMT-2020)
    - 3) active fixed-broadband subscriptions (this will include 5G/IMT-2020-supported fixed wireless broadband); and
  - c. collect data on data on spectrum blocks assigned to 5G, when reporting the indicator “total spectrum assigned for each of the three main blocks” by indicating a) what specific spectrum band has been assigned for 5G, and how much total capacity has been assigned to 5G (in MHz).

Subject to comments received by 15 October 2021, the new indicators are to be collected in the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Long Questionnaire 2022.

EGTI also agreed to extend the mandate of the 5G sub-group with the aim to investigate the implications for mobile-to-mobile (M2M) subscriptions.

6. Last year, at its 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting, EGTI revised the **ICT price baskets** collected by ITU. A session was dedicated to share preliminary experience with the data collection. The ITU Secretariat informed EGTI about the ongoing collaboration with the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) on ICT price data collection and dissemination. In her presentation, Ms. Shazna Zuhyle summarized the experience with the 2021 ICT price data collection, highlighting the potential breaks in series from 2020 to 2021 due to changed rules, such as those concerning contract modality and, to a limited extent, changes in the allowance threshold. Mr. Teddy Woodhouse shared the experience of the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) with the collection of mobile broadband prices with a variety of alternative allowance thresholds reflecting market realities, highlighting the relevance of collected data for 1, 2 and 5 GB baskets. The ensuing discussion focused on the advantages and disadvantages of revising ITU’s ICT price data collection methodology. Taking into consideration that the 2020 Meeting of EGTI concluded revisiting the baskets only after 2 years in order to ensure continuity and comparability over time, as well as the expected resource needs of a more comprehensive data collection suggested by some Members, EGTI agreed to postpone the re-activation of the subgroup on ICT prices. ITU will continue to collaborate with A4AI on the collection and dissemination of ICT Price baskets.
7. The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of EGTI in 2020 set up the sub-group on **measuring OTT services**. The work of the subgroup commenced in May 2021 with the appointment of the chair/rapporteur and of Member State participants. The sub-group’s objectives spanned from reflection on the

foundations for work on OTTs to considering a possible outline set of indicators. In his presentation, Mr. Oliver Füg, the sub-group rapporteur explained that based on a stocktaking exercise among countries participating in the work of the sub-group, it identified limited ongoing data collection activities and the absence of a shared conceptual framework on which to base a joint methodology. The sub-group proposed to adopt the consensus definition of OTTs for the purpose of statistical data collection, as well as to continue the group's work during the 2021/2022 period with the aim to operationalize the definition.

8. Subject to comments received by 15 October 2021, EGTI agreed to adopt the definition proposed by the subgroup, according to which OTT is a *“service, provided and delivered over the public Internet without control of the network layer, and access to which is independent of a specific Internet access service”*. EGTI agreed to extend the mandate of the OTT subgroup for the following year. Its work will entail examining framework conditions (institutional, other) for data collection, studying technical aspects of OTT communications, evaluate the feasibility of data collection, to eventually define indicator(s) and, if possible, conduct data collection trials. The Chair extended the invitation to all Members to join the work of the subgroup.

Given the additional insights expected to be gained from demand-side measurement, the subgroup shall continue as a joint EGTI-EGH subgroup, subject to the agreement of EGH.

9. The 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of EGTI in 2019 adopted a set of indicators to measure the allocation and assignment of **spectrum for IMT systems**. Subsequently, ITU launched its first data collection of these spectrum indicators in the 2020 WTI Long Questionnaire. In his presentation, Mr. Joaquin Restrepo (ITU-R) explained the relevance and use for the collection of these indicators. He also explained the methodology applied for the inclusion of spectrums in the denominator of the indicators used for international comparison, which are based on those identified by at least 50% of the countries in each of the 3 regions defined in the ITU Radio Regulation. The presentation provided regionally aggregated results from the 2020 data collection round.
10. EGTI agreed to continue the collection of statistics on spectrum for IMT services in the ITU WTI Long questionnaire.
11. In two sessions, the ITU Secretariat presented to EGTI (and EGH) Members new statistical products developed by the ITU:
  - The recently launched ITU Academy free only training course on the Handbook, titled: [“Measuring Digital Development: Telecommunication/ICT Indicators”](#) which is a capacity-building tool designed to train ITU Members and others interested about the 2020 edition of the ITU *Handbook for the collection of administrative data on telecommunication/ICT*;
  - The [Digital Development Dashboard](#), an interactive visualization tool that provides an overview of the state of digital development around the world based on statistics collected by the ITU; and
  - Ongoing work that aims to develop new methodologies for exploiting mobile cellular and other big data for measuring digital development.
12. The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of EGTI and the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of EGH in 2020 agreed to form a joint subgroup with an aim to develop indicators measuring the adoption and usage of **mobile money services** from the supply as well as the demand side. The joint subgroup, based on experience from countries

and GSMA, proposed to define mobile money as a technology that allows people to receive, store, and transfer money or make payments through a mobile phone, and specified the scope of measurement. Considering the supply side, it proposed the addition of four new indicators to measure mobile money services. The joint session of EGTI and EGH on 15 September 2021 discussed the proposal from the perspectives of regulators and national statistical offices. The discussions highlighted the relevance of mobile money services across the world for providing financial services for the unbanked, and identified challenges for data collection, including cross-country differences in the institutional system in place for the regulation of mobile financial services.

13. Following the discussion, EGTI agreed to collect the following new indicators to measure mobile money services:

- 1) Number of mobile money active customer accounts
- 2) Number of domestic account-to-account P2P transfers
- 3) Value of domestic account-to-account transfers
- 4) Number of active agents

Subject to comments received by 15 October 2021, the four new indicators will be collected on a trial basis in the 2022 ITU WTI Long Questionnaire, after which EGTI will revisit data availability and relevance of the indicators.

The joint EGTI-EGH subgroup on mobile money services was closed.

14. Regarding future work for the 2021/2022 period, EGTI agreed to:

- 1) Create a subgroup to review indicators collected in the ITU WTI Long Questionnaire and revisit how the number of households covered by a certain technology of fixed broadband is measured (instead of numbers, collect % to improve comparability);
- 2) Extend the mandate of the sub-group on measuring 5G/IMT-2020 deployment, with the aim to investigate the implications for M2M subscriptions;
- 3) Extend the mandate of the subgroup on measuring OTT services, with the aim to examine framework conditions for data collection, study technical aspects of OTT communications, taking into account the related work of other international organizations, evaluate the feasibility of data collection, to eventually define indicator(s) and, if possible, conduct data collection trials.). Subject to the agreement of EGH, the sub-group shall continue its work as a joint EGTI-EGH subgroup;
- 4) Re-activate the forum topic on internet of things (IoT) to cover topics outside the scope of the work of the sub-group on 5G/IMT-2020 indicators.

15. All the decisions regarding the indicators will be subjected to comments until 15 October 2021, after which they will become final.

16. The EGTI Chair announced that his mandate would finish at the end of 2021 and this was his last EGTI meeting as the chair. The Chair and Vice-Chairs thanked the EGTI members and the ITU Secretariat for their support during their term. Consultations would be undertaken and a proposal for a new chair and vice-chair would be submitted to this group for endorsement.