

## RESOLUTION 8 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

### Collection and dissemination of information and statistics

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

*recalling*

- a) Resolution 8 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference;
- b) Resolution 131 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on measuring information and communication technologies (ICTs) to build an integrating and inclusive information society;
- c) Resolution 37 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide,

*considering*

- a) that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), as the main source of international information and statistics on telecommunications/ICTs, performs a key role in the collection, coordination, exchange and analysis of information;
- b) the importance of the existing Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) databases, in particular the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators database and the regulatory database;
- c) the usefulness of analytical reports published by ITU-D;
- d) the need to collect and disseminate information and statistics for follow-up on and monitoring of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- e) the cross-cutting nature of telecommunications/ICTs as a strategic component in achieving all the goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- f) that, despite all the efforts made, the world divide in Internet use by men and women has widened, especially in least developed countries, therefore making it necessary to enhance statistics and their dissemination disaggregated by gender that would make it possible to address public policies at the national level;

*g)* that numerous regional and international organizations make use of and rely upon the statistics prepared and published by the Union in their indicators and reports;

*h)* that the 2017 session of ITU Council instructed the Secretary-General to grant all Member States the right of free electronic access to ITU publications relating to statistics and indicators,

*considering further*

*a)* that the telecommunication/ICT sector at the national level is reforming at an incredible pace;

*b)* that policy approaches vary and Member States can benefit from the experiences of others,

*recognizing*

*a)* that, by acting as a clearing house for the exchange of information and statistics, BDT will be able to assist Member States in developing informed national policies;

*b)* that the Member States must participate actively in this endeavour in order to make it successful;

*c)* that § 116 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society stresses that all indices and indicators must take into account different levels of development and national circumstances, bearing in mind that statistics need to be improved in a collaborative, cost-effective and non-duplicative fashion;

*d)* that § 70 of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) (UNGA Resolution 70/125) has called for further quantitative data to support evidence-based decision-making, as well as for the inclusion of telecommunication/ICT statistics in national strategies for the development of statistics and in regional statistical work programmes;

*e)* that telecommunication/ICT indicators and statistics are key elements for drawing up evidence-based public policies;

*f)* the importance of the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS),

*recognizing further*

- a) that telecommunication/ICT statistics are extremely useful for the work of the study groups and in assisting ITU to monitor and evaluate telecommunication/ICT developments and measure the digital divide;
- b) the new responsibilities to be held by ITU-D in relation to this subject, pursuant to the Tunis Agenda, in particular §§ 112 to 120 thereof, as well as the WSIS-SDG Matrix which makes it possible to connect the WSIS action lines with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- c) the targets of SDG 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation) and SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) of the 2030 Agenda,

*resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau*

- 1 to continue to support this activity by providing adequate resources, including resources of ITU regional and area offices, and according it the necessary priority;
- 2 to continue to work closely with Member States for the sharing of best practices concerning national ICT policies and strategies, including the development of statistics and their dissemination, and considering gender, age and any other disaggregated information relevant to the development of national public policies;
- 3 to continue to survey countries and produce world and regional analytical reports which highlight country lessons and experiences, in particular on:
- trends in the telecommunication/ICT sector, such as adapting to new technologies, digital transformation, digital economy, etc.;
  - world telecommunication/ICT developments at regional and international level;
  - trends, best practices and regulation in the field of telecommunications/ICTs and tariff policies;
  - the use of telecommunications/ICTs to achieve the WSIS outcomes and SDGs;

4 to rely primarily on official data provided by Member States based on internationally recognized methodologies; only in the absence of such information may other sources be used, after informing the Member States concerned in advance of the other sources used to obtain the information;

5 to take appropriate steps towards ensuring that ITU data and material are properly attributed when utilized;

6 to establish and collect indicators and to encourage countries to collect statistics and information in order to illustrate the progress, in particular in developing countries<sup>1</sup>, in creating an information society, in bridging the digital divide and in evaluating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

7 to consult on a regular basis with Member States and encourage the membership to submit contributions on issues related to the identification and definition of indicators and data-collection methodologies, especially for implementation of Resolution 131 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), within the ITU-D study groups, the Expert Group on household ICT indicators (EGH) and the Expert Group on telecommunication/ICT indicators (EGTI), and other groups, coordinated by BDT;

8 to monitor the development and improvement of methodologies relevant to indicators and methods of data collection, through consultation with Member States;

9 to ensure reflection of the development of the telecommunication/ICT sector, taking into account diverse national conditions and development levels of the regions and Member States, as well as trends in telecommunications/ICTs, through telecommunication/ICT indicators, indices and ICT price baskets;

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<sup>1</sup> These include least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

10 to continue to convene WTIS on an annual basis for discussion and generalization, in the form of a final document/report, of best practices in determining indicators and data-collection methods for international comparison in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, based on contributions submitted by the membership, as well as ITU-D study groups, EGH and EGTI;

11 to ensure that WTIS does not conflict with any major events of the Union and, as far as possible, to hold it in each of the regions in turn;

12 to continue to convene regular meetings of EGTI and EGH, in view of their importance;

13 to review, revise and further develop benchmarking, including through consultation and inviting contributions from Member States and experts, and ensure that ICT indicators, the ICT Development Index (IDI) and the ICT Price Basket (IPB) reflect the real development of the ICT sector, taking into consideration different levels of development and national circumstances as well as ICT trends, in application of the WSIS outcomes;

14 to encourage Member States to collect statistical indicators and information for follow-up on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to illustrate national digital divides as well as the efforts made through various programmes to close the gap, showing, as much as possible, the impact on gender issues, children and adolescents, as well as older persons, persons with disabilities and different social sectors;

15 to encourage countries to participate in working groups coordinated by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and ITU to discuss ways to increase the availability of ICT data with experts and Member States with the aim of identifying innovative data-collection tools to support methodological recommendations for consideration by the relevant experts in statistics;

16 to encourage and support Member States in the setting up of national centres for statistics on the information society and in the advancement of existing centres;

17 to strengthen ITU-D's role as a member of the steering committee of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development and through active participation in discussions and activities geared to achieving the partnership's main objectives, related to the development of telecommunication/ICT indicators and capacity building for national statistical offices;

18 to encourage Member States to bring together different stakeholders in government, the private sector, academia and civil society in raising national awareness about the importance of the collection and dissemination of globally comparable data in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, including for policy purposes;

19 to provide technical assistance to the Member States for increasing capacity in the development and collection of telecommunication/ICT statistics, and for the development of national databases containing statistics and regulatory policy information in the field of telecommunications/ICTs;

20 to continue to cooperate with relevant international and regional organizations, such as the members of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), UNSD and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), including on developing training material and conducting specialized training courses on telecommunication/ICT statistics;

21 to unify existing information and statistical databases on the BDT website so as to respond to the objectives stated in §§ 113-118 of the Tunis Agenda, and to play a primary role in relation to §§ 119 and 120;

22 to assist Member States with indigenous populations in developing indicators to evaluate the impact of telecommunications/ICTs on indigenous peoples that enable the achievement of the objectives set forth in § C8 of the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action;

23 to organize regional workshops on statistics in cooperation with relevant regional and international organizations, with the aim of spreading awareness about ways and means of collecting data and statistics in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, particularly for developing countries;

24 to post in a timely manner all questionnaires/surveys, reports and publications relating to the statistics and indicators published by ITU-D, particularly those relating to regulatory information, statistics and indicators which rely on data submitted by Member States, on the website of the Union, making them easy to identify and access;

25 to continue to seek technical solutions to work on statistics in the field of telecommunications/ICTs in all the six languages of the Union;

26 to present a synthesis report on WTIS proposals based on the contributions provided by Member States through ITU-D study group, EGH and EGTI meetings on issues related to the definition of telecommunication/ICT indicators and data-collection methodologies to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group for information,

*invites Member States and Sector Members*

1 to participate actively in this endeavour by providing the statistics and information solicited, including statistics in the field of telecommunications/ICTs disaggregated by gender, and also by other vulnerable groups, as appropriate, and by engaging actively in discussions on ICT indicators and data-collection methodologies through contributions, in particular by means of EGH and EGTI and other expert groups coordinated by BDT;

2 to establish national systems or strategies for strengthening the consolidation of statistical information related to telecommunications/ICTs;

3 to establish institutional mechanisms to promote and coordinate the compilation and dissemination of telecommunication/ICT information and statistics to monitor implementation of the SDGs at the national level;

4 to establish mechanisms for effective national coordination in order to mobilize and guarantee the quality of statistical data produced by various national stakeholders;

5 to contribute with experiences of policies that have a positive impact on telecommunication/ICT indicators;

6 to strive to harmonize the methodologies for their domestic statistical data-collection systems with those used at the international level,

*encourages*

donor agencies and relevant United Nations agencies to cooperate in providing relevant support and information on their activities.