

# 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ITU Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI)

Geneva, Switzerland, 23-25 September 2015

## SUMMARY

1. The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ITU Expert Group on Telecommunication / ICT Indicators (EGTI) took place in Geneva, Switzerland, on 23-25 September 2015, back-to-back with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH), which was held on 22-23 September 2015.
2. There were 100 participants attending the meeting, including experts from regulators, ministries and national statistical offices from 48 countries, as well as the African Civil Society for the Information Society, the African Telecommunication Union, Analysys Mason, América Móvil, China Mobile, the European Commission, Eurostat, Google, GSMA Intelligence, OECD, Research ICT Africa, UIS, UNCTAD and the Web Foundation. ITU staff was also present during the meeting and acted as the secretariat of EGTI. The meeting was chaired by Mr Iñigo Herguera, Professor of Economics, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain.
3. The topics discussed in the 6<sup>th</sup> EGTI meeting were those identified by the 12<sup>th</sup> WTIS (held in Tbilisi, Georgia, in December 2014) as requiring further work, as well as continuing topics, such as the ICT Development Index. In particular, the agenda covered the indicators on advanced mobile-broadband technologies (e.g. LTE), the revision of the sub-categories of mobile-broadband subscriptions, the collection of fixed-broadband subscriptions by type of organization, other administrative data sources – such as over-the-top (OTT) service providers – and indicators on m-banking services.
4. The meeting discussed the inputs received in the EGTI online forum in 2015. The discussions focused on the suggested indicators, their definitions and whether to include them in the future (2016) ITU data collection. The meeting further discussed the future work of EGTI, identifying topics that required further discussion as well as new additions to the list of indicators.
5. EGTI decided that data on advanced mobile-broadband subscriptions would be collected on a trial basis by ITU starting from 2016. The agreed definition for the new indicator was the following: **“Active subscriptions to LTE/WiMAX mobile-broadband networks:** subscriptions that have generated Internet traffic in the last 90 days in LTE/mobile WiMAX and other advanced mobile-broadband networks, such as LTE-Advanced and WirelessMAN. It excludes subscriptions having generated Internet traffic only in HSPA, UMTS, EV-DO and previous 3G networks, and also excludes fixed WiMAX subscriptions”. In addition, EGTI agreed that a topic would be opened in the EGTI online forum for experience sharing on the collection of data for the two LTE/mobile WiMAX indicators (population coverage, subscriptions).

6. EGTI agreed that the mobile-broadband sub-categories (standard and dedicated) would be adjusted as follows: (1) Data and voice subscriptions, including voice plus Internet plans (bundles and pay per use) and add-on data plans; (2) Data-only subscriptions, including USB dongles, datacards and tablets. The adjustments in the sub-categories will not affect the comparability of the aggregate indicator "Active mobile-broadband subscriptions". M2M subscriptions are excluded from the indicators on mobile-broadband subscriptions. These changes will be reflected in the 2016 ITU questionnaire.
7. EGTI concluded that it was neither feasible nor particularly relevant to collect data on additional sub-categories of fixed-broadband subscriptions for organizations at the international level. As a result, it was agreed that ITU would continue to collect data on: (1) Total fixed-broadband subscriptions; and (2) Fixed-broadband subscriptions for organizations without the additional sub-categories. In addition, EGTI clarified that the unit of measurement for the indicator "Fixed-broadband subscriptions for organizations" was the number of physical connections.
8. EGTI highlighted that alternative data sources, such as OTT service providers, could complement or extend the current data collection from telecommunication operators. In order to explore these new data sources, EGTI agreed on an integrated approach together with EGH, and decided that discussions would continue in the topic "Other data sources" created in the EGH online forum, which includes the discussions on big data for official statistics. Furthermore, EGTI identified two lines of action for the cooperation with OTT service providers: (1) complementing existing ICT indicators with their data; (2) specifying possible new indicators needed for the development of ICTs and not available from traditional data sources. To this end, EGTI welcomed the participation of OTT service providers in the EGTI forum and encouraged them to continue participating in the discussions. Finally, ITU should continue looking into common procedures and practices for the exploitation of these new data sources.
9. EGTI noted that there were several banking services offered through mobile networks (by operators and banks), including mobile money which already had a high uptake in some countries and held a big potential for development. EGTI decided that a sub-group within EGTI would be created to develop draft guidelines on the framework for the collection of internationally comparable indicators on digital financial services based on supply-side data sources. In addition, the discussions in the online forum would continue on the indicators to be collected for measuring digital financial services, as well as for experience sharing on the collection of these data.
10. EGTI agreed on proposing the following topics for discussion in 2016: the revision of the composition of the ICT price baskets; detailed guidelines for the international Internet bandwidth indicators (a sub-group would be created within EGTI to produce a draft); classification of WiFi networks; guidelines for the collection of indicators on digital financial services (a sub-group would be created within EGTI to produce a draft); experience sharing on the collection of LTE/mobile Wimax indicators (subscriptions and coverage); and fixed network coverage indicators.

EGTI agreed that ITU would produce the terms of reference for the two sub-groups to be created within EGTI.

11. The ICT Development Index (IDI) was discussed in a joint session with the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH). EGH and EGTI welcomed the proposal of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics to replace the indicator “Adult literacy rate” with “Mean years of schooling” in the IDI and the progress made in the data collection of the indicators “Learner-to-computer ratio” and “Gross enrollment ratio in programmes with computer-assisted instruction”. The two expert groups also welcomed the assessment made by the European Commission’s Joint Research Center on the statistical soundness of the IDI and proposed that a similar exercise should be repeated in future revisions of the IDI. Finally, EGH and EGTI encouraged countries to submit data for the indicator “Fixed-broadband subscriptions by speed” with a view to its future inclusion in the IDI.
12. EGH and EGTI agreed that discussions on the IDI would continue in the EGTI forum. New proposals regarding the IDI should address the following points: (i) how would they improve the measurement of ICT developments? (ii) How would they fit in the conceptual framework of the IDI? (iii) Would data be available for the suggested new indicators and, if so, from which source?
13. The EGTI Chair will present the conclusions of the 6<sup>th</sup> EGTI meeting to the 13<sup>th</sup> World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS), which will take place in Hiroshima, Japan, from 30 November to 2 December 2015.