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| **Council 2021 Virtual consultation of councillors, 8-18 June 2021** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 3.2** | **Document C21/80-E** |
| **25 May 2021** |
| **Original: French** |
| Note by the Secretary-General | |
| CONTRIBUTION FROM tUNISIA  IMPLEMENTATION OF Resolution 131 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)  of the Plenipotentiary Conference | |

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council a contribution submitted by **Tunisia**.

Houlin ZHAO  
 Secretary-General

**Contribution from Tunisia**

IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 131 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)   
OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE

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| Summary  This report proposes the revision of the new ICT development index and the consideration of new indicators with a view to the implementation of Resolution 131 (Rev. Dubai, 2018).  Action required  The Council is invited to **take note** of this report.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*Resolution 131 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-131-E.pdf) *of the Plenipotentiary Conference* |

Comments relating to Document [C21/62](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0062/en)

Background

The ICT Development Index (IDI), a composite index that helps to assess the state of development of information and communication technologies (ICTs), was published by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) between 2009 and 2017.

In the light of technological advances, Member States deemed it necessary to update the index to respond to current developments. Consequently, a new, revised IDI was proposed after work conducted by the EGTI and EGH expert teams between 2016 and 2018, putting forward a sub-set of new indicators; however, challenges in terms of data collection, data quality and the selection of the new indicators prevented publication of the new index in 2018 and 2019.

Following the outcomes of the first virtual consultation of councillors held in June 2020 and given that EGTI and EGH were to hold their annual meetings in September 2020, ITU presented a new IDI 2020 for consideration during a joint meeting of the two groups dedicated to resolving problems preventing the calculation of the revised IDI.

Resolution 131 instructs ITU to publish the IDI annually on the basis of a methodology developed and approved by the expert groups and to ensure that ITU statistics are based on reliable, transparent and scientifically proven methodologies that reflect the real development of ICTs.

Despite these efforts, ITU has not published the IDI for three consecutive years (2018-2020) owing to the fact that EGTI and EGH could not agree on a methodology for the ICT Development Index or on the process for developing such a methodology.

Proposal

Tunisia supports the proposed new IDI 2020 and proposes its revision by adding the following indicators to the index:

– The indicator “Percentage of individuals with a smartphone/tablet” under the “access” section, given that most Internet connections nowadays are made by mobile device and that the “percentage of households with a computer” does not by itself reflect the percentage of the population with the means to access the Internet.

– The indicator “Fixed broadband Internet traffic per subscriber” under the “use” section to reflect the level of Internet use and given that mobile broadband Internet traffic is already requested.

– The indicators “OTT service usage rate” and “Internet of Things (IoT) usage rate” under the “use” section, aiming to study economic and social impacts.

Proposed way forward

In view of the foregoing and given the lack of consensus in the expert groups on IDI 2020 and its publication, it is proposed to:

– Resume dissemination and publication of the IDI for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 based on the initial IDI methodology and continue to publish it using the same methodology for subsequent years until such time as a new approach has been approved.

– Continue work on the new index within the context of EGTI and EGH and agree on the exact definitions to be adopted for each of the indicators proposed for the new IDI calculation method. The new index may replace the initial IDI in the future if agreed upon by ITU Member States.

– Ask all countries to provide the indicators mentioned in the new IDI calculation method and wait until there has been sufficient response before beginning publication of the IDI using the new approach.

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