

Terms of Reference: Comparison between the 2017 and 2026 versions

Area	2017 version	2026 version	Main change
1. Institutional basis / background	Based principally on Resolution 8 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017).	Updated to Resolution 8 (Rev. Baku, 2025) and Resolution 131 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), including the roles of EGH and EGTI in monitoring digital development, the digital divide and progress towards the SDGs.	Updates and strengthens the institutional basis, linking EGH and EGTI explicitly to the latest WTDC and Plenipotentiary mandates.
2. Scope: indicators / statistical standards	Reviews/develops ICT indicators, harmonized definitions and related methodological elements within the respective mandate of each group, including data collection methodologies (EGTI) and response categories/classificatory variables (EGH).	Reviews and develops statistical standards, including harmonized definitions and methodologies: ICT access and use by individuals and households (EGH); telecommunication/ICT supply-side indicators (EGTI).	Broadens and modernizes the technical mandate, with greater emphasis on statistical standards and methodologies.
3. ITU statistical questionnaires	Groups decide on indicators to be collected through the relevant ITU statistical questionnaires.	Groups agree on indicators to be collected through the relevant ITU statistical questionnaires: household/individual indicators (EGH) and supply-side indicators (EGTI).	Replaces “decide” with “agree”, reflecting the consensus-based and advisory nature of the expert groups.
4. ITU Manual / Handbook	Periodically reviews the relevant ITU methodological publication: the Manual for Measuring ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals (EGH) and the Handbook for the Collection of Administrative Data on Telecommunications/ICT (EGTI).	Supports revision through reviews, recommendations, revised indicators and national experience: ITU Manual for Measuring ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals (EGH); ITU Handbook for the Collection of Administrative Data on Telecommunications/ICT (EGTI).	Clarifies the groups’ role in updating the respective Manual/Handbook through substantive technical input and recommendations.
5. Collaboration between EGH and EGTI	Work together on indicators/topics common to both groups.	Retains collaboration and adds joint work on telecommunication/ICT benchmarking, including relevant indicators and methodologies for the ICT Development Index and ICT Price Baskets.	Expands EGH–EGTI collaboration to explicitly include ITU benchmarking, notably the ICT Development Index and ICT Price Baskets.
6. Membership	Experts from Member States, Sector Members, academia and other relevant experts. NSOs particularly encouraged (EGH); national regulatory agencies, relevant ministries and NSOs particularly encouraged (EGTI).	Experts from ITU membership and other relevant experts; membership continues until withdrawal. NSOs particularly encouraged (EGH); national regulatory agencies, relevant ministries and NSOs particularly encouraged (EGTI).	Simplifies and broadens the general membership formulation, while retaining the different institutional constituencies already recognized for household and supply-side statistics.
7. Number of Vice-Chairs	Chair + two Vice-Chairs.	Chair + at least one Vice-Chair; the number appointed is limited to that necessary for efficient and effective management of the group.	Introduces flexibility in the leadership structure, allowing the number of Vice-Chairs to reflect operational needs.
8. Appointment procedure	Chair and Vice-Chairs nominated at WTIS, subject to BDT Director approval.	Appointed by the BDT Director following an open call for expressions of interest, using specified criteria.	Introduces a clearer and more transparent appointment process through an open call for expressions of interest and appointment by the BDT Director, while removing the previous link to WTIS, which is not a statutory, decision-making event of ITU.
9. Appointment criteria / expertise	Chair and Vice-Chairs required relevant subject-matter expertise and prior participation in international methodological discussions: household ICT indicators (EGH); supply-side telecommunication/ICT statistics (EGTI). No broader appointment criteria specified.	BDT Director considers relevant criteria under Resolution 208 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), including professional competence and experience, continuity of participation, managerial ability, availability, equitable geographical distribution and participation of developing countries. Leadership must also have relevant subject-matter expertise: household ICT statistics (EGH); supply-side telecommunication/ICT statistics (EGTI).	Introduces a broader and more systematic set of appointment criteria, while retaining and tailoring the existing requirement for relevant technical expertise.

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10. Geographical representation	Chair and Vice-Chairs should rotate among regions.	BDT Director shall seek balanced geographical representation, also reflected in the appointment criteria.	Replaces regional rotation with balanced geographical representation considered alongside competence and other appointment criteria.
11. Terms / reappointment	Four-year term; appointments linked to WTIS; no explicit reappointment limit.	Four-year term, with a maximum of one reappointment, together with rules for vacancies, succession and continuity.	Introduces a clear term limit and more complete continuity and succession arrangements, while removing the previous link between terms and WTIS.
12. Duties of Chair	Facilitates meetings; prepares work plan; leads forum discussions; presents outcomes at WTIS; encourages participation; works with Secretariat.	Similar functions, with the annual work plan prepared in collaboration with the Vice-Chair(s) and Secretariat, and outcomes presented “as appropriate”.	Updates and streamlines the Chair’s functions, including a more collaborative approach to work planning.
13. Vice-Chair role / succession	Two Vice-Chairs support/deputize; one assumes the Chair role if the position becomes vacant.	Same basic role, adapted to one or more Vice-Chairs, with more detailed provisions governing vacancies, succession and continuity.	Strengthens continuity and succession arrangements and adapts them to the flexible number of Vice-Chairs.
14. Secretariat	ICT Data and Statistics Division, Projects and Knowledge Management Department.	ICT Data and Analytics Division, Digital Knowledge Society Department.	Updates the provision to reflect the current BDT organizational structure.
15. Subgroups in mandate	Subgroups addressed principally under methods of work.	Establishing and overseeing subgroups becomes an explicit duty of EGH and EGTI, as appropriate, to undertake specific tasks and studies.	Elevates subgroups from a working method to an explicit responsibility of each expert group.
16. Subgroup governance	Subgroups may be established to study specific indicators/methodologies; members apply; external experts/observers may participate; subgroup leadership selected by ITU in agreement with the group Chair.	Annual meeting identifies topics; rapporteurs/co-rapporteurs are appointed; external experts may participate; each subgroup has its own ToR defining scope, working methods, timelines and deliverables; subgroup reports are presented to the expert group for consideration and possible adoption.	Formalizes subgroup governance and accountability, with clearer leadership, scope, deliverables, timelines and reporting arrangements.
17. Communication / working tools	Work conducted mainly through the ITU online discussion forum.	Subgroups may determine the most appropriate tools to support their work, while members remain encouraged to use the online forum to exchange ideas, share documents and provide comments.	Provides greater flexibility in collaboration tools, while retaining the online forum as an encouraged channel for exchanges among members.
18. Contributions	No detailed equivalent provision.	Contributions to subgroups and annual meetings may be submitted through the online forum, the BDT submission tool or email to the Secretariat. Contributions to annual meetings must be submitted no later than 12 calendar days before the meeting.	Formalizes submission channels and the deadline for annual-meeting contributions.
19. Documents / transparency	No detailed equivalent provisions.	Secretariat posts relevant documents and contributions in the appropriate BDT Document Centre folders and, for annual meetings, on the meeting website. The EGH/EGTI webpage is kept up to date and includes standardized guidelines for submitting contributions and information and links for accessing relevant documents.	Strengthens transparency and access to documentation by specifying publication arrangements and standardizing information on contributions and document access.
20. Annual meeting	At least one face-to-face meeting annually in Geneva or another agreed location.	One in-person meeting every year in Geneva or another location.	Changes “at least one” to “one” annual in-person meeting.
21. Reporting	Chair presents annual expert-group outcomes to WTIS.	Chair reports on the group’s work, including latest developments, adopted recommendations and future work, to TDAG and WTIS, in accordance with Resolution 8 (Rev. Baku, 2025).	Strengthens formal accountability by adding reporting to TDAG. WTIS remains a venue for presenting and disseminating the expert groups’ work rather than a statutory, decision-making event.