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|  | **Document** **TDAG-2****4/33-E** |
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| Russian Federation |
| Draft revision of WTDC Resolution 2 |
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| **Summary:**This contribution proposes a draft revision of WTDC Resolution 2 “Establishment of study groups” in order to improve the efficiency of work on measurements in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, primarily aimed at further progress in the work on the ICT Development Index.**Action required:**TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.**References:**Resolution 131 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) “Measuring information and communication technologies to build an integrating and inclusive information society” of the Plenipotentiary ConferenceResolution 2 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) “Establishment of study groups” of the World Telecommunication Development ConferenceResolution 8 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) “Collection and dissemination of information and statistics” of the World Telecommunication Development Conference |

1. **Introduction**

The efforts of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to bridge the digital divide have been made since the establishment of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), including its secretariat, the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT). To measure these efforts in the interests of ITU Member States based on the results of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) and the 2006 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP), the ICT Development Index (IDI) was developed and presented in 2009.

Two expert groups, the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH), were established within ITU-D to discuss the composition of IDI indicators. EGTI and EGH experts selected the composition of indicators from the data collected by ITU, based on the criteria of their availability and reliability, as well as on the basis of the indicators’ relationship with the IDI concept.

Both groups are open to all ITU members, as well as to statistical experts, who are often not members of official delegations and have little interaction with their administrations. As a result, the indicators agreed upon by the Expert Groups had low data availability and/or did not have much significance for the Member States. Among other things, this led to the suspension of the publication of the IDI in 2018.

In 2020, an attempt was made to coordinate the resumption of publication of the IDI based on the 2017 methodology version with some changes to the concept of the Index, but the Member States did not agree with the proposed approach due to the insufficient maturity of the submitted document. As a result, at the 2021 session of the ITU Council, it was decided to postpone the entire discussion process to the PP-22.

For the real resumption of work on IDI, significant efforts were required by the Member States and Regional Telecommunication Organizations, which, during the PP-22, agreed on the revised text of the Resolution 131 “Measuring information and communication technologies to build an integrating and inclusive information society”. Provisions defining the Member States’ commitment to the Index were added to the text of the revised Resolution 131, as well as establishing an IDI approval procedure (similar to the traditional approval procedure used for ITU‑T Recommendations). A provision was also added according to which the BDT should coordinate with specific Member States that do not provide statistical data officially on the possibility of using unofficial or estimated data for IDI puproses.

During 2023, the Member States managed to agree on the methodology and structure of the IDI. A lot of indicators, despite the efforts of the BDT and the Member States, still do not have sufficient data, which could potentially lead to the same problems as in 2018. Taking into account this agreement, as well as formal consultations on the general agreement of the Member States with the IDI-23 project (ended on November 7, 2023, 90 of 92 respondents supported the adoption of IDI-23), the new version of the Index was approved and published in December 2023.

Despite the positive outcome, it should be emphasized that the tight deadlines (less than one year), as well as the predominance of the Member States’ intention to publish IDI-23 by any means, sometimes to the detriment of its value, have led to the fact that IDI-23 still retains the disadvantages characteristic of the 2018 version, namely:

1. Low data availability for a number of indicators (three out of ten indicators are collected in less than a half of the Member States);
2. Difficulty in reaching consensus on a number of indicators (initially, about 20 indicators were considered as part of the IDI-23 development process, but it was not possible to agree on a number of them, even despite decent collection);
3. The absence of a number of important new indicators (indicators of telecommunication/ICT skills due to low collection, as well as indicators of penetration of new and emerging telecommunication technologies such as 5G networks, the Internet of Things, etc.), which does not allow the full use of IDI as a tool for evaluating scientific and technological progress in the field telecommunications/ICT and the implementation of digital transformation;
4. Difficulties with the application of the ITU standard rules of procedure described in the WTDC Resolution 1, due to the fact that the Expert Groups do not comply with the provisions of the Resolution, which jeopardized the IDI-23 approval process at both the intermediate and final stages (the documents of the Expert Group meetings were not available in advance, which it made it difficult for delegations to work with them, and the principle of reaching consensus when discussing decisions was not always respected).
5. **Proposal**

Due to the fact that, according to the provisions of Resolution 131, the calculation methodology and the structure of the IDI should not change for four years, there is time to improve the procedures and processes of work on the IDI, therefore the Communications Administration of the Russian Federation proposes to reorganize EGTI and EGH into the ITU-D Study Group 3 “Measurements to ensure universal and meaningful connectivity” with the transfer of the current work of Expert Groups to its terms of reference as ITU-D study Questions. To accomplish this task, the draft revision of the WTDC Resolution 2 “Establishment of study groups” is presented below.

The proposed solution will improve the efficiency of work on statistical products in the field of telecommunications/ICT, such as IDI, as well as ICT Price Baskets (IPB) and the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI), as well as any other indices that the Member States consider important for development and use, taking into account the strategic development goals. At the same time, raising the status of Expert Groups to the level of a study group to enhance the involvement of ITU-D members in the discussion of measurement issues in the field of telecommunications/ICT in the interests of Member States will cause the need to revise PP Resolution 131 and WTDC Resolution 8 furtherly.

MOD RESOLUTION 2 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

**Establishment of study groups**

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

*considering*

a) that the mandate for each study group needs to be clearly defined, in order to avoid duplication between study groups and other groups of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) established pursuant to No. 209 a) of Article 16 of the ITU Convention and to ensure the coherence of the overall work programme of the Sector;

b) that, for carrying out the studies entrusted to ITU-D, it is appropriate to set up study groups, as provided for in Article 17 of the ITU Convention, to deal with specific task-oriented telecommunication questions of priority to developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1), taking into consideration the ITU strategic plan and goals, and prepare relevant outputs in the form of reports, guidelines and/or Recommendations for the development of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in accordance with the provisions of Article 20 of the ITU Convention;

c) the need as far as possible to avoid duplication between studies undertaken by ITU-D and those carried out by the other two Sectors of the Union;

d) the results of the studies under the study Questions adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Dubai, 2014; Buenos Aires, 2017; Kigali, 2022),

*resolves*

1 to carry out the work within the Sector of three study groups, with a clear responsibility and terms of reference, as set out in Annex 1 to this resolution;

2 that each study group and its relevant groups will conduct studies within the framework of the ITU-D study Questions adopted by this conference and assigned to it in accordance with the structure shown in Annex 2 to this resolution, and the ITU-D study Questions adopted or revised between two world telecommunication development conferences (WTDCs) in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 1 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference;

3 that the organization of the study groups should lead to increased synergy, transparency and efficiency with minimal overlap between ITU-D study Questions;

4 that ITU-D study Questions should be linked with the implementation of WTDC and Plenipotentiary Conference resolutions, and also with the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) programmes set out in the ITU-D action plan, so that the study groups and the BDT programmes benefit from each other's activities, resources and expertise, and jointly contribute to the achievement of ITU-D objectives;

5 that the study groups should make use of the relevant outputs and materials of the other two Sectors and the General Secretariat relevant to their terms of reference and collaborate closely with study groups in the other Sectors on issues of mutual interest;

6 that the study groups will be managed by the chairmen and vice-chairmen as shown in Annex 3 to this resolution.

**Annex 1 to Resolution 2 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)**

**Scope of ITU-D study groups**

1. **Study Group 1**

**Enabling environment for meaningful connectivity[[2]](#footnote-2)**

* National policy and regulatory aspects of broadband telecommunication/ICT development
* Economic aspects in the field of national telecommunications/ICTs, including facilitating the implementation of the digital economy and the provision of telecommunication/ICT services, including for rural and remote areas
* National approaches for providing access to telecommunications/ICTs in rural and remote areas, with special focus on developing countries, including least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition
* Access to telecommunication/ICT services to enable inclusive communications, especially for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs
* Migration and adoption of digital technologies for broadcasting for different environments
* Use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management, particularly in developing countries
* Consumer information, protection and rights for telecommunication/ICT services, especially for vulnerable groups.
1. **Study Group 2**

**Digital transformation**

* Telecommunications/ICTs for e-services, including e-health and e-education
* Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs
* Using telecommunications/ICTs for monitoring and mitigating the impact of climate change, and consideration of circular economy and safe disposal of electronic waste
* Combating counterfeit telecommunication/ICT devices and theft of mobile telecommunication devices
* Implementation of conformance and interoperability testing for telecommunication/ICT devices and equipment
* Human exposure to electromagnetic fields
* Challenges and prospects for developing countries in access to emerging technologies, platforms, applications and use cases
* sing telecommunications/ICTs to create smart cities and the information society
* Adoption of telecommunications/ICTs and improving digital skills.
1. **Study Group 3**

**Measurements to ensure universal and meaningful connectivity**

* ICT Development Index (IDI).
* ICT Price Baskets (IPB).
* Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI).
* Measurement in the field of satellite broadband access services.
* Measurement in the field of communication network bandwidth.
* Measurement in the field of emerging communication services.
* Measurements in the field of mobile finance.
* Measurement in the field of OTT.
* Measurement in the field of electronic waste (E-waste).
* Analysis of the telecommunication/ICT indicators questionnaire.
* Analysis of the questionnaire on ICT access and use by households and individuals.

**Annex 2 to Resolution 2 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)**

**Questions assigned by the World Telecommunication Development Conference
to the ITU-D study groups**

**Study Group 1**

* **Question 1/1**: Strategies and policies for the deployment of broadband in developing countries
* **Question 2/1**: Strategies, policies, regulations and methods of migration to and adoption of digital technologies for broadcasting, including to provide new services for various environments
* **Question 3/1**: The use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management
* **Question 4/1**: Economic aspects of national telecommunications/ICTs
* **Question 5/1**: Telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas
* **Question 6/1**: Consumer information, protection and rights
* **Question 7/1**: Telecommunication/ICT accessibility to enable inclusive communication, especially for persons with disabilities.

**Study Group 2**

* Question 1/2: Smart sustainable cities and communities
* Question 2/2: Enabling technologies for e-services and applications, including e-health and e-education
* Question 3/2: Securing information and communication networks: Best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity
* Question 4/2: Telecommunication/ICT equipment: Conformance and interoperability, combating counterfeiting and theft of mobile devices
* Question 5/2: Adoption of telecommunications/ICTs and improving digital skills
* Question 6/2: ICTs for the environment
* Question 7/2: Strategies and policies concerning human exposure to electromagnetic fields.

**Study Group 3**

* Question 1/3: ICT Development Index
* Question 2/3: ICT Price Baskets
* Question 3/3: Global Cybersecurity Index
* Question 4/3: telecommunication/ICT indicators questionnaire
* Question 5/3: Questionnaire on ICT access and use by households and individuals
* Question 6/3: Measuring new and emerging technologies and services

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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)
2. Meaningful connectivity is a level of connectivity that allows users to have a safe, satisfying, enriching and productive online experience at an affordable cost. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)