

ITU-D Question 4/1

Economic policies and methods of determining the costs of services related to national telecommunication/information and communication technology networks, including next-generation networks

Future of Question

**ITU Regional Economic Dialogue for Africa RED20-AFR:
Meaningful and Affordable Digital Connectivity for Africa**

Virtual 11-12 November 2020

Current framework

- Question 4/1 is not the single place to discuss on economic aspects of national telecommunications/ICT;
- Question 4/1 has overlapping with another Questions;
- Question 4/1 is coordinating the efforts on economic issues with ITU-T SG 3 and ITU-R SG 1 but not very impactful.

Proposed framework

- Proposal of new title for Question 4/1: Economic aspects of national telecommunications/ICTs;
- Question 4/1 should be the place coordinating and collecting all discussions on economic aspects of national telecommunications/ICT;
- Question 4/1 will collaborate with other ITU-D Questions on the topics of mutual interest;
- Question 4/1 will continue to coordinate the efforts on economic issues with ITU-T SG 3 and ITU-R SG 1. If some materials related to economic aspects of international/regional telecommunication/ICT and of global spectrum management will be received by Question 4/1, it will be sent to the appropriate groups with the expectation of receiving comments and materials on economic aspects of national telecommunication/ICT, if any;
- Question 4/1 will collaborate on using and developing relevant economic statistics and indicators in collaboration with the different ITU areas and departments, in the field of telecommunications/ICT.

Current principles

- Question 4/1 produces Report each study period on the topics set by WTDC
- Question 4/1 repeats some materials each study period if the topics are persisted through different study periods
- Question 4/1 meets strict page limits which forced to send some valuable material for Annexes which are not translated for six official languages of ITU, including Spanish

Proposed principles

- Question 4/1 will review and update of the 2018-2021 Question 4/1 Report on the common topics persisting through mandates of Question 4/1 set at WTDC-14,17,21;
- Question 4/1 can include new contributions on the common topics in the revised 2018-2021 Question 4/1 Report;
- Question 4/1 will draft the new 2021-2024 Report that will include only new topics approved by the WTDC-21;
- Question 4/1 will focus on all the economic aspects of national telecommunications/ICT markets from the point of view of all stakeholders (countries, regulators, existing operators, new entrants, consumers).

Study period 2014-2017 topics

Study period 2014-2017 Question 4/1 focused on various topics such as new charging methods for services provided over NGN networks, infrastructure-sharing models, consumer price evolution and impact on ICT service usage, methods of determining the cost of licences for the operation of networks and/or the provision of telecommunication services and regulatory accounting in an NGN environment

Study period 2018-2021 topics

1) New charging methods (or models, if applicable) for services provided over NGN networks:

1.1) Methods for determining the costs of wholesale services.

2) Different models for infrastructure sharing, including through commercially negotiated terms:

2.1) For what type of infrastructure (or facilities) the provider party is free to negotiate reasonable commercial terms and conditions with a requesting party.

2.2) The impact of infrastructure sharing on investment cost, local loop unbundling, provision of telecommunication/ICT services, competition and prices to consumers: case studies with quantitative analysis.

3) Consumer price evolution and impact on ICT service usage, innovation, investment and operator revenues:

3.1) New and innovative business models for services deployed in an NGN environment, including methods encouraging the adoption and use of ICT services.

3.2) Trends in prices of telecommunication/ICT services, including international mobile roaming.

4) Trends in the development of virtual mobile operators and their regulatory framework.

Study period 2021-2025 proposed new topics 1/2

- Economic impact of new converging ICTs on all stakeholders forming the ICT networked Value Chain (e.g. telecom operators, over-the-top, digital service providers, etc.);
- Focus on how new types and modes of investment in telecommunications/ICT, e.g. impact, blended investment and crowd-funding can help achieving SDGs;
- The design of new tariffs for convergent networks/services (e.g.: bundling);
- Economic aspects/implications of digital transformation (IoT, AI, Machine Learning, 5G and beyond, etc.);
- Estimation of the value of digital technologies in other sectors of the economy (education, agriculture, health, etc.);
- Taxation approaches in emerging national telecommunications/ICT markets;
- New business models: e.g. real economic value of usage of personal data.

Study period 2021-2025 proposed new topics 2/2

- Measuring the economics of bridging the digital divide to ensure availability, accessibility and affordability of telecommunications/ICT services for everyone and everywhere;
- Measuring the economics of bridging existing gaps to enable the digitalisation of the economy in all the sectors;
- Economic incentives and mechanisms for bridging the digital divide;
- National economic aspects of Digital financial inclusion (tbc);
- Economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Telecommunications/ICT markets;
- Economic impact of the Telecommunications/ICT services on the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;
- New economic aspects affected by national telecommunication/ICT market environment (tbc).

Thank you very much!!!