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|  | **Document CWG-WSIS&SDG-39/12** |
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| Contribution by the secretariat |
| PARTNERSHIP ON MEASURING ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT |
| **Purpose**The document provides information on the latest activities undertaken in the context of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development.**Action required**Members are invited to **note** the document and explore ways of strengthening collaboration.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References**<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/intlcoop/partnership/default.aspx>  |

1. **Background**

Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) invites 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 role of ICTs in supporting sustainable development. Member States are also invited to contribute and closely collaborate with the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development as an international, multistakeholder 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 of its Steering Committee, along with UNCTAD and UNDESA[[1]](#footnote-1). The Partnership membership has expanded to include 14 organizations. The Partnership has been monitoring ICT development globally, tracking progress towards the WSIS Targets and raising awareness about the importance of ICT for development.

2.2 The Partnership is actively engaged in monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Several SDG targets refer to ICTs and technology. In the global SDG indicators framework, out of 231 indicators, seven ICT indicators are included, covering six targets under Goals 4, 5, 9, and 17. ITU is the custodian of five of the seven indicators.[[2]](#footnote-2)

2.3 This report presents the latest activities of the Partnership, since its last report to the CWG-WSIS meeting held in January 2022.

2.4 Within the Partnership, ITU is responsible for collecting, harmonizing and disseminating the core ICT access and ICT household indicators and regularly reviews the definition of the indicators to ensure they remain relevant in a fast-changing ICT environment. The Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI),[[3]](#footnote-3) and the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH),[[4]](#footnote-4) met in September 2022. EGTI discussed topics such as implications of 5G deployment on measuring M2M subscriptions, the development of indicators measuring OTT services (jointly with EGH), a review of the indicators collected in the ITU WTI Long Questionnaire and the Internet of things (IoT). Similarly, EGH discussed potential e-waste indicators for inclusion in household surveys, the development of indicators measuring OTT services (jointly with EGTI), aggregation of skills categories and a review of the household long questionnaire. The next EGTI and EGH meetings will be held from 18 to 21 September 2023.[[5]](#footnote-5) Further, the ITU launched three online training courses in the ITU Academy on the 1) *ITU* *Handbook for the Collection of Telecommunication/ICT Indicators, 2) ITU Manual for measuring ICT access and use by households and individuals​,* and *3) Mobile Phone Data - Awareness raising course*. Countries and experts are invited to participate actively in the work of the expert groups and to take advantage of the online trainings.

2.5 The 18th [World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/wtis23/) (WTIS-23) was held from 3 to 4 July 2023 in Geneva. It brought together government ministers, business leaders, regulators, national statisticians, academics, data producers, analysts, and partners to discuss the latest trends in digital development and the related data aspects. Under the theme “Advancing the measurement agenda to achieve universal and meaningful connectivity”, the Symposium highlighted the importance of adequately measuring the enablers of connectivity and showcase promising approaches.

2.6 As part of the implementation of the UN Secretary-General’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, the ITU, the Office of the UN SG’s Envoy on Technology and their partners, have established a set of [aspirational targets for 2030](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/statistics/umc2030/) to help prioritize interventions, monitor progress, evaluate policy effectiveness, and galvanize efforts around achieving universal and meaningful connectivity by the end of the decade. Building on this groundwork, ITU and the European Commission (EC) have jointly designed​ the [project](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/projectumc/) “Promoting and measuring universal and meaningful digital connectivity”. The project started in May 2023 and will run until 2026, with a budget of 3 million euros. Through three workstreams -- advocacy, measurement, and research – the project pursues four objectives: increasing awareness of universal and meaningful connectivity (UMC) as a policy imperative; improving the measurement and dissemination of UMC data; enhancing statistical capacity of national actors in measuring UM; and identifying better policies for achieving UMC.

2.7 As a key contribution of ITU to measuring digital development, Facts and Figures 2022 was released on 30 November 2022.[[6]](#footnote-6) The publication offers the most important ICT indicators, including latest data on the percentage of the population using the Internet in 2022. Through a set of unique and timely statistics, the Facts and Figures series sheds light on the multiple facets and evolving nature of the digital divide and takes stock of the progress towards closing it. It also serves as a powerful advocacy tool in efforts to put digital development at the top of the agenda of policymakers and the global development community.

2.8 Launched in 2022, the ITU DataHub[[7]](#footnote-7) is ITU’s new data dissemination platform. It features hundreds of ICT indicators compiled by the ICT Data and Analytics Division and the Regulatory and Market Environment Division of ITU. The ITU DataHub is regularly updated with new indicators and new functionalities.

2.9 The ITU released the *Methodological guide on the use of mobile phone data: Measuring the Information Society (SDG ICT indicators)* [[8]](#footnote-8), prepared in collaboration with experts from the Task Team on Mobile Phone Data under the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UN-CEBD). The Task Team is currently composed of more than 50 members and chaired by ITU. ITU has been active in exploring the use of mobile phone data for information society measurements and has implemented pilots in selected countries[[9]](#footnote-9) and organized sessions in global events including a side event to the 54th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission and in the 7th International Conference on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics held in November 2022 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

2.10 UNCTAD released the *Manual for the Production of Statistics on the Digital Economy 2020, and the* Measuring the value of E-commerce publications.[[10]](#footnote-10) Their *Working group on measuring e-commerce and the digital economy* held itsthird meeting from 28 to 29 November 2022 and discussed progress in electronic commerce (e-commerce) and digital economy measurement by international organizations, the definition of the digital economy for statistical purposes, web scraping and data sharing mechanisms for official statistics on e-commerce and the digital economy, and measuring the gender dimension of e-commerce and the digital economy. The next meeting of the Working Group is planned in December 2023. Similarly, UNCTAD provides capacity-building and support to national statistical agencies seeking to measure business ICT usage as well as e-commerce and digital trade. This includes statistical guidelines set out in the Manual for the Production of Statistics on the Digital Economy and training offered through UNCTAD’s Train for Trade platform.

2.11 Finally, the Partnership is preparing a document for the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) for its 55th session to be held from 27 February to 1 March 2024.[[11]](#footnote-11) The UNSC is the highest decision-making body of the global statistical system bringing together the Chief Statisticians from member states to discuss international statistical activities, statistical standards and methods, and ensures their implementation at the national and international level.

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1. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/intlcoop/partnership/default.aspx>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/intlcoop/sdgs/default.aspx>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/events/egti2021/default.aspx>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/events/egh2021/default.aspx>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/statistics/egti2023/> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/statistics/facts-figures-2022/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <https://datahub.itu.int/> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <https://unstats.un.org/wiki/display/MPDMIS> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/bigdata/default.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <https://unctad.org/topic/ecommerce-and-digital-economy/measuring-ecommerce-digital-economy> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom>. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)