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| **Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22) Bucharest, 26 September – 14 October 2022** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Addendum 6 to Document 68-E** |
|  | **18 August 2022** |
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| ITU Member States, members of the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC) | |
| Revision of resolution 131 | |
| Measuring information and communication technologies to build an integrating and inclusive information society | |

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| Summary  The 2022 World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22) revised WTDC Resolution 8, on collection and dissemination of information and statistics. One of the important decisions of that Conference was to determine the objectives of Resolution 8 as a resolution on the collection and dissemination of statistics, while questions regarding indices developed by ITU, such as the ICT Development Index (IDI), the ICT Price Basket (IPB) and the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI), are best treated within the framework of Resolution 131 of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on measuring information and communication technologies to build an integrating and inclusive information society. With the aim of following this approach, proposals for the revision of Resolution 131 are set out in the Annex hereto.  Action required  The Plenipotentiary Conference is invited to consider this proposal and make the necessary amendments to Resolution 131 of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on measuring information and communication technologies to build an integrating and inclusive information society.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  *Resolution 8 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference* |

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RESOLUTION 131 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)

Measuring information and communication technologies to build an integrating and inclusive information society

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Bucharest, 2022),

recalling

*a)* Resolutions 130 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), 139 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference, in relation to ITU's role in producing comprehensive statistical data and products in the domain of telecommunication/information and communication technologies (ICTs);

*b)* Resolution 71 (Rev. [Dubai, 2018]) of this conference, on the strategic plan of the Union for 2020-2023 and Resolution 200 (Rev. [Dubai, 2018]) of this conference, on the Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT development, which approved strategic targets and indicators to monitor the development of ICTs and their support to the digital economy, and established a comprehensive linkage between the strategic goals of ITU and the targets and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

*c)* Resolution 8 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Conference (WTDC), on collection and dissemination of information and statistics on telecommunications/ICTs,

taking into account

*a)* the continuing pressing need for statistical measurements in the field of telecommunications/ICTs to monitor access to and usage of telecommunications/ICTs among all citizens in all countries, with special consideration for residents of remote areas;

*b)* that each Member State is seeking to establish its own policies and regulatory frameworks based on telecommunication/ICT statistical data in order to narrow as effectively as possible the various forms of the digital divide and accomplish the digital transformation of society as soon as possible;

*c)* the continuing need to provide assistance to developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1 in developing and ensuring access to statistical data and products in the field of telecommunications/ICTs;

*d)* that ensuring the integrity, consistency and relevance of statistics is one of ITU's highest-priority strategic functions,

recognizing

*a)* that the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), through Resolution 70/1, approved "17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 associated targets which are integrated and indivisible";

*b)* that UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the WSIS + 10 high-level meeting of the UNGA on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), highlights "the cross-cutting contribution of information and communications technology to the Sustainable Development Goals and poverty eradication", acknowledges "the importance of data and statistics to support information and communications technology for development", and calls for "further quantitative data to support evidence-based decision-making";

*c)* that UNGA Resolution 71/313 established 231 indicators to measure the achievement of the 17 SDGs, and that 7 of the 231 indicators are under the custody and monitoring of ITU;

*d)* that the outcome of the global Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, including ITU (represented by the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D)) and key stakeholders, has resulted in agreement on the identification of a set of basic indicators and a methodological framework for producing internationally comparable data for the measurement of telecommunications/ICT for development, as called for by § 115 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,

considering

*a)* that the Geneva Plan of Action adopted by WSIS provides for the following: "In cooperation with each country concerned, develop and launch a composite ICT Development (Digital Opportunity) Index. It could be published annually, or every two years, in an ICT Development Report. The index could show the statistics while the report would present analytical work on policies and their implementation, depending on national circumstances, including gender analysis";

*b)* that ITU, in order to achieve, *inter alia*, the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan and the corresponding commitments under the Tunis Agenda regarding indicators in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, works on guidelines and studies with the help and advice of experts in the field of measurement and telecommunication/ICT indicators, including from the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI), the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) and ITU-D study groups, and with the advice of Member States;

*c)* that the ICT Price Basket (IPB), the ICT Development Index (IDI) and the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) are important for measuring the information society and extent of the digital divide in international comparisons,

bearing in mind

*a)* that for the vast majority of global stakeholders interested and involved in telecommunications/ICTs (i.e. academics; business decision-makers; policy-makers; regulators), telecommunication/ICT statistics, and particularly the IPB, IDI and GCI, are important ITU outputs;

*b)* that, in order to keep each country's public policy-makers properly informed, ITU‑D shall continue to strive to gather and periodically publish a variety of telecommunication/ICT statistics which provide some indication of the degree of progress in and penetration of telecommunication/ICT services in the different regions of the world;

*c)* that, according to the guidelines of the present Plenipotentiary Conference, it is necessary to ensure as far as possible that the policies and strategies of the Union are fully in tune with the constantly changing telecommunication environment, and also to ensure consistency between the telecommunication/ICT development indicators contained in the IDI and GCI, the indicators on household ICT use and the goals and targets set out in the ITU strategic plan for 2024-2027,

noting

*a)* that the Geneva Plan of Action adopted by WSIS identifies indicators and appropriate reference points, including indicators of telecommunication/ICT access, use, skills and affordability, as elements for the follow-up and evaluation thereof;

*b)* that the IPB, IDI and GCI studies were developed by ITU‑D and are published annually;

*c)* that Resolution 8 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) instructs the Director of BDT, among other actions:

– to review, revise and further develop benchmarking, including through consultation and inviting contributions from Member States and experts, and ensure that telecommunication/ICT indicators, the IDI and the IPB reflect the real development of the telecommunication/ICT sector, taking into consideration different levels of development and national circumstances as well as telecommunication/ICT trends, in application of the WSIS outcomes; and

– to continue to work closely with Member States for the sharing of best practices concerning national policy and telecommunication/ICT strategies, including the development of statistics and their dissemination, and considering gender, age and any other disaggregated information relevant to the development of national public policies in the field of telecommunications/ICT,

resolves

1 that ITU, as a specialized agency of the United Nations, should continue to spearhead the tasks of compiling information and statistical data on telecommunications/ICTs; data for evaluating telecommunication/ICT trends; and data for measuring the impact of telecommunications/ICTs in narrowing the various forms of the digital divide;

2 that ITU should use the compiled statistical information to show, to the extent possible, the impact of telecommunications/ICTs on the social inclusion of different population groups, resulting from the digital transformation in the areas of education, health and government services, etc.;

3 that ITU should strengthen its coordination with other international organizations involved in the collection of telecommunication/ICT-related statistical data, and establish a standardized set of indicators through the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, improving the quality, comparability, availability and reliability of telecommunication/ICT data and indicators and fostering the development of strategies and national, regional and international public policy in the area of telecommunications/ICTs;

4 that ITU should establish a four-year period of validity for the structure and methodology of the IDI, IPB and GCI in order to implement *resolves* 3 above, and, if these need to be reviewed and revised, do so through an expert group meeting in Geneva representing all developed and developing countries on an equal footing, followed by examination within the framework of the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) and approval within the ITU Council or Plenipotentiary Conference, if required,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to take the measures necessary to enable ITU to carry out the tasks described in *resolves* above;

2 to ensure that indicators of telecommunication/ICT access, use, skills and affordability are taken into account in regional and world meetings convened for the purpose of evaluating and following up the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Agenda, the WSIS+10 outcome document adopted in UNGA Resolution 70/125, and the emergence of new challenges in achieving the development of an inclusive information society in the wider context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3 to ensure that projects, while having highly different goals and scopes, take account of the data, indicators and indices for measuring telecommunications/ICTs for their comparative analysis and for measurement of their results;

4 to give the necessary support for the implementation of WTDC Resolution 8 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) for the conduct of work on statistical indices (IPB, IDI and GCI),

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to promote the adoption of the telecommunication/ICT statistics and composite indices developed by ITU using an internationally recognized and transparent methodology based on official data provided by Member States, and to publish them regularly;

2 to rely primarily on official data provided by Member States based on internationally recognized and transparent methodologies, while also taking into account their level of telecommunication/ICT and statistical database development; only in the absence of such information may other sources be used, after consulting with the focal points of the Member States concerned in advance on other sources used to obtain the information by means of which ITU fulfils the role referred to in *considering a)* above;

3 to start the dissemination of the telecommunication/ICT data surveys to the Member States' focal points by the end of the year, start data collection at the beginning of the following year, and publish the resulting data in the ITU database as soon as they are validated by the Bureau and within three months of their submission by the countries, in order to allow other organizations to build their indices on the basis of recent data from the Member States;

4 to review, revise and further develop benchmarking, with immediate effect, including through consultation and inviting contributions from Member States and experts, and ensure that telecommunication/ICT indicators, the IDI, IPB and GCI, reflect the real development of the telecommunication/ICT sector, taking into consideration different levels of development and national circumstances as well as telecommunication/ICT trends;

5 to the extent possible, to ensure reliability, transparency and openness in the procedures used for processing the data supplied to ITU-D by Member States, in particular by making the IDI and IPB calculation methodologies and structures openly available in the statistical section of the ITU website in all six languages of the Union, including all algorithms, calculation formulae and sub-indices of the relevant index structures, as well as the source data received by ITU from Member States;

6 to ensure that the annually published IDI, IPB and GCI are not retroactively updated or amended post publication, in order to assist decision-makers and ensure transparency and consistency in comparison of time-series data;

7 to develop and maintain advanced visualization and analysis tools and databases on statistics and indicators on the ITU website, available to the general public, particularly those related to the IPB, IDI and GCI, allowing comparisons over time and historical series, across regions and countries, and according to levels of socio-economic development;

8 to develop and update, as necessary, a toolkit to assist the ITU membership in establishing national statistical frameworks and collecting statistical data necessary for calculating the IPB, IDI and GCI;

9 to follow the other instructions in *instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau* of WTDC Resolution 8 (Rev. Kigali, 2022);

10 to submit a report to the Council on progress in the implementation of this resolution and WTDC Resolution 8 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) as regards the work of reviewing the structures and calculation methodologies of the IDI, IPB and GCI,

instructs the study groups of ITU-D

to take into account the published statistical data, especially the indices (IPB, IDI and GCI), in order to help Member States bridge the digital divide,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to submit a report to the next plenipotentiary conference on progress in the implementation of this resolution;

2 to encourage the participation of organizations which benefit from telecommunications/ICTs, particularly international organizations involved in achievement of the 2030 Agenda, to contribute towards the work of this resolution and to promote their potential membership of ITU;

3 to examine the necessary human and financial resources required in all the ITU Bureaux 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,

instructs the Council

on the basis of the findings of the annual report submitted by the Director of BDT in accordance with *instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau* 10 and *instructs the Secretary-General* 1 and 3 above, to make appropriate recommendations as necessary regarding the ongoing implementation of this resolution and to approve the structure of the indices (IPB, IDI and GCI) and the methodology for calculating them,

invites Member States

1 to participate in the submission to ITU of their national statistics in the area of telecommunications/ICTs for the purpose of achieving the balanced development of telecommunications/ICTs at the national, regional and international level and narrowing the digital divide at various levels;

2 to participate actively in the implementation of this resolution, by providing the requested information to ITU‑D on access, use and skills as well as affordability of telecommunications/ICTs, and by actively participating in the processes of consultation on methodologies and structures for IPB, IDI and GCI and on sources of data for the construction of the aforementioned indices, so as to produce realistic telecommunication/ICT benchmarks.

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1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)