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| **Council 2019Geneva, 10-20 June 2019** |  |
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| **Agenda item: ADM 19** | **Document C19/10-E** |
| **18 April 2019** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General |
| IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 131 (rev. dubai, 2018) – MEASURING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES TO BUILD AN INTEGRATING AND INCLUSIVE INFORMATION SOCIETY |

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| SummaryITU develops international definitions, standards and methodologies to measure the information society and digital economy in close cooperation with other regional and international organizations and through its thematic Expert Groups. Data are collected from Member States, disseminated through the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (WTI) database and analysed in the *Measuring the Information Society Report*. Training workshops are conducted to build capacity for data collection in Member States. This document reports on the implementation of Resolution 131 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) on *Measuring information and communication technologies to build an integrating and inclusive information society* during the year 2018. In addition, the document examines the necessary human and financial resources required to conduct ITU’s work in gathering, producing and publishing meaningful data, information, statistics and reports.Action requiredThe Council is invited to **take note** of this report and **make decisions** as deemed necessary.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_References[Resolution 131](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-131-E.pdf) (Rev. Dubai, 2018); 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); [WTDC‑17 Resolution 8](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC17/Documents/WTDC17_final_report_en.pdf) |

This report examines the necessary human and financial resources required to conduct ITU’s work in gathering, producing and publishing meaningful data, information, statistics and reports. It also presents an analysis of the impact resulting from amendments of Resolution 131 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) by the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference.

**1. Background**

1.1 ITU organizes annually the [World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/events/wtis2018/default.aspx) (WTIS), which is the main global forum for telecommunication and information society measurements. ITU work on data and statistics is carried out though the Expert Groups on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH).[[1]](#footnote-1) Since 2009, ITU publishes the Measuring Information Report. The Report features key telecommunication/ICT data and benchmarking tools to measure the information society, presents a quantitative analysis of the information society, and highlights new and emerging trends and measurement issues. The report also reports on the ICT Development Index (IDI) currently calculated on the basis of 14 indicators, revised from 11 indicators in 2017 by the Extra-ordinary session of the EGTI and EGH.

1.2 ITU actively [cooperates with international bodies](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/intlcoop/default.aspx) on statistical issues.

**2. Examination of revisions to Resolution 131 by ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18)**

A number of revisions to Resolution 131 were adopted at PP-18 that have an impact on the functioning and resource requirement of the statistics division.

**3. Assessment of resourcing related to ITU work on data and statistics**

3.1 Resolution 131 instructs the Secretary-General to examine the necessary human and financial resources required to conduct ITU’s work in gathering, producing and publishing meaningful data, information, statistics and reports, and inform the Council of the results of this study.

3.2 Currently, the ITU ICT Data and Statistics Division consists of five professionals and two administrative staff (including one statistical assistant), responsible for data collection, verification and entry; design, formatting and dissemination across a variety of media; analysis of trends; delivery of training, and international statistical coordination and cooperation. The low staffing of the ITU Statistics team and low budgetary allocation to its activities is a challenge not only in implementing this resolution but also in carrying out its regular work.

3.3 ITU work on ICT statistics 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. ITU statistical work is relatively under-staffed compared to the human resources allocated to statistical activities in other international organizations:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Number of staff responsible for statistics** | **Total staff** | **Statistics staff as % of total** |
| International Monetary Fund (IMF) | 190 |  2,400  | 7.9% |
| Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) | 100 | 3,317  | 3.0% |
| World Health Organization (WHO) | 100 | 5,541  | 1.8% |
| Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) | 85 |  2,500  | 3.4% |
| United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics (UIS) | 70 |  2,051  | 3.4% |
| International Labour Organization (ILO) | 28 |  2,337  | 1.2% |
| World Trade Organization (WTO)  | 23 | 625 | 3.7% |
| United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) | 20 | 470 | 4.3% |
| **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** | **7** | **749** | **0.9%** |

Sources:
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/accsub-public/members.htm>,
<https://www.unsystem.org/content/total-staff-organization>,
<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/infographic/2015/10/27/where-is-staff-from>, <https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/secre_e/intro_e.htm>, <https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/osgciomisc2017_en.pdf?user=17>, <http://www.oecd.org/about/whodoeswhat/>, <https://www.imf.org/external/about/staff.htm>

**4. Recommendations based on resource requirement assessment**

4.1 The successful implementation of a statistical program is heavily dependent on strong IT support. There is an urgent need for a dedicated IT professional to support data visualization, introduction and maintenance of IT-related tools (e.g. the new ICT Eye tool) and management of the statistical database.

4.2 There is also an urgent need for a statistical assistant for dispatching and processing data questionnaires from countries, including follow up, verification and data entry.

4.3 Big Data is emerging as a complement to official statistics.[[2]](#footnote-2) Many developing countries have limited financial, technical and human resources to utilize Big Data. There is a threat of a new digital divide between countries using Big Data for official statistics and those that cannot with serious consequences for the breadth, timeliness and relevance of statistical data. ITU can reduce this risk in several ways. One is developing its own expertise in the area including pilots using Big Data to supplement data collection activities. Another is participating in initiatives such as the GSMA’s Big Data for Social Good and the UN’s Big Data for Sustainable Development. The expertise gained will support capacity building in countries for enhancing their ICT statistics using Big Data techniques.

4.4 There is need for one additional statistician to collect, verify, compile, and ensure data quality for both supply-side (administrative) and demand-side (survey) indicators. This will strengthen the capacity for ITU to fully implement PP-18 resolution 131, and WTDC-17 resolution 8.

4.5 In summary, the following additional staff are required to support PP Resolution 131 and improve statistical capacity in ITU:

* 1 IT specialist to develop and support automated data collection, entry and dissemination; database management; and visualization tools at P3 level.
* 1 statistical assistant at G5 level.
* 1 data scientist (for big data analytics, machine learning, artificial intelligence, etc.) at P4 level.
* 1 statistician at P3 level.

4.5.1 The following table provides costing for the additional resources required to augment current staffing levels.

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|  | ***CHF (‘000)*** |
|   | **Annual cost** | **2020-2023 costs** |
| 1 statistician at P3 | 132 | 528 |
| 1 statistical assistant G5 | 101 | 404 |
| 1 data scientist at P4 | 157 | 628 |
| 1 IT specialist at P3 | 132 | 528 |
| **Total** | **522** | **2088** |

4.5.2 These figures were not included in the draft budget for 2020-2021.

**5. Conclusion**

As countries work towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, measurement of the Information Society and Digital Economy is of critical importance given the catalytic role ICTs play in the social and economic development of countries. ITU’s work on ICT indicators requires continuous improvement in terms of data collection, analysis, and reporting in order for it to remain valuable to countries as well as the private sector, other international agencies and the research community.

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1. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/events/egh2018/default.aspx>; and
<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/events/egti2018/default.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. ITU launched a pilot big data projects in six countries seeking to explore the possibility of getting big data to complement current statistical data sources. For more details:
<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/events/wtis2016/BigData_Tiru.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)