Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators
Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators
Joint EGTI/EGH subgroup on the ICT Development Index (IDI)

Report of activities for the 2025 work period

This draft version: 22 July 2025

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Note: This version 1 of the report supersedes version 0. It takes into account the outcomes of the meeting of the IDI subgroup held on 3 July 2025. It is available in the ITU document centre. It is also available on the IDI subgroup's Microsoft Teams channel.[1] *Participants can send their comments to the co-leads of the IDI subgroup (*teddy.woodhouse@ofcom.org.uk and winston@nic.br*) or submit them via the new BDT submission tool. All comments and contributions will be published.*

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Outline

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This report summarises the activities of the joint subgroup on the ICT Development Index (IDI subgroup) for the 2025 work period and will be submitted to the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) during their annual meetings on 24-25 September 2025.

1 Background and context

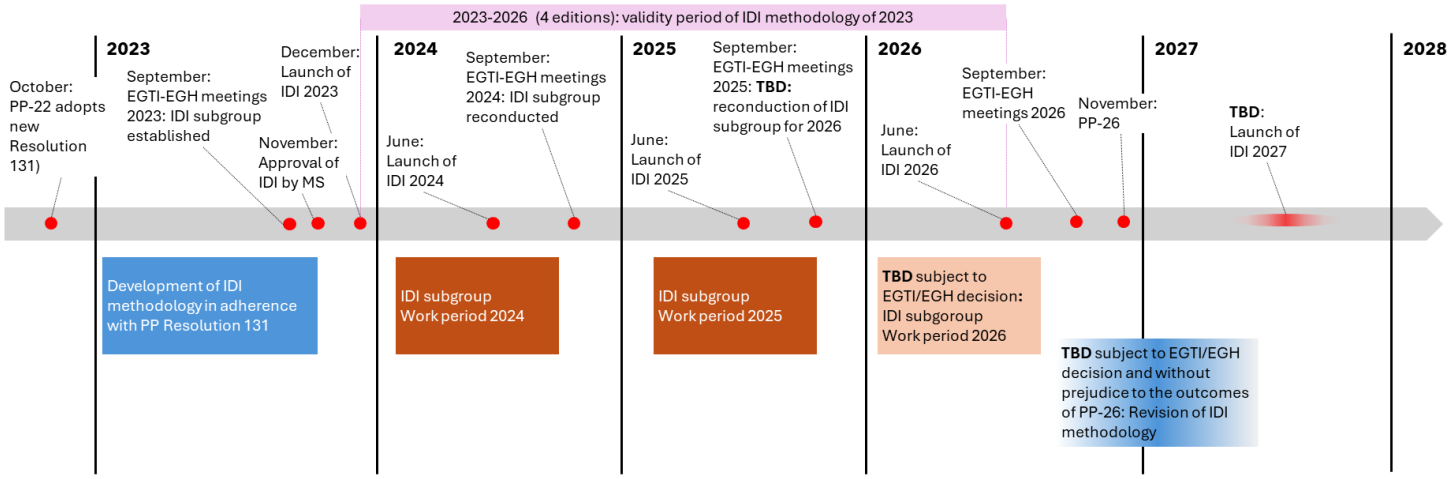
In September 2023, during a joint session of the 14th Meeting of EGTI and 11th Meeting of EGH, members agreed to establish a joint EGTI-EGH subgroup on the IDI methodology for the 2024

[1] EGTI/EGH members wishing to join the IDI subgroup can write to indicators@itu.int.

work period. Teddy Woodhouse mailto:, International Policy Manager, Ofcom, United Kingdom (representing EGTI) and Winston Oyadomari, Senior Survey Analyst and Head of Innovation Lab, Cetic.br, Brazil (representing EGH) were appointed as co-leads.

The subgroup was tasked with reviewing the methodology and providing recommendations to inform any potential revision, should EGTI and EGH decide to update the methodology, in line with Resolution 131. In September 2024, the IDI subgroup presented its Report of activities for the 2024 work period during a joint session of the 15th Meeting of EGTI and the 12th Meeting of EGH. EGTI and EGH members agreed to extend the mandate of the subgroup for the 2025 work period.

The timeline below outlines past and potential future milestones and processes related to the IDI, some of which are contingent on decisions by EGTI and EGH members, as well as by ITU Member States.



2 Working methods

In 2025, the IDI subgroup worked from April to [July 2025]. Its Terms of Reference 2025 were presented by the co-leads during the first meeting and adopted, with the following objectives:

1. Identify indicators for potential inclusion in the IDI, based on the Candidate Indicators framework (see section 4 of the report of activities 2024).
2. Based on the work achieved above, make a recommendation to EGTI/EGH regarding the revision of the IDI, in line with Resolution 131.
3. After identifying candidate indicators, the subgroup may, time permitting, review additional methodological aspects of the IDI, such as normalization (goalposts) and aggregation.

At the onset, the subgroup established the following working methods, while tools were also developed to facilitate its work:

- A dedicated Microsoft Teams channel whose access was granted to all participants having asked to join the subgroup and provided a valid email address.
- A proposal template for new indicators/criteria/themes for the IDI (see Annex 2).

- As of June 2025, all documents related to the IDI subgroup are also available from the ITU document centre. Moreover, submissions to the IDI subgroup can be made via the BDT submission tool (TIES protected), in addition to other channels.

3 Summary of meetings

The IDI subgroup met 4 times during the 2025 work period. Below is a succinct overview of each meeting. For longer summaries, refer to Annex 4, the Microsoft Teams channel or the ITU document centre

First meeting (13 March 2025)
The co-leads introduced the 2025 workplan and Terms of Reference, emphasizing continuity with the previous cycle and the focus on universal and meaningful connectivity. The Terms of Reference were adopted. Members reviewed potential indicators for future IDI revisions, including skills, affordability, cybersecurity, and broadband penetration. The importance of using official data sources was stressed by several participants. Updates were provided on efforts to improve household data and harmonize reference years. Concerns were raised about the use of projected data for traffic indicators. Members were encouraged to submit proposals ahead of the next meeting in April.

Second meeting (16 April 2025)
The co-leads reviewed the status of submissions and led a discussion focused on network capacity and Internet speed. The group received a proposal to include 5G coverage in the IDI, with proposals to weight it alongside 3G and 4G. The sub-group considered this proposal and agreed to propose 5G coverage in the IDI as a mature candidate indicator ready for inclusion. Suggestions were also made to add both uplink and downlink speeds for mobile broadband, primarily based on the availability of private datasets, while concerns were raised about using private data sources. Members stressed the need to address fixed broadband penetration. Additional proposals included harmonizing reference years and developing a simulator to assess the policy impact on IDI scores. Further discussion on these topics continued in subsequent meetings.

Third meeting (28 May 2025)
The co-leads outlined plans for the remainder of the work period, including early drafting of the activity report and shared its proposed structure. Three proposals were then discussed. The first addressed the challenge of setting goalposts for indicators lacking clear policy targets, such as traffic indicators, with consideration on effects on indicators' relevance and year-on-year continuity. The second proposed discussion on the inclusion of traffic indicators in the IDI considering growing concerns about the negative impacts of connectivity. The third proposed that, once available, a fixed broadband penetration indicator based on households as denominator should be placed under the meaningful connectivity pillar and introduced immediately—even mid-cycle—rather than waiting for the next revision period.

Fourth meeting (3 July 2025)
The fourth meeting of the subgroup, held on 3 July 2025, focused on reviewing the first draft of the activity report (version 0). The co-leads presented the draft section by section, inviting detailed comments and discussion. Members suggested refinements to the text and were given

the opportunity to revisit previously submitted proposals, including those not yet examined. This process allowed the subgroup to confirm its position on several key issues. Overall, there was broad agreement on the recommendations contained in the draft, with only minor revisions proposed. The co-leads outlined the next steps, inviting written comments by 8 July. It was agreed that no further meetings were needed, and that the finalization of the report would proceed through email exchanges.

4 Discussed topics

Between March and [June 2025], [16 proposals] were received through various channels. All proposals are listed in Annex 3, which features links to the PDF version posted in the ITU document centre. They are also available on the IDI subgroup's Microsoft Teams channel.

Fixed broadband penetration
Data on fixed-broadband subscriptions is available for most countries but must be scaled to reflect population size. While there is no consensus on the appropriate denominator, a majority of participants have expressed a preference for using the number of households. However, no globally comparable dataset on household counts currently exists, thus limiting the potential adoption of any such indicator with a revision of the IDI at this point.

At the request of the co-leads, the BDT Secretariat described the major efforts undertaken by the UN system to address the lack of data on the number of households. A Task Team established under the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) and led by ITU brought together key agencies, including UNSD, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, WHO, UNICEF, and the UN Population Division. In its background document to the 56th session of the Statistical Commission (UNSC), the Task Team reviewed existing data sources and methodologies, concluded that no harmonized global dataset exists, and highlighted the complexity of developing a reliable estimation methodology. It recommended further coordination and proposed a lead role for the UN Population Division.

The issue was taken up in the UNSC Secretary-General's report on population and housing censuses and added to the 56th session agenda. In its final report, the Commission acknowledged the methodological and institutional challenges, underscored the importance of internationally comparable household time series, and endorsed continued work under the 2030 Census Programme. However, the development and implementation of such data collection will require substantial resources, and the necessary funding is currently not available.

As a result, such data will not be available in the short term – and certainly not by 2027. In this context, fixed-broadband penetration per household remains a candidate indicator. Qatar proposed that it could be introduced as soon as data become available, even mid-cycle, notwithstanding the provisions of Resolution 131.

5G mobile network coverage
Several participants proposed the inclusion of 5G mobile network coverage in the IDI, alongside the existing indicators for 3G and 4G coverage. There was consensus that 5G coverage is now a mature and relevant indicator for inclusion. Data availability for the indicator has rapidly

increased over recent years, with most recent data availability indicating 65% of Member States reporting 5G coverage statistics in the long questionnaire: according to this trajectory, the indicator might be sufficiently available to merit inclusion in the next revision of the IDI.

If adopted, 5G could be integrated into the existing composite mobile network coverage indicator and will necessitate a revised weighting scheme. Currently, 3G and 4G coverage are compiled into one indicator with a current weighting of 40 per cent to 3G and 60 per cent to 4G. Participants generally recommended assigning a lower weight to 5G relative to 4G in any new configuration.

This potential indicator was discussed to be collected in accordance with the Handbook for the collection of administrative data on telecommunications/ICT.

Quality of services

Several proposals addressed quality-related indicators. China proposed including user-experienced speed – both downlink and uplink – as well as broader quality-of-service (QoS) metrics, currently sourced from third-party benchmarking platforms. However, multiple members expressed a strong preference for relying only on official data sources, and such data are not widely or consistently available across countries.

As a result of ongoing deliberations, these proposals are acknowledged in the subgroup's report for information, but the sub-group will not make any recommendation on these proposals at this time due to lack of availability from official sources and insufficient specificity/consistency of these proposals for inclusion. Member States and their administrations are invited to explore ways of consistently collecting relevant administrative data to enable the designation of potential indicators within the IDI in future revisions.

Goalposts/Traffic indicators

Qatar submitted a detailed proposal to revise the approach used for setting goalposts. The submission recommended using the true 95th percentile of observed values for all indicators, instead of "95th percentile - projected" values or static caps. The current approach for traffic indicators (based on projected values) was criticized for distorting scores and reducing comparability. Others expressed concern with how would affect year-on-year comparability of the datasets and Index performance and wanting to understand more about this potential implication. The subgroup agreed that this topic merits further methodological review and recommended revisiting it as part of a future revision of the IDI.

Measurement period

Egypt proposed aligning the reference years across all indicators used in the IDI, emphasizing that inconsistent reference periods hinder comparability and weaken the index's policy relevance. At the request of the co-leads, the ITU Secretariat prepared a note on the challenges of achieving such alignment. Every effort is being made to (1) reduce the time lag between the year of data collection and publication, and (2) harmonize the reference periods across all IDI components. Several members supported continued efforts to improve temporal alignment as a means of enhancing indicator comparability and relevance, although there is no formal recommendation from the sub-group at this stage.

IDI simulator

Egypt proposed the creation of an IDI score simulator, allowing countries to assess the impact of hypothetical policy actions or changes in individual indicators on their overall IDI score. The

subgroup welcomed the proposal and acknowledged its potential value for policy analysis and scenario testing. Members encouraged further exploration of its technical feasibility.

Topics not re-examined

Some topics had already been discussed during the 2023 methodology development and did not receive support at the time.[2] These were resubmitted to the IDI subgroup in the 2025 work period. However, in the absence of any substantive revision from their previous state, they were not re-examined in detail. These were:

- **Speed tiers in fixed broadband subscriptions**: India and China proposed to include indicators that classify fixed broadband subscriptions by speed tiers (e.g., percentage of subscriptions above 10 Mbps). Similarly, India proposed including FTTH subscriptions as a share of fixed as a share of total fixed broadband subscriptions.
- **Global Cybersecurity Index:** India proposed adding the Global Cybersecurity Index to reflect the importance of online safety and resilience as a dimension of meaningful connectivity. In a brief discussion of this proposal, several members agreed to sustain the subgroup's decision.
- **Include the ICT Regulatory Tracker**: India recommended including the ICT Regulatory Tracker Composite Index to account for the enabling regulatory environment that supports digital development.
- **Replace ICT affordability with indicators of costs in PPP$:** India suggested replacing the existing affordability indicators (cost of services as a share of gross national income per capita) with measures of ICT prices in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms, arguing it better reflects local economic realities. In a brief discussion of this proposal, several members agreed to sustain the subgroup's decision.
- **Growth rate of indicators over the past 10 years**: India proposed incorporating the growth rates of IDI indicators over the past decade, as a measure of progress rather than absolute levels.
- **Country grouping by development status or characteristics**: India recommended restructuring the IDI results by grouping countries according to development status or structural characteristics, to allow more nuanced comparisons.
- **High share of estimated data points**: India expressed concern about the perceived over-reliance on estimated values in IDI computations, questioning their impact on reliability.

These proposals were brought to the attention of the joint subgroup during its fourth meeting for reconsideration but did not receive further support. Instead, participants reaffirmed earlier arguments against certain proposals, notably the inclusion of additional indexes and the shift to PPP$. These proposals remain on record and may be revisited in future revisions, particularly if new supporting data becomes available.

[2] See summary report of the Joint EGTI/EGH session on the ICT Development Index, 18-19 September, 2023.

5 Conclusion and recommendations

Note: Note: The conclusions and recommendations are without prejudice to any future comments that may be submitted by the IDI subgroup or members of EGTI and EGH.

While the subgroup identified limited new data or evidence to support a major revision of the IDI methodology, there is scope for incremental improvements. The subgroup makes the following recommendations in relation to the objectives set out in its terms of reference:

Objective: Identify indicators for potential inclusion in the IDI

New indicator

- **5G mobile network coverage**. The IDI subgroup preliminarily recommends incorporating 5G coverage into the existing mobile network coverage indicator, which currently includes 3G and 4G coverage, based on current trajectory of data availability. The IDI subgroup suggests further discussions in the revision process to identify a weighting scheme that would assign an appropriate distribution of values to 3G, 4G and 5G coverage. EGTI/EGH are asked to provide guidance on where they believe this threshold should be, should the subgroup continue to explore this issue.

Candidate indicator

- **Fixed broadband penetration**. There is consensus that fixed broadband penetration should be captured in the IDI, and a broad majority supports using the number of fixed broadband subscriptions per household as the preferred indicator. However, the necessary international comparable data on the number of households is not yet available for enough countries. In this context, EGTI/EGH may wish to consider affirming it as a candidate indicator ready for reporting and publication as soon as it becomes available.

Objective: Review additional methodological aspects of the IDI

- **Goalposts and thresholds**. As part of a future revision of the IDI, the subgroup recommends a review of all goalposts, particularly those not grounded in policy targets but based on statistical distributions, to ensure their ongoing relevance, fairness and year-on-year continuity.
- **Time-lag**. Efforts should continue to minimize the time lag between the data reference year and publication, and to align the reference periods of all indicators included in the IDI. These efforts must consider the practical constraints related to national data submission cycles, reporting delays, and the availability of verified datasets from official sources.
- **Quality of indicators**. There is a need for ongoing discussion around the clarity and consistency of the Index' indicators, based on the initial years of experience of the latest revision. In particular, Korea emphasised the importance of offering more detailed guidance on data measurement methodologies to enhance the reliability of reported indicators. This can be taken up a renewed mandate of the sub-group.

Objective: Make a recommendation to EGTI/EGH regarding the revision of the IDI

- **IDI subgroup**. The subgroup recommends extending a revised version of its mandate into 2026 to support further work to develop formal specification of a new version of the IDI for the next validity period, subject to EGTI/EGH's oversight.
- **Recommendations for PP Resolution 131.** Based on discussions, the subgroup recommends expanding the mandate with the discussion of possible revision(s) of PP Resolution 131 to provide Member States and RTOs information that can be used in their preparation to Plenipotentiary Conference 2026.
- **Revision of the IDI**. As at least one indicator has been identified as sufficiently relevant, available, and reliable for inclusion in a new methodology of the IDI, the subgroup recommends that EGTI/EGH proceeds with a formal revision of the IDI, in accordance with the process established under Resolution 131.

Annex 1 Additional information on IDI indicators

The table provides additional information about existing IDI indicators and the indicator on 5G coverage that the IDI subgroup recommends for inclusion in a future revision of the IDI.

Indicator	Definition*	Main source	Availability of official data**
ICT DEVELOPMENT INDEX			
Universal connectivity pillar			
Proportion of individuals who used the Internet (from any location) in the last 3 months Code: i99H	The Internet is a worldwide public computer network. It provides access to a number of communication services including the World Wide Web and carries e-mail, news, entertainment and data files, irrespective of the device used (not assumed to be only via a computer – it may also be by mobile telephone, tablet, PDA, games machine, digital TV etc.). Access can be via a fixed or mobile network.	ITU DataHub, based on ITU Questionnaire on ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals	2021 or later: 103 2022 or later: 85 2023 or later: 73
Proportion of households with Internet access at home Code: xHH6	Internet access at home means that the Internet is generally available for use by all members of the household at any time, regardless of whether it is actually used. The connection and devices may or may not be owned by the household but should be considered household assets. If one member of the household has a mobile phone with connection to the Internet and makes it available for all members, then it should be considered that the household has access to the Internet. An Internet connection in the household should be working at the time of the survey.	ITU DataHub, based on ITU Questionnaire on ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals	2021 or later: 97 2022 or later: 82 2023 or later: 70
Active mobile-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants Code: i911mw	Refers to the sum of standard mobile-broadband and dedicated mobile-broadband subscriptions to the public Internet. It covers actual subscribers, not potential subscribers, even though the latter may have broadband-enabled handsets. Subscriptions must include a recurring subscription fee or if in the prepayment modality, pass a usage requirement – users must have accessed the Internet in the last three months.	ITU DataHub, based on ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Questionnaire	2021 or later: 176 2022 or later: 171 2023 or later: 155
Meaningful connectivity pillar			
Mobile network coverage			
Percentage of the population covered by at least a 3G mobile network Code: i271G	Refers to the percentage of inhabitants that are within range of at least a 3G mobile-cellular signal, irrespective of whether or not they are subscribers. This is calculated by dividing the number of inhabitants that are covered by at least a 3G mobile-cellular signal by the total population and multiplying by 100.	ITU DataHub, based on ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Questionnaire	2021 or later: 176 2022 or later: 171 2023 or later: 151
Percentage of the population covered by at least a 4G/LTE mobile network Code: i271GA	Refers to the percentage of inhabitants that live within range of LTE/LTE-Advanced, mobile WiMAX/WirelessMAN or other more advanced mobile-cellular networks, irrespective of whether or not they are subscribers. This is calculated by dividing the number of inhabitants that are covered by the previously mentioned mobile-cellular technologies by the total population and multiplying by 100. It excludes people covered only by HSPA, UMTS, EV-DO and previous 3G technologies, and also excludes fixed WiMAX coverage.	ITU DataHub, based on ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Questionnaire	2021 or later: 174 2022 or later: 169 2023 or later: 152

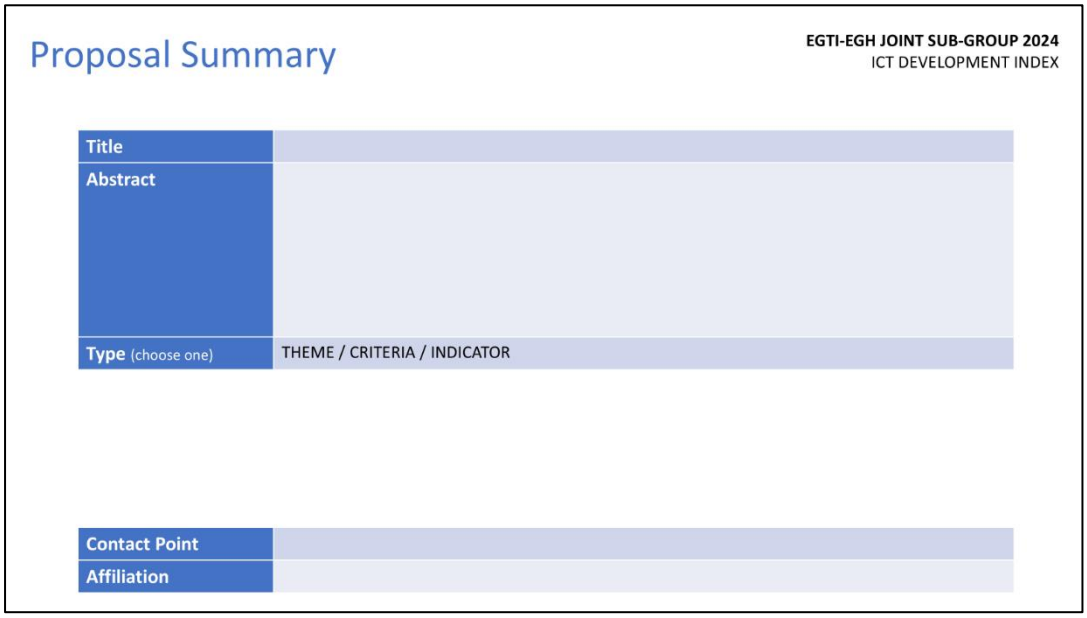
Recommended for inclusion: Percentage of the population covered by at least a 5G mobile network (preliminarily recommended by IDI subgroup for future inclusion) Code: i271G5_pop	Refers to the percentage of inhabitants that live within range of at least a 5G/IMT-2020 mobile-cellular signal, irrespective of whether or not they are subscribers. This is calculated by dividing the number of inhabitants that are covered by a 5G mobile-cellular signal by the total population and multiplying by 100.	ITU DataHub, based on ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Questionnaire	2021 or later: 159 2022 or later: 138 2023 or later: 126
Mobile broadband Internet traffic per mobile broadband subscription (GB Code: i136mwi_subs	Refers to broadband traffic volumes originated within the country from 3G networks or other more advanced mobile-networks, including 3G upgrades, evolutions or equivalent standards in terms of data transmission speeds. Traffic should be collected and aggregated at the country level for all 3G or more advanced mobile networks within the country. Download and upload traffic should be added up and reported together. Traffic should be measured at the end-user access point. Wholesale and walled-garden traffic should be excluded. The indicator is calculated by dividing mobile-broadband Internet traffic (within the country) by active mobile-broadband subscriptions.	ITU DataHub, based on ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Questionnaire	2021 or later: 157 2022 or later: 151 2023 or later: 143
Fixed broadband Internet traffic per fixed broadband subscription (GB) Code: i135tfb_subs	Refers to traffic generated by fixed-broadband subscribers measured at the end-user access point. It should be measured by adding up download and upload traffic. This should exclude wholesale traffic, walled garden, IPTV and cable TV traffic. The indicator is calculated by dividing fixed-broadband Internet traffic by total fixed broadband subscriptions.	ITU DataHub, based on ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Questionnaire	2021 or later: 132 2022 or later: 128 2023 or later: 121
Mobile data and voice high-consumption basket price (% of GNI per capita) Code: i271mb_high_ts_GNI	The basket refers to the cheapest mobile broadband plan (and add-on) providing at least 2 GB of monthly data using at least 3G technology, 140 minutes of voice and 70 SMSs. Detailed ICT price basket data collection rules are available here.	ITU DataHub, based on ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Questionnaire	2021 or later: 196 2022 or later: 196 2023 or later: 193
Fixed-broadband Internet basket price (as % of GNI per capita) Code: i154_FBB_ts_GNI	The basket is composed of the cheapest plan providing at least 5GB of monthly high-speed data (256Kbit/s or higher) from the operator with the largest market share in each economy. Detailed ICT price basket data collection rules are available here.	ITU DataHub, based on ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Questionnaire	2021 or later: 185 2022 or later: 185 2023 or later: 184
Percentage of individuals who own a mobile phone Code: xHH18	An individual owns a mobile cellular phone if he/she has a mobile cellular phone device with at least one active SIM card for personal use. It includes mobile cellular phones supplied by employers that can be used for personal reasons (to make personal calls, access the Internet, etc.) and those who have a mobile phone for personal use that is not registered under his/her name. It excludes individuals who have only active SIM card(s) and not a mobile phone device.	ITU DataHub, based on ITU Questionnaire on ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals	2021 or later: 64 2022 or later: 50 2023 or later: 38

* Adapted from Handbook for the Collection of Administrative Data on Telecommunications/ICT and Manual for Measuring ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals.

** Among ITU Member States, plus State of Palestine, Macao (China), Hong Kong (China). Situation as of December 2024. The next data update that will include the validated data submitted through the Spring 2025 questionnaires, is scheduled for August 2025.

Annex 2 Proposal template

The template for proposals adopted by the IDI subgroup during the 2024 work period was again suggested in 2025, although proposals could be submitted in any format and through any channel.

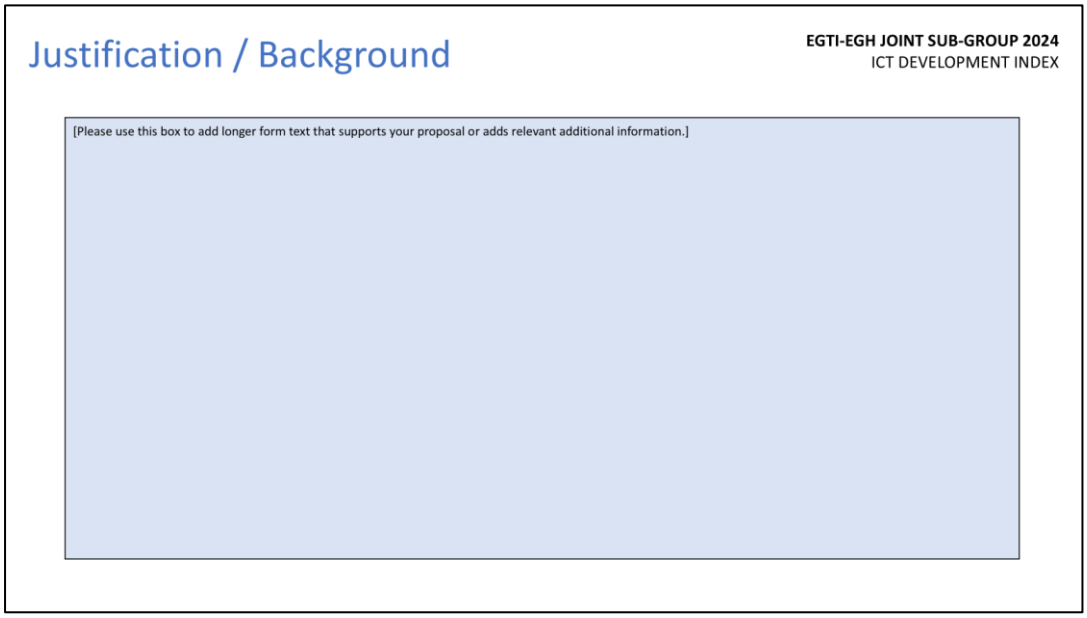


Proposal Summary

EGTI-EGH JOINT SUB-GROUP 2024
ICT DEVELOPMENT INDEX

Title	
Abstract	
Type (choose one)	THEME / CRITERIA / INDICATOR

Contact Point	
Affiliation	



Justification / Background

EGTI-EGH JOINT SUB-GROUP 2024
ICT DEVELOPMENT INDEX

[Please use this box to add longer form text that supports your proposal or adds relevant additional information.]

Indicator Criteria

Only relevant for indicator proposals. Subject to change based on sub-group activity.

Relevance	What themes apply? How does this indicator relate to the conceptual framework of universal and meaningful connectivity?
Availability	If possible, please discuss the availability of this data within the past three years across the economies where ITU data is published.
Reliability	Does the indicator have a stable data collection methodology? Has it been regularly collected at a reasonable frequency over the past decade?
Source	Does the indicator come from an official source/s?

Template Guidance

EGTI-EGH JOINT SUB-GROUP 2024
ICT DEVELOPMENT INDEX

You can use this slide as guidance for completing this template for your proposal to the EGTI-EGH Joint Sub-Group on the ICT Development Index. Once complete, you can delete this slide.

Title	Please provide a short description of your proposal.
Abstract	Please provide a 2-3 sentence summary of your proposal.
Type	Please choose one of the three options: theme, criteria, or indicator. • **Themes** discuss broad concepts relevant to the IDI and its conceptual framework and would likely hold one or more indicators within it (where appropriate). • **Criteria** are the basis by which the sub-group will review and consider indicators. So far, relevance, availability, reliability, and source have been the four bases of analysis. • **Indicator** would be a precise proposal for a new indicator to be included into the IDI. Proposals for indicators should indicate the relevant theme and respond to the evaluation criteria.
Contact Point	Please add your name and email address.
Affiliation	Please indicate your affiliation (typically the organisation of your ITU membership).
Justification / Background	This second slide can be used to add longer form information relevant to your proposal. If required to go beyond one slide for this section, please copy and paste a new slide into the presentation file.
Indicator Criteria	**For indicator proposals only.** Please use this slide to discuss how your proposed indicator relates to the relevant indicator criteria.

Annex 3 List of proposals

Below is a list of all received proposals, grouped by similarity, with the name of the submitter indicated in parentheses and a direct link to the proposal in PDF in the ITU document centre. All proposals are also available from the IDI subgroup's Microsoft Teams channel.

Themes or indicators for inclusion
Proposals suggesting the addition of new thematic areas or indicators to the IDI:

- Inclusion of fixed broadband subscription by speed (China) > link
- High-speed fixed broadband subscriptions as percent of total fixed broadband (India) > link
- User-experienced mobile broadband speed – downlink and uplink (China) > link
- Fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) subscriptions (India) > link
- Inclusion of 5G coverage (India) > link
- Cybersecurity and safety as a core enabler of meaningful connectivity, supporting the inclusion of the Global Cybersecurity Index (India) > link
- ICT regulatory environment through the ICT Regulatory Tracker index (India) > link
- Fixed broadband penetration per household (Qatar) > link

Indicators for exclusion or adjustment
Proposals questioning or modifying existing indicators in the IDI:

- Traffic indicators: reconsider scoring that rewards high data usage due to potential adverse effects (Qatar) > link
- Replace affordability indicators with indicators of costs in PPP$ (India) > link

Methodology
Proposals focused on the structure, calculation, or revision process of the IDI:

- Use true 95th percentiles for setting goalposts (Qatar) > link
- Unify reference years across indicators to improve comparability (Egypt) > link; clarification by BDT Secretariat > link
- Improve transparency and reduce use of estimated data, including publishing all used data points (India) > link
- IDI score simulator (Egypt) > link
- Growth rate of indicators over the past 10 years (India) > link
- Country grouping by development status or characteristics (India) > link

Annex 4 Meeting summaries

Meeting summaries are available in the ITU document centre.

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 the subgroup's first virtual meeting, 13 March 2025

- The first virtual meeting of the Joint EGTI/EGH subgroup on the ICT Development Index was held on 13 March 2025. Co-leads Winston Oyadomari (NIC.br) and Teddy Woodhouse (Ofcom) welcomed participants and introduced the objectives for 2025. They recalled that the current IDI methodology is valid through 2026.
- They emphasized that the subgroup's role is to prepare recommendations that may inform a future revision starting in 2027. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the subgroup were presented and shared in advance. Members were invited to provide comments or suggestions by email. The co-leads outlined the schedule for the year, with monthly meetings planned from April to July, leading to a final report in September.
- To guide the year's work, the co-leads reviewed key topics discussed in the previous cycle. These include skills indicators, cybersecurity, fixed broadband penetration, internet speed, device ownership, affordability, network capacity, data timeliness, and methodological considerations. It was noted that the skills indicators face challenges related to conceptual clarity and limited data availability. Fixed broadband penetration remains a priority topic, but the lack of official household data as a denominator presents difficulties. Internet speed was again raised as an area of interest, with debate around using third-party sources like Ookla. There were also discussions on the importance of considering both mobile phones and computers in assessing meaningful connectivity, particularly in low-income settings.
- Several participants raised methodological and procedural issues. Qatar emphasized the importance of relying solely on official, primary data sources for IDI indicators, given the Index's role in other international indices. The ITU Secretariat provided an update on ongoing efforts to develop internationally comparable estimates of the number of households, noting that the work has been recognized as a priority by the UN Statistical Commission but remains constrained by funding and institutional responsibilities. Egypt raised concerns about using multiple reference years for the different components of the IDI. The Secretariat clarified that all indicators used in the Index are aligned to the same reference year, with the exception of GNI per capita, which is produced with a one-year lag. Qatar also raised a concern about the use of projected values for the 95th percentile in traffic data, proposing that this be based on actual data to ensure methodological consistency.
- The co-leads encouraged members to begin submitting proposals using the established template, either via email or on the shared Teams platform. They noted that current data availability is reflected in an up-to-date Power BI dashboard. A suggestion was made to also consider trends in data availability when assessing potential new indicators. A broader point was raised about including data on infrastructure such as Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) and data centers; while recognized as increasingly important, these fall outside the scope of the current IDI framework. The meeting concluded with a reminder that the subgroup will not propose changes to the current IDI but will develop

recommendations for consideration in the next revision cycle. The next meeting will take place in April.

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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.

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.

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 the subgroup's third virtual meeting

28 May 2025, 13:30-14:45 CEST

The third meeting of the joint IDI subgroup focused on advancing the preparation of the subgroup's activity report and discussing three substantive proposals submitted by a participant.

Drafting of the activity report

The co-leads began by presenting the proposed timeline and outline for the subgroup's activity report, which will summarize the work carried out during the 2025 period. They emphasized the importance of starting the drafting process early to allow sufficient time for feedback and finalization. The outline, shared in advance, includes sections on discussed topics, proposals received, and recommendations to the parent expert groups (EGTI and EGH). Participants were invited to provide comments on the structure and suggest refinements as needed.

Discussion of participant proposals

The second part of the meeting focused on three interrelated proposals aimed at strengthening the conceptual and methodological basis of the IDI:

1. **Setting goalposts for indicators without policy targets:**
   The participant questioned the use of arbitrary or statistically driven goalposts for indicators like data traffic, which do not have internationally agreed policy targets. They proposed using a more deliberate and consistent approach to setting goalposts, potentially grounded in observed distributions but subject to normative review. This was seen to prevent distortion in scoring and improve the interpretability of results.

2. **Rethinking the role of traffic indicators:**
   A broader discussion followed on whether traffic-based indicators should be included in the IDI at all. The participant argued that increased usage does not always equate to positive outcomes and may, in some cases, correlate with social or health harms. Several participants acknowledged these concerns, noting that the IDI should strive to reflect meaningful connectivity rather than mere volume of use. However, no consensus was reached, and the issue was flagged for further reflection.

3. **Reclassifying fixed-broadband penetration and mid-cycle introduction:**
   A proposal was made to move fixed-broadband penetration – once measured per household – from the universal connectivity pillar to the meaningful connectivity pillar. Additionally, the participant suggested reserving a slot for this indicator in the IDI structure and introducing it mid-cycle, if the necessary household data becomes available before the next scheduled revision. It was noted PP Resolution 131 (Rev.

Bucharest, 2022) currently prevents mid-cycle changes. It was suggested that an updated text could have a provision for the inclusion of candidate indicators mid-cycle, but this would be at the expense of comparability over the validity period.

Next Steps

The co-leads concluded the meeting by encouraging members to submit additional inputs for the draft report and reiterated the value of documenting the rationale for all decisions. The next meeting will focus on reviewing the draft report in detail and formulating final recommendations for EGTI and EGH.

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Additional information

- New: All the documents related to the IDI subgroup are available from the ITU document centre and the dedicated Teams channel
- New: Contributions to EGTI and EGH subgroups can be submitted via the dedicated BDT submission tool or by email to the co-leads
- 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)
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Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators
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Joint EGTI/EGH subgroup on the ICT Development Index (IDI) 2025 work period

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Summary of the subgroup's fourth virtual meeting, 3 July 2025

- The meeting was opened by **co-lead Winston Oyadomari (Cetic.br, Brazil)**, who welcomed participants and introduced the objectives. The discussion was then led by **co-lead Teddy Woodhouse (Ofcom, United Kingdom)**, who guided the detailed section-by-section review of the first draft (v0) of the report of activity. The aim was to move as close as possible to an agreed text that could then be submitted to the expert groups for their meetings in September.
- Teddy introduced the section summarising the subgroup's background, its mandate under the relevant resolution, and how this work may feed into a possible revision of the index in accordance with PP Resolution 131.
- One participant proposed using the subgroup as an informal platform to discuss potential revisions to Resolution 131 ahead of the next Plenipotentiary Conference, suggesting that this be noted in the report. This was welcomed, recognising that the subgroup's role would remain informal. The participant offered to submit draft wording for inclusion.
- The group reviewed the section on working methods detailing the subgroup's terms of reference, resources and templates. No comments or objections were raised, and the section was accepted as drafted.
- The draft report included summaries of each of the subgroup's meetings and the main points of discussion, with more detailed records to appear in an annex. This approach was accepted without further comment.

The subgroup then reviewed the main thematic issues addressed during its work:

- **Fixed broadband penetration by household:** Recognised as conceptually important and mature but it was acknowledged that comparable data for the number of households, which is required to compute this indicator, would not be available for several years. Teddy noted the UN-wide initiative, led by ITU, to place this indicator at the forefront of the international statistical agenda. The indicator will be retained as a concept to monitor for potential future inclusion.

- **5G mobile network coverage:** There was broad support to identify this as a candidate indicator given improving data availability. However, a participant stressed that the language should remain conditional, to avoid committing prematurely if data gaps persist. It was suggested to add a table on data sources and methodologies, while it was clarified that data for this indicator comes from administrative (supply-side) sources, not surveys. The group agreed to adjust the language to reflect a conditional recommendation and to include references to existing methodological handbooks.

- **Quality of service and speed tiers:** The subgroup noted that proposals in this area depend largely on private-sector data, which does not align with the current preference

for official statistics. It was suggested that operator-reported data could eventually be used. It was agreed to include language encouraging administrations to improve data availability, which could enable consideration of these metrics in future revisions. As for using speed tiers of fixed broadband, Winston reminded that fixed-broadband penetration would be required before including such indicator.

- **Goalposts:** A representative from Qatar reiterated their proposal to standardise the use of an actual measured 95th percentile across indicators. Another participant expressed concern that a dynamic percentile could complicate year-on-year comparisons. It was decided to document the discussion, highlight both perspectives, and defer any decision pending further analysis in the next cycle.
- **Reconsideration of previously examined proposals.** The subgroup briefly revisited certain proposals that had not initially been examined in depth, as they were not substantially different from proposals submitted in previous cycles. India asked the group to consider including the Global Cybersecurity Index as an indicator, citing its importance as an enabler of meaningful connectivity. Second, the asked the group to consider replacing affordability indicators with costs of ICT services measured in purchasing power parity (PPP). After discussion, there was no support within the subgroup to advance these proposals, with members largely reaffirming earlier methodological concerns and noting the lack of consensus to integrate these elements at this stage.

Towards the end of the call, the co-leads outlined the next steps for the finalisation of the report.

- Co-leads will await the written proposals discussed during the meeting and any additional comments by 8 July.
- They will add clarifications and references, including links or references to existing methodological handbooks for precise definitions and data sources, particularly for coverage indicators. They will add language encouraging administrations to improve data on speed tiers and quality of service, to enable possible future inclusion.
- They will circulate a new version of the draft report for final review by late July. The aim is to finalise by mid-August when it needs to be shared with EGTI/EGH members ahead of their meetings in September to comply with the 30-day deadline.

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Additional information

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