Process for revising the ICT Development Index methodology

This document outlines the process that will be followed to revise the methodology of the ICT Development Index (IDI), in strict accordance with Plenipotentiary Resolution 131 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022). This process is without prejudice to the outcomes of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026.

Context and background[1]

In 2023, ITU resumed the publication of the ICT Development Index (IDI), which aims to assess the level of connectivity across countries. This followed an extensive process to develop a revised methodology for the index, initiated by the adoption of a new text for Resolution 131 at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 in Bucharest.

Resolution 131 defines, inter alia, the main features of the process for developing, revising, and adopting the IDI methodology, as well as key characteristics of the index itself. In accordance with the Resolution, ITU worked through the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) and the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI), and in consultation with Member States, to develop the current IDI methodology.

In November 2023, the IDI methodology was approved by Member States (Circulars BDT/DKH/IDA/015 and BDT/DKH/IDA/016). The IDI 2023 was released in December 2023. As stipulated in Resolution 131, the approved methodology is valid for four years. The 2024 edition was released in June 2024, accompanied by the launch of the ICT Development Index dashboard on the ITU DataHub, and the 2025 edition was released on 30 June 2025. The 2026 edition – scheduled for June 2026 – will be the last edition based on the current methodology.

In parallel, in September 2023, during a joint session of the 14th Meeting of EGTI and 11th Meeting of EGH, members agreed to establish a joint EGTI-EGH subgroup on the IDI methodology (IDI Subgroup) for the 2024 work period. The subgroup was tasked with reviewing the methodology and providing recommendations to inform a potential formal revision of the methodology.

In September 2024, the IDI Subgroup presented its report for the 2024 work period during a joint session of the 15th Meeting of EGTI and the 12th Meeting of EGH. EGTI and EGH members agreed to extend the mandate of the subgroup for the 2025 work period.

In September 2025, the IDI Subgroup presented its report for the 2025 work period during a joint session of the 16th Meeting of EGTI and the 13th Meeting of EGH. On this occasion, EGTI and EGH members adopted the report and agreed to extend the mandate of the IDI Subgroup for the 2026 work period. In addition, in line with resolves 8 of Resolution 131, members agreed to formally initiate the revision of the IDI methodology ahead of the expiration of the validity period

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[1] More information about the history of the IDI is available here.

of the current methodology in 2026. These decisions are reflected in paragraphs 18-20 of the [Summary Report of the 13th Meeting of EGH](#).

Against this background, the present document outlines the process that will be followed to revise the IDI methodology in strict accordance with Resolution 131.

Process overview

Plenipotentiary Resolution 131 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) defines the process for developing, revising, and approving the methodology of the ICT Development Index (IDI). In accordance with the Resolution, the revision of the IDI methodology follows the same procedures as those used for its initial development.

	Step	Relevant provision of Resolution 131
1	**Decision to revise the IDI methodology**	**Resolves 8:** If EGTI and EGH decide to review and revise the IDI, the same procedures as set out in resolves 3 shall be followed. *The decision was made in September 2025.*
2	**Revision of the methodology**	**Resolves 3:** ITU shall take further necessary measures to establish a valid structure and methodology for the IDI, working through EGTI/EGH and through formal consultations with Member States[2] [see step 5 below] allowing the publication of the IDI on an annual basis, without ranking, provided there are sufficient valid data to cover a majority of Member States. **Instructs to BDT Director 8:** Facilitate the work of EGTI/EGH in fulfilling the tasks set out under resolves above, including by correspondence.
3	**Consultation of Member States**	**Instructs to BDT Director 7:** Invite Member States to contribute and comment on the IDI methodology and structure.
4	**Dedicated EGTI-EGH meeting on the IDI**	**Instructs to BDT Director 9:** Convene a meeting of EGTI/EGH following a formal consultation of Member States, as appropriate, with a view to resolving any contentious issues and seeking consensus, while taking into account instructions to the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau under instructs 12, among Member States.
5	**Final consultation and approval**	**Resolves 3 (footnote 2):** If 70 per cent or more of the replies from the Member States indicate approval, the proposal shall be accepted.

Tentative timeline and milestones

The timeline below is indicative and subject to change. It is without prejudice to the outcome of each step of the process and to the outcomes of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026.

2026	
February-July	The joint EGTI-EGH IDI Subgroup works on a proposal for a revised IDI methodology, in line with its terms of reference.

Early August	The report of the IDI Subgroup, including recommendations and a proposed revised methodology, is shared with EGTI and EGH members ahead of their annual meetings.
9-10 September	Annual meetings of EGTI and EGH: the IDI Subgroup presents its report. EGTI and EGH consider the report and, if appropriate, agree on the recommendations.
October	Member States consultation on the proposed IDI methodology.
9-27 November	ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026
Early December	Dedicated online meeting of EGTI and EGH on the IDI, held following the Member States consultation, with a view to discussing remaining contentious issues and seeking consensus, as appropriate.
2027	
January	Final consultation of Member States on the approval of the revised IDI methodology (three weeks).
Late January	Circular announcing the results of the consultation. If 70 per cent or more of responding Member States approve the new methodology, it will be adopted.
June 2027	Publication of the IDI 2027 based on revised the methodology (TBC).

Role of EGTI and EGH and joint EGTI/EGH IDI Subgroup

Resolution 131 stipulates that the revision of the IDI methodology shall be carried out through the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH), and that this work shall be facilitated by the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT).

Within this framework, the IDI Subgroup provides an appropriate platform to support the revision process, building on the work conducted during the 2024 and 2025 work periods.

As in previous work periods, the IDI Subgroup will operate under terms of reference (ToRs) drafted by the co-leads of the IDI Subgroup, in consultation with the Chairs of EGTI and EGH. The ToRs will be presented for adoption at the first meeting of the IDI Subgroup and will define the scope of work, timeline, working methods, and expected deliverables.

The IDI Subgroup will meet approximately every four weeks between February and July. The first virtual meeting, scheduled for 17 February 2026, will focus on the adoption of the ToRs, a recap of work undertaken in previous work periods, the presentation of initial elements of the methodology, and a call for written contributions for the next meeting.

Subsequent meetings will begin with a brief recap of recommendations agreed at the previous meeting, followed by focused discussions based on submitted contributions related to the topic under consideration.

The IDI Subgroup is expected to cover all the aspects of the IDI methodology, including those already discussed during the 2024 and 2025 work periods: conceptual framework; indicator selection; reference year and data coverage; outliers; normalization; and aggregation and weighting.

By July 2026, the IDI Subgroup will prepare a report presenting a draft revised methodology for the IDI. Consensus may not be reached on all aspects of the methodology at this stage, and further discussion and consultation may therefore be required in subsequent steps of the revision process, in line with Resolution 131.

The report will be shared with EGTI and EGH members ahead of their annual meetings.

How to participate

IDI Subgroup

Participation is open to all experts on ICT indicators, including from Member States' Administrations. Interested individuals may register by sending an email to indicators@itu.int, indicating their full name and institutional affiliation. All experts who participated in the IDI Subgroup during previous work periods will be automatically registered for the 2026 work period.

Registered participants will receive invitations for the IDI Subgroup meetings by email and get access to the Microsoft Teams Channel of the IDI Subgroup which will be the main platform for interaction during the work period.

Members of EGTI and EGH and Administrations of Member States are strongly encouraged to actively participate in the IDI Subgroup, as it is the main opportunity to contribute to the technical discussions.

Online Meeting of EGTI and EGH on the IDI

In accordance with Resolution 131, a dedicated meeting of EGTI and EGH on the IDI will be convened following the formal consultation of Member States.

This meeting will provide a forum to discuss remaining contentious issues identified during the consultation and, as appropriate, to seek consensus among Member States. It is not intended to reopen the technical work conducted by the IDI Subgroup, which will have concluded its activities by July 2026.

All experts of EGTI and EGH will be invited to this meeting through a circular letter.

Member States's consultations

Communications will be addressed to the ITU focal points of the Administrations of Member States.

How to contribute

Throughout the process, participants may submit written contributions consisting of feedback on, or proposals related to, aspects of the IDI methodology. Contributions may be submitted ahead of meetings of the IDI Subgroup, ahead of the annual meetings of EGTI and EGH, during the formal consultation of Member States, and ahead of the dedicated EGTI-EGH meeting on the IDI.

To ensure an efficient process, experts, including experts from Member States' Administrations, are strongly encouraged to submit substantive contributions early in the process through the IDI Subgroup.

Tool / What	IDI Subgroup Microsoft Teams channel (registration required)	BDT submission tool	Email	ITU consultation form
Contributions to the IDI Subgroup	X (preferred)	X	X	
Feedback from Member States on the methodology		X (preferred)	X	
Consultation of Member States			X	X (preferred)

How to access information

Tool / What	IDI Subgroup Microsoft Teams channel (registration required)	IDI folder in BDT document centre (TIES protected)	IDI webpage (public)
Information and administrative documents (including circulars)		X	X
Agendas and summaries of IDI Subgroup meetings	X	X	
Contributions to the IDI Subgroup	X	X	
Final IDI subgroup report and EGTI-EGH meeting reports		X	X
Member States contributions (formal consultation)		X	
Versions of the IDI methodology		X	X