

**12<sup>th</sup> World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium  
(WTIS-14)**

**Tbilisi, Georgia, 24-26 November 2014**



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# 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ITU Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI)

Geneva, Switzerland, 17-18 September 2014

## SUMMARY

1. The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ITU Expert Group on Telecommunication / ICT Indicators (EGTI) took place in Geneva, Switzerland, on 17-18 September 2014, back-to-back with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH), which was held on 15-16 September 2014.
2. There were 92 participants attending the meeting, including experts from regulators, ministries and national statistical offices from 48 countries, as well as AHCiET, América Móvil, ECTEL, the European Commission, Eurostat, Google, GSMA Intelligence, Intel, OECD, UIS, UNCTAD and Telefónica. ITU staff was also present during the meeting and acted as the secretariat of EGTI. The meeting was chaired by Mr Iñigo Herguera, National Markets and Competition Commission, Spain.
3. The topics discussed in the 5<sup>th</sup> EGTI meeting were those identified by the 11<sup>th</sup> WTIS (held in Mexico City in December 2013) as requiring further work, as well as long standing issues (such as the ICT Development Index). In particular, the agenda covered the separation of subscription data on individuals and public and private organizations, indicators on international Internet bandwidth, the revision of the classification of broadband services, M2M indicators, LTE indicators, data on bundled telecommunication services and the revision of the list of indicators included in the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Long Questionnaire.
4. The meeting discussed the inputs received in the EGTI online forum in 2014. The discussions focused on the suggested indicators, their definitions and whether to include them in the future (2015) ITU data collection. The meeting further discussed the future work of EGTI, identifying topics that required further discussion as well as new additions to the list of indicators.
5. EGTI agreed that the indicator “Percentage of fixed-telephone subscriptions that are residential” would be kept as a measure of the split between residential and non-residential fixed-telephone subscriptions. For mobile services, EGTI concluded that there were fewer differences between organization and residential subscriptions and no specific indicator was envisaged at the international level. EGTI acknowledged that fixed-broadband plans for organizations had different features than most residential plans, although there is a grey area when it comes to micro and small organizations. Even if these differences are not fully captured, EGTI highlighted that data on fixed-broadband subscriptions for organizations were relevant and feasible to collect. To that end, EGTI agreed to define an indicator on subscription and/or bandwidth data for organizations through the online forum by the deadline of 15 November 2014, with a view to presenting a proposal at the 12<sup>th</sup> WTIS. Finally, EGTI noted that the separation between public

and private organizations was difficult to make based on a common international definition, and agreed to leave the topic open for discussion in the EGTI for the next working period.

6. EGTI decided that ITU would discontinue the collection of the two indicators on leased lines – “Revenue from leased lines” and “Leased-line subscriptions” – because they were not relevant anymore at the international level.
7. EGTI noted that measurements on international Internet bandwidth remained relevant in many countries and data for different bandwidth metrics were collected. EGTI agreed to refine the definition of lit/equipped capacity and used capacity through the online forum by the deadline of 15 November 2014, with a view to presenting a proposal at the 12<sup>th</sup> WTIS. Based on the refined definitions, data will be collected on a trial basis in the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Questionnaires in 2015, with the understanding that each country will report the international bandwidth indicator(s) that are feasible to collect nationally.
8. EGTI agreed that the classification of broadband services would be based on a fixed/mobile categorization, rather than the previous wired/wireless classification. EGTI noted that data reported for the sub-categories of active mobile-broadband subscriptions (i.e. standard and dedicated mobile-broadband subscriptions) were not fully harmonized at the international level, and decided that the discussion on the most relevant sub-categories of active mobile-broadband subscriptions would be carried over into the next working period of EGTI.
9. EGTI noted that data on M2M subscriptions from cellular operators were already being collected in several countries. Although EGTI acknowledged that the Internet of things (IoT) spanned beyond M2M services offered by mobile operators, EGTI decided to start the data collection by proposing a harmonized definition of M2M subscriptions from mobile operators. The definition will build upon the OECD definition of M2M and the input received during the 5<sup>th</sup> EGTI meeting, and it will be finalized through the online forum by the deadline of 15 November 2014, with a view to presenting a proposal at the 12<sup>th</sup> WTIS.
10. EGTI agreed that data on the coverage of LTE and other advanced mobile technologies would be collected starting from the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Long Questionnaire 2015. Based on the ITU standards, the concept of “LTE and other advanced mobile technologies” will be clarified in the EGTI forum in order to complete the definition of the indicator. In view of the methodological difficulties of collecting subscription data on advanced mobile-broadband technologies, EGTI decided to continue this discussion for the next working period.
11. EGTI agreed to collect subscription data for bundled services starting from the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Long Questionnaire 2015 for the following bundled services: (i) Mobile voice and mobile broadband; (ii) Fixed broadband and fixed telephony; and (iii) Fixed telephony, fixed broadband and pay TV. It was clarified that bundled services would be counted under the respective bundle indicator (as one) AND separately under each category for the

services included in the bundle. The definition of “bundled” will build upon the following principles: (i) includes two or more services (fixed voice, mobile voice, fixed broadband, mobile broadband, pay TV); (ii) is marketed as a single offer, with a single price for the set of services included in the bundle, with a single invoice; (iii) is subscribed under conditions that cannot be obtained by adding single play offers together. The definition of bundle will be finalized through the EGTI online forum by the deadline of 15 November 2014, with a view to presenting a proposal at the 12<sup>th</sup> WTIS.

12. EGTI reviewed the list of indicators included in the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Long Questionnaire and decided to discontinue the collection of the following indicators: Percentage of fixed-telephone subscriptions in urban areas; Percentage of localities with telephone service; Fixed (wired) Internet subscriptions; Domestic Internet bandwidth; Faults per 100 fixed-telephone lines per year; Percentage of fixed-telephone faults cleared by next working day; Complaints per 100 mobile-cellular subscriptions; Complaints per 100 fixed (wired)-broadband subscriptions; Complaints per 100 mobile-broadband subscriptions; SMS international; VoIP traffic; Revenue from fixed-telephone services; Revenue from leased lines; Fixed telephone service investment; Annual investment in fixed (wired)-broadband services; Annual investment in mobile communication services; and Leased-line subscriptions.
13. EGTI agreed on proposing the following topics for discussion in 2015: the revision of the 2011 ITU Handbook for the Collection of Administrative Data on Telecommunications/ICT; additional sources for administrative data (big data, OTT); indicators on fixed-broadband services in public and private organizations (carry over); sub-categories of mobile broadband subscriptions (carry over); and subscription data on advanced mobile-broadband technologies (LTE and plus, carry over).
14. The ICT Development Index (IDI) was discussed in a joint session with the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH). EGH and EGTI discussed the feasibility of producing an indicator on unique mobile phone subscribers, and welcomed the efforts undertaken by the Unesco Institute for Statistics (UIS) to improve the IDI Skills sub-index. UIS presented two indicators: (i) Learner-to-computer ratio; and (ii) Gross enrolment ratio in programmes with computer-assisted instruction.
15. EGH and EGTI agreed that the discussion on the IDI would continue in the EGTI forum. New proposals regarding the IDI should address the following points: (i) how would they improve the measurement of ICT developments? (ii) How would they fit in the conceptual framework of the IDI? (iii) Would data be available for the suggested new indicators and, if so, from which source?
16. The EGTI Chair will present the conclusions of the 5<sup>th</sup> EGTI meeting to the 12<sup>th</sup> World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS), which will take place from 24-26 November 2014, in Tbilisi, Georgia.