Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators
Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators

Joint EGTI/EGH subgroup on the ICT Development Index (IDI) 2025 work period

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Summary of second virtual meeting

16 April 2025 (13:30-14:45 CEST)

Introduction and review of submissions:

- Co-lead Winston Oyadomari opened the meeting, recalling the subgroup's terms of reference and confirming that the IDI continues to be anchored in the validated Universal and Meaningful Connectivity (UMC) framework, which received no challenges or modification proposals.
- He summarized the terms of reference, and the submissions received.
- The focus was on network capacity and Internet speed indicators.

Discussion on network capacity and Internet speed:

- **5G coverage**: The group discussed the inclusion of 5G coverage in the IDI. Data shows increasing 5G coverage, with 64% of Member States reporting this indicator. The proposal included weighting 5G coverage alongside 3G and 4G to reflect its growing importance.

- **Internet speed**: China proposed including both uplink and downlink speeds for mobile broadband, emphasizing the importance of upload speed for cloud-based services and video conferencing. The use of Ookla's speed test data was debated, with concerns about relying on private sources and the need for compliance with ITU standards.

- **Fixed Broadband Penetration**: The group acknowledged the need to address fixed broadband penetration before including high-speed tiers and fibre-to-the-home indicators. The lack of a fixed broadband penetration indicator could lead to imbalanced perceptions.

Methodological concerns:

- Reference years: Egypt proposed unifying the reference years for IDI components to minimize gaps and reflect market status more accurately. This will be discussed in future meetings.
- Simulator for policy impact: Egypt also suggested creating a simulator to test the impact of policy actions on universal and meaningful connectivity and the IDI.

Examples from the Economist's Inclusive Internet Index and Portulans Institute's reports were mentioned.

Future work and meetings:

- The subgroup will continue to refine indicators and methodologies, with a focus on fixed broadband penetration in upcoming meetings.
- Members are encouraged to submit proposals and contributions promptly to facilitate timely discussions.

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Additional information

- IDI subgroup's Microsoft [Teams channel](.).
- Contact:
  - [Teddy Woodhouse](.) , International Policy Manager, OFCOM, United Kingdom (co-lead representing EGTI)
  - [Winston Oyadomari](.), Senior Survey Analyst and Head of Innovation Lab, Cetic.br, Brazil (co-lead representing EGH)
- BDT Focal Point: [Thierry Geiger](.) (for inquiries and participation requests)
- EGTI/EGH members wishing to join the IDI subgroup can write to [indicators@itu.int](.).
- More information about EGTI and EGH available on the dedicated [webpage](.).