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Partnership on Measuring the ICT for Development

1. **Background**

1.1 The Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) invited Member States inter alia to support, through relevant UN processes, the creation of synergies and institutional linkages between WSIS and the Post-2015 Development Agenda to continue strengthening the impact of ICT for sustainable development. Member States are also invited to contribute and closely collaborate with the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development as an international, multi-stakeholder initiative to improve the availability and quality of ICT data and indicators, particularly in developing countries.

1. **Recent Activities and Progress Achieved**

2.1 ITU continues to be an active member of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development and together with UNCTAD and UIS is one of the three members of its Steering Committee. Over the years, the Partnership has grown to a total of 14 partner organizations. The Partnership has been very active in tracking the progress of the WSIS Targets and has also taken a lead role in increasing awareness about the importance of ICT for development and in international ICT monitoring.

2.2 The Partnership is actively engaged in monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that “the spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies”. Several SDG targets refer to ICTs and technology, highlighting the need to include specific ICT indicators in the monitoring framework. Nevertheless, in the global SDG indicator framework, which helps to monitor progress, identify challenges, and guide policy makers, out of 231 only 7 ICT indicators are included, covering 6 targets under Goals 4, 5, 9, and 17. Five of the seven indicators are collected and disseminated by the ITU.

2.3 During the 2019 WSIS Forum, the Partnership organized a session on “Measurement of Progress towards the SDGs through ICT Indicators”, which discussed progress made by a Partnership Task Group. The main objective of this Task Group on ICT for the SDGs is to propose a thematic list of ICT indicators that could be used to measure ICT availability and use in sectors relevant to the SDGs that are not covered in the global SDG indicators framework. The TG further aims at improving availability of disaggregated data, for the indicators that are defined in the thematic list, in addition to the ICT indicators included in the SDG measurement framework.

2.4 The Partnership Task Group on ICT for SDGs presented the final draft of a thematic list of ICT indicators, which can be used by countries to measure ICT availability and use in sectors relevant to the SDGs that are not covered in the global SDG indicators framework. The indicator list has been open to feedback from the WSIS stakeholders, during and after the WSIS Forum 2019, after which the list has been finalized.