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| **Council 2019Geneva, 10-20 June 2019** |  |
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| Note by the Secretary-General |
| contribution from the republic of côte d’ivoire |
| report by the secretary-general on IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 131 (rev. dubai, 2018) of the plenipotentiary conference – MEASURING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES TO BUILD AN INTEGRATING AND INCLUSIVE INFORMATION SOCIETY |

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council the attached contribution submitted by the **Republic of Côte d'Ivoire**.

 Houlin ZHAO
 Secretary-General

Contribution by the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 131 (REV. DUBAI, 2018) OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE – MEASURING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES TO BUILD AN
INTEGRATING AND INCLUSIVE INFORMATION SOCIETY

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| SummaryThe present document makes proposals regarding the work on the calculation methodologies of the ICT Development Index (IDI) and the ICT Price Basket (IPB), and invites the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau to also submit her report on the work in accordance with *instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau* 20 of Resolution 131 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference – Measuring information and communication technologies to build an integrating and inclusive information society.Action requiredThe Council is invited to take note of the proposals by Côte d'Ivoire.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_References |

# 1 Introduction

In accordance with *instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau* 20 of Resolution 131 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference – Measuring information and communication technologies to build an integrating and inclusive information society, the Director of BDT is invited to submit in her annual report to the Council a progress report on the implementation of this resolution, and in particular on the work of reviewing the structures and calculation methods of the ICT Development Index (IDI) and the ICT Price Basket (IPB).

Pending the availability of that report, Côte d'Ivoire would like to make proposals on the calculation methods of the IDI and IPB.

# 2 Discussion

Côte d'Ivoire notes the increase from 11 to 14 indicators in calculating the IDI.

Côte d'Ivoire nevertheless notes that the changes should also take into account certain specificities common to the developing countries.

Indeed, the mobile telephone markets in the majority of developing countries are for the most part prepay. In Côte d'Ivoire, over 99 per cent of mobile telephone subscribers have prepay subscriptions. These markets are highly competitive, reflected in the fact that promotional offers or bonuses on communications are issued on a systematic and regular basis, but hitherto these have not been reflected in ITU’s IPB. The IPB only reflects the rates of the service offers that operators sometimes publish on their websites, whereas in reality bonuses of 200 per cent or more are constantly applied to those rates.

Moreover, financial inclusion is on the rise globally, accelerated by mobile phones and the Internet[[1]](#footnote-1). In the foreword to its report "The Global Findex Database – Measuring Financial Inclusion and the Fintech Revolution", the World Bank indicates that "the power of financial technology … is demonstrated most persuasively in Sub-Saharan Africa, where 21 percent of adults now have a mobile money account—nearly twice the share in 2014 and easily the highest of any region in the world".

This development is not yet taken into account in generating the IDI.

And yet – still according to the foreword to the aforementioned World Bank report – a growing body of research reveals many potential development benefits from financial inclusion, especially from the use of digital financial services. The continued evolution of financial inclusion has been driven by digital payments, government policies, and a new generation of financial services accessed through mobile phones and the Internet.

To conclude, the fact that issues common to the developing countries should be taken into account was the subject of a recommendation at the last ITU Regional Workshop on ICT Statistics for Africa, held in Abidjan from 6 to 9 May 2019 and attended by 22 Member States.

# 3 Proposal

Regarding the work on the calculation methods of the IDI and on the IPB, Côte d'Ivoire proposes:

– to take mobile financial services into account in the indicators when calculating the IDI;

– to take into account, in the IPB, the specificities of the developing countries for which promotional offers/bonuses on communications are "the norm".

Côte d'Ivoire requests the Expert Group on the Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) to consider these proposals.

Côte d'Ivoire also invites the Director of BDT to submit to the next session of the Council her report on the progress made on the work on the calculation methodologies of the IDI and on the IPB, in accordance with *instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau* 20 of Resolution 131 (Rev. Dubai, 2018).

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1. <https://www.banquemondiale.org/fr/news/press-release/2018/04/19/financial-inclusion-on-the-rise-but-gaps-remain-global-findex-database-shows> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)