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| **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **31st Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 20-23 May 2024** | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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| Japan | |
| Proposals to improve ICT survey work at ITU-D | |
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| **Summary:**  ICT survey work conducted by ITU-D plays a very important role in providing an understanding of the current status of each country in order to realize the strategic goals of ITU (Universal and Meaningful connectivity). However, in order to obtain higher quality information from each country, it is necessary for the secretariat to organize the schedule for all surveys and to avoid conducting multiple surveys at the same time.  This contribution points out the issues in the current ICT survey work and propose improvements.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note this document.  **References:**  ITU data collection schedule 2024.msg  ICT household indicators for information (2022): Japan.msg  ITU WTI IDI Validation 2024: Japan.msg  BDT\_cir\_008E\_DNS-CYB.pdf  ITU World Telecommunication Regulatory Survey 2024.msg  PP RESOLUTION 131 (Measuring information and communication technologies to build an integrating and inclusive information society) | |

1. **Background**

The ITU has set “Universal and Meaningful connectivity” as its strategic goals, and in order to realize these goals, it is important to provide necessary support to vulnerable groups, such as youth, women, and people in rural areas.

The ICT surveys conducted by ITU-D play a very important role in enabling the identification of truly necessary support. (PP-Resolution 131).

However, the ICT surveys in the ITU-D include many items, and data collection takes a lot of time. In addition, there are two scheduling issues as described below.

Therefore, a large burden is placed on member countries when compiling data.

* Issue 1. Multiple ICT surveys are conducted at the same time.
* Issue 2. Some ICT surveys and related work are not listed in the ITU Data collection schedule
  + Biennial ICT surveys (Global Cybersecurity Index、ICT Regulatory survey)
  + The validation queries the publishing of the IDI report

In addition, there is the following problem related to the questions themselves.

* Issue 3. Member states need to answer the same questions more than once a year, because some ICT surveys include the same questions.

1. **The details of the issues**

As specific examples of the three issues described in the Background section, the title, inquiry period, number of questions, and specific issues of the ICT survey that ITU-D consulted about in 2024 are below.

| **No** | **Survey name** | **Inquiry period** | **Number of questions** | **Issues** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **The ICT surveys included in the “ITU data collection schedule 2024”** | | | | |
| **1** | Household Short Questionnaire | 3/25/24-4/26/24  (5 weeks) | 44 | * No.1, 2, and 7 are conducted in the same period * Some questions are the same as No.4 |
| **2** | World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Short Questionnaire | 3/25/24-4/26/24  (5 weeks) | 15 | * No.1, 2, and 7 are conducted in the same period * Some questions are the same as No.5 |
| **3** | ICT Price Basket Questionnaire | 5/15/24-5/30/24  (2 weeks) | 99 (\*In 2023 survey) |  |
| **4** | Household Long Questionnaire | 9/16/24-10/16/24  (4 weeks) | 79  (\*In 2023 survey) | * No.4 and 5 are conducted in the same period * Some questions are the same as No.1 |
| **5** | World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Long Questionnaire | 9/16/24-10/16/24  (4 weeks) | 83  (\*In 2023 survey) | * No.4 and 5 are conducted in the same period * Some questions are the same as No.2 |
| **The ICT surveys or other related works NOT included in the “ITU data collection schedule 2024”** | | | | |
| **6** | Global Cybersecurity Index v5 | First time inquiry  4/10/23-8/1/23 (About 19 weeks)  Second time inquiry  12/15/23-3/13/24  (About 6 weeks) | 85 | * Second time inquiry of No.6 and No.8 are conducted in the same period   \*Regarding Second time inquiry, MIC Japan asked for deadline extension for 3/13/24 |
| **7** | ICT Regulatory survey 2024 | 3/26/24-4/30/24  (About 5 weeks) | About 500 | * No.1, 2, and 7 are conducted in the same period |
| **8** | The validation queries to publish 2024 IDI report | 2/9/24-3/6/24  (About 4 weeks) | 10 | * Second time inquiry of No.6 and No.8 are conducted in the same period |

As described in the Issues column, member states are required to respond to multiple ICT surveys at the same time, which places a heavy burden on them.

For example, from March to April 2024, it was necessary to respond to the three following surveys:

* "No 1. Household Short Questionnaire," "No 2. World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Short Questionnaire," and "No 7. ICT Regulatory Survey 2024."
* In addition, "No 7. ICT Regulatory Survey 2024" has not been listed in "ITU data collection schedule 2024," so the predictability was low.
* Regarding the same questions included in the several surveys, for example, "No 1. Household Short Questionnaire" and "No 4. Household Long Questionnaire" contain the same questions but ITU asked member states to answer separately. Therefore, member states need to answer the same question twice a year.

1. **Proposal**

We would like to ask ITU to take the following actions.

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| **No** | **Issues** | **Required actions** |
| 1 | Multiple ICT surveys are conducted at the same time | * Provide a comprehensive schedule including all activities related to ICT surveys * Make sure that the inquiry times for each ICT survey overlap as little as possible. |
| 2 | Some ICT surveys and related works are not listed in the ITU Data collection schedule |
| 3 | Member states need to answer the same questions more than once a year, because some ICT surveys include the same questions. | Eliminate redundant questions |

1. **Conclusion**

If ITU takes the proposed actions, it will reduce the burden on Member States and enable them to collect high-quality information from other Member States.

It will also lead to a reduction in the burden on ITU-D staff by eliminating the duplication of work time.

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