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| **Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18) Dubai, 29 October – 16 November 2018** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Document 49-E** |
|  | **24 August 2018** |
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| Note by the Secretary-General | |
| REPORT ON PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PP-14 RESOLUTION 131 (REV. BUSAN, 2014) | |

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| Summary  ITU develops international definitions, standards and methodologies to measure the information society and economy in close cooperation with other regional and international organizations and through its thematic Expert Groups. This document reports on the implementation of PP-14 Resolution 131 (Rev. Busan, 2014) on *Measuring information and communication technologies to build an integrating and inclusive information society.*  Action required  The Plenipotentiary Conference is invited to take note of this report.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [Resolution 131](https://www.itu.int/pub/S-CONF-PLEN-2015) (Rev. Busan, 2014); Council documents [C18/96](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0096/en), [C18/105](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0105/en) |

This report details activities that were implemented in accordance with PP-14 Resolution 131 (Rev. Busan, 2014) during the period 2014-2018.

**1. World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS)**

WTIS, as the main global forum for telecommunication and information society measurements was convened with the participation of government ministers, business leaders, heads of regulatory authority, national statisticians, academics, and ICT data producers and analysts from all parts of the globe to discuss issues related to information society trends and their measurement. WTIS was held as follows:

• Tbilisi, Georgia, 24-26 November 2014

• Hiroshima, Japan, 30 November - 2 December 2015

• Gaborone, Botswana, 21-23 November 2016

• Hammamet, Tunisia, 14-16 November 2017

In 2018, WTIS will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, 10-12 December 2018.

**2. The Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and the Expert Group on ICT** **Household Indicators (EGH)**

The expert groups (EGTI and EGH) carried out their work through the online forum and met face-to-face annually to review the methodologies and definitions of existing indicators. The expert groups introduced 14 new ICT indicators to replace the 11 indicators that had been in use. This was to take into account new technological trends.

**3. ICT Development Index (IDI)**

At the extraordinary meeting of the EGTI/EGH, which took place from 1 to 3 March 2017, experts reviewed the composition of ICT Development Index to better reflect the recent developments in the ICT sector. The meeting adopted a revised list of 14 indicators to be included in the IDI compared to the old list of 11 indicators. A new IDI methodology based on the 14 new indicators was developed and introduced.

**4. Measuring the Information Society Report (MISR)**

The Measuring the Information Society Report was published annually. MISR is an annual report published by ITU since 2009, featuring key ICT data and benchmarking tools to measure the information society, particularly via the ICT Development Index (IDI). The report presents a quantitative analysis of the information society and highlights new and emerging trends and measurement issues. The MISR also presents IDI findings at the international and regional levels. It also uses the findings of the IDI to analyse trends and developments concerning the digital divide.

MISR 2017 included for the first time individual country profiles providing a snapshot of the latest ICT landscape and efforts made to increase ICT access, use, and proficiency in each country.

**5. International cooperation**

ITU has actively cooperated with international bodies on statistical issues, particularly with the UN Statistical Commission, Broadband Commission for Digital Development, Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), UN global working group on big data for official statistics, etc. ITU maintained a leading role in the global Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development and its relevant task groups. This Partnership is composed of United Nations Agencies.

**6. Capacity building**

ITU provided capacity building and technical assistance to Member States in the collection of telecommunication/ICT statistics through the delivery of training workshops and the production of methodological manuals and handbooks. In the period 2014-2018, ITU held 12 regional and eight national workshops.

**7. Data collection and dissemination**

ITU collected, harmonized, and disseminated data and official statistics in the area of telecommunications/ICTs. In so doing, ITU used a variety of data sources and dissemination tools, such as the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (WTI) database, the ITU ICT Eye online portal, the Yearbook of Statistics, the ITU/World Bank joint publication namely, “The Little Data Book on Information and Communication Technology”, and the ITU Statistics webpage.

**8. Assessment of ITU Work and Resourcing related to Statistics**

8.1 At the ITU Council 2018, the Federative Republic of Brazil requested the ITU secretariat to “examine the human and financial resources necessary to enhance ITU’s capabilities in gathering, producing and publishing meaningful data, information, statistics and reports, and advise PP-18 on necessary amendments to the ITU Financial plan for 2020-2023” (Council document [C18/96](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0096/en)).

8.2 The Council endorsed the proposal that ITU should, at the earliest possible date:

* Publish all data, rankings, benchmarks and studies on IPB and affordability for MIS 2017 as it did in MIS 2016;
* Publish a webpage explaining the IPB methodology;
* Improve the data visualization tool, publish all data gathered in every MIS, and allow comparisons over time;

8.3 ITU work in ICT statistics/indicators is often compared with that of other international organizations; however the resources allocated by those organizations differ from resources available in ITU for similar activities. For information, the human resources allocated to statistical activities in other international organizations and in ITU are as follows:

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| **Organization** | **Number of staff responsible for statistics** |
| International Monetary Fund (IMF) | 190 |
| World Bank | 151 |
| Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) | 100 |
| World Health Organization (WHO) | 100 |
| Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) | 85 |
| United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics | 70 |
| International Labor Organization (ILO) | 28 |
| World Trade Organization (WTO) | 23 |
| United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) | 20 |
| **International Telecommunication Union** | **7** |

*Source: - Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities,* [*https://unstats.un.org/unsd/accsub-public/members.htm*](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/accsub-public/members.htm)*.*

8.4 Currently, the ITU ICT Data and Statistics Division consists of five professionals and two administrative staff, who are in charge of data collection, verification, dissemination, analysis, delivery of training, and international statistical coordination and cooperation. Furthermore, these functions are highly dependent on the associated IT Support Service for all development, maintenance and support. The secretariat has initiated a study on the resources level that would be required to further the implementation of Resolution 131 including the activities listed under 8.2 above. The outcomes of this study will be communicated to the membership and reflected, to the greatest extent possible and within the financial resources available, in the 2020-2021 budget.

**9. Conclusion**

As countries work towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, measurement of the Information Society is of critical importance particularly because telecommunications/ ICTs play a catalytic role in the overall development of countries. ITU’s work in ICT indicators takes into account emerging technologies and has to be based on the principle of continuous improvement in terms of data collection, analysis, and reporting in order for it to be of value to countries and the private sector.

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