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| Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC) | | | |
| Draft revision of Resolution 8 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) “Collection and dissemination of information and statistical data” | | | |
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| **Agenda item:**  Item 7.2  **Summary:**  This contribution is proposed to amend the text of Resolution 8 of WTDC, taking into account the text of Resolution 131 of the Plenipotentiary Conference, as well as the introduction of the new ITU Index.  **Action required:**  This document has been submitted to the RCC CIC/WG ITU meeting in October 2020 as a proposal for preliminary draft RCC Common proposal.  **References:**  Resolution 8 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)  Resolution 131 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference | | | |

RESOLUTION 8 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)

**Development, collection and dissemination of information and statistics for international comparisons in the field of telecommunications / ICTs**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Addis Ababa, 2021),

*recalling*

a Resolution 131 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on measuring information and communication technologies (ICTs) to build an integrating and inclusive information society;

b) Resolution 37 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) Bridging the digital divide,

*considering*

*a)* that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), as the main source of international information and statistics on telecommunications/ICTs, performs a key role in the collection, coordination, exchange and analysis of information;

*b)* the importance of the existing Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) databases, in particular the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (WTI) database and the regulatory database;

*c)* the usefulness of analytical reports published by ITU-D, such as the World Telecommunication/ICT Development Report, the Measuring the Information Society Report and the Trends in Telecommunication Reform report, the Global Cybersecurity Index and Cyberwellness Profiles report and other reports;

*d)* the need to collect and disseminate information and statistics for followup on and monitoring of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*e)* the cross-cutting nature of telecommunications/ICTs as a strategic component in achieving all the goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*f)* that numerous regional and international organizations make use of and rely upon the statistics prepared and published by the Union in their indicators and reports;

*g)* that the 2017 session of ITU Council instructed the Secretary-General to grant all Member States the right of free electronic access to ITU publications relating to statistics and indicators,

*considering further*

*a)* that the telecommunications/ICT sector at the national level is reforming at an incredible pace;

*b)* that policy approaches vary and countries can benefit from the experiences of others,

*recognizing*

*a)* that, by acting as a clearing house for the exchange of information and statistics, BDT, based on reliable information and relevant indicators and statistics, will be able to assist Member States in developing national policies in the field of telecommunications/ICT;

*b)* that Member States must participate actively in this endeavour in order to make it successful;

*c)* that § 116 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society stresses that all indices and indicators must take into account different levels of development and national circumstances, bearing in mind that statistics need to be improved in a collaborative, cost-effective and non-duplicative fashion;

*d)* that § 70 of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) (UNGA Resolution 70/125) has called for further quantitative data to support evidence-based decision-making, as well as for the inclusion of telecommunications/ ICT statistics in national strategies for the development of statistics and in regional statistical work programmes,

*e)*  that the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) plays an important role in international telecommunications/ICT comparisons,

*recognizing further*

*a)* that telecommunications/ ICT statistics are extremely useful for the work of the ITU-D study groups and in assisting ITU to monitor and evaluate telecommunications/ICT developments and measure the digital divide;

*b)* the new responsibilities to be held by ITU-D in relation to this subject, pursuant to the Tunis Agenda, in particular §§ 112 to 120 thereof, as well as the WSIS-SDG Matrix which makes it possible to connect the WSIS action lines with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

*c)* the targets of SDG 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation) and SDG 10 (Reducing inequality within and between ) of the 2030 Agenda,

*resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

1 to continue to support activity on the development, collection and dissemination of information and statistics for international comparisons in the field of telecommunications/ICTs by providing adequate resources including resources of ITU regional and area offices and according it the necessary priority;

2 to continue to work closely with Member States for the sharing of best practices concerning national ICT policies and strategies

3 to continue to survey countries and produce analytical reports globally, regionally and nationally which highlight Member States lessons and experiences, in particular on:

* trends in the telecommunication/ICT sector, such as adapting to new technologies, digital transformation, digital economy, etc.;
* world telecommunication developments at regional and international level;
* trends in national regulation in the field of telecommunication/ICT and tariff policies, ;
* the use of telecommunications/ICTs to achieve the SDGs,

4 to rely primarily on official data provided by Member States based on internationally recognized methodologies; only in the absence of such information may other sources be used, after informing the Member States concerned in advance of the other sources used to obtain the information and do not have any objections;

5 to establish and collect indicators and to encourage countries to collect statistics and information in order to illustrate the progress, in particular in developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1), in creating an information society, in bridging the digital divide and evaluations of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

6 to consult on the regular basis with Member States and encourage them to submit contributions according to the procedure defined in WTDC Resolution 1, on issues related to the identification of indicators and data collection methodologies within the ITU-D Study Groups, the Expert Group on Household ICT Indicators (EGH) and Telecommunication/ICT Indicator Expert Groups (EGTI), coordinated by BDT;

7 to monitor the development and improvement of methodologies relevant to indicators and methods of data collection, through consultation with Member States;

8 to ensure reflection of the real development of the telecommunication/ICT sector, taking into account various national conditions and development levels of the regions and Member States, as well as trends in telecommunications/ICTs, through telecommunication/ICT indicators, the ITU index and the ICT price baskets;

9 to continue to convene regular Expert group meetings on telecommunication/ICT indicators in view of their importance, organizing their work in accordance with WTDC Resolution 1;

10 to continue to convene WTIS on an annual basis for exchange, discussion and generalization in the form of a final document/report reflecting best practices in the field of determining indicators and data collection methods for international comparisons in the field of telecommunications/ICTs based on the submitted contributions from Member States as well as ITU-D Study Groups, EGH and EGTI;

11 ensure that WTIS is held when it does not conflict with any major events of the Union, and, as far as possible, to hold it in each of the regions in turn;

11

12 to encourage Member States to bring together different stakeholders in government, business, academia and civil society in raising national awareness about the importance of the development and dissemination of globally comparable statistics data for policy purposes in the field of telecommunications/ICT;

13 to provide technical assistance to the Member States for increasing capacity in the development field and the collection of telecommunications/ICT statistics, , and for the development of national databases containing statistics and regulatory policy information in the field of telecommunication/ICT;

14 to develop training material and conduct specialized training courses on telecommunications/ICT statistics development and collection for the information society in developing countries, engaging in collaboration the members of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development when necessary, United Nations Statistical Commission (UN Statcom), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and other relevant international and regional organizations

15 to organize, as appropriate, regional workshops on statistics in cooperation with relevant regional and international organizations, with the aim of spreading awareness about ways and means of collecting data and statistics in the field of telecommunications/ICT, particularly for developing countries;

6 telecommunications/

17 to continue to cooperate with the relevant international bodies, in particular United UN Statcom, UNSD and member organizations of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, and other relevant international and regional organizations, , involved in the collection and dissemination of ICT-related information and statistics;

18 to unify existing information and statistical databases on the BDT website so as to respond to the objectives stated in §§ 113-118 of the Tunis Agenda, and to play a primary role in relation to §§ 119 and 120;

19 to post in a timely manner all questionnaires/surveys, reports and publications relating to the statistics and indicators published by ITU-D, particularly those relating to the statistics regulatory information and telecommunications/ICT indicators which rely on data submitted by Member States, on the website of the Union, in all six languages of the Union in order to increase the efficiency of the implementation of the goals and objectives of the present Resolution, as well as to develop mechanisms for obtaining such information for countries that do not have electronic access to statistical data and regulatory information in the field of telecommunications/ICTs;

20 in the performance by the Union of its functions as a member of the steering committee, related to the development of telecommunication/ICT indicators and the capacity building of national statistical offices;

21 ensure the submission of WTIS proposals based on the contributions provided by Member States through ITU-D Study Group, EGH and EGTI meetings on issues related to the definition of telecommunication/ICT indicators and data collection methodologies for them, in order to present a synthesis proposal for the document to discussion at meetings of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) for subsequent decision-making, in particular on the methodology and structure of the ITU Index, at the World Conference on the Development of Telecommunications connection (WTDC) (Appendix 1),

*invites Member States and Sector Members*

1 to participate actively in endeavor for the implementation of this resolution, coordinated by BDT by providing the statistics and information solicited, including statistics in the field of telecommunications/ICT and by engaging actively in discussions on telecommunications/ICT indicators and data collection methodologies through submitting contributions in accordance with the procedure defined in Resolution 1 of WTDC within ITU-D Study Groups WTIS, TDAG, WTDC, including contributions on the creation of methodologies and structure of the ITU Index and the ICT Price Basket;

2 to establish national systems or strategies for strengthening the consolidation of statistical information related to telecommunications/ICTs;

3 to establish institutional mechanisms to promote and coordinate the compilation and dissemination of telecommunications/ICT information and statistics to monitor implementation of the SDGs at the national level;

4 to establish mechanisms for effective national coordination in order to mobilize and guarantee the quality of statistical data produced by various national stakeholders;

5 to strive to harmonize their work methods domestic statistical data-collection systems with the analogues used at the international level,

*encourages*

donor agencies and relevant United Nations agencies to cooperate in providing relevant support and information on their activities.

APPENDIX 1 TO RESOLUTION 8 (rev. Addis Ababa, 2021)

The new ITU Index structure

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1. These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)