

ITU Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH)

Terms of Reference

a. Background

The **ICT household indicators** collected by ITU on an annual basis from countries are part of an extensive list of *Core ICT indicators*, developed under the framework of the *Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development* and widely used around the world to collect and compare ICT statistics. The first edition of the *Core ICT Indicators* was released during the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in 2005. It was the result of an intensive consultation process with statistical agencies and policy-makers that was facilitated by members of the *Partnership*. The list was endorsed in 2007 by the *United Nations Statistical Commission* at its 38th session. The Commission encouraged countries to use the core list in their data collection programmes. The Commission further recognized that ICT is a rapidly evolving area and encouraged the *Partnership* to continue work to improve and update the list of indicators. Since then the Partnership has revised twice the *Core ICT indicators*.

A first revision of the *Core ICT Indicators* to reflect recent changes in technologies and to add new indicators on education, was presented as an “item for information” to the Commission’s 2009 meeting, and published in 2010. In parallel to this revision process, ITU published in 2009 a *Manual for Measuring ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals*, based on the core indicators, with the objective of assisting countries to produce high quality and internationally comparable data in this area.

The Partnership core list was further revised and extended in 2011, and a new set of indicators on e-government was added. In 2012, at the occasion of its 43rd session, the United Nations Statistical Commission “fully endorsed the revised and extended core list of ICT indicators, asked for its wide circulation so that countries and other agencies can use this as a reference”, and “asked the Partnership to continue reviewing the indicators in light of rapid technological advances and widespread use of ICT technology”.

Furthermore and particularly with regards to ICT household indicators, one of the recommendations of the 9th ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Meeting (WTIM) held in Mauritius on 7-9 December 2011, was that “the revision of the core indicators and the ITU Manual for Measuring ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals should be carried out in consultation with Member States and other experts, for example through an expert group on ICT household indicators”. ITU is therefore setting up the expert group, hereby referred to as EGH.

b. Objectives

The EGH is expected to review the core indicators on *ICT household access and ICT individual use*. This includes a review of the definitions of some of the indicators in order to keep up to date with the evolution of technologies and services. In addition, new topics need to be addressed which might require the definition of new indicators, response categories and/or classificatory variables, in order to reflect recent trends and the strong growth in new applications such as social media and content creation.

The EGH is also expected to review the *ITU Manual for Measuring ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals*. The Manual should be updated in order to reflect the revised ICT household indicators as well as experiences and lessons learnt by National Statistics Agencies around the world from their collection of ICT indicators through households surveys. The revision of the Manual will also take into account lessons learnt from the delivery of the training course on Measuring ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals conducted by ITU since 2009.

c. Membership/composition

The EGH is open to all ITU members, specially to ICT experts and statisticians who are familiar with ICT household indicators, as well as the statistical techniques needed to produce them. In particular, National Statistical Agencies who collect ICT data are encouraged to participate. ITU also welcomes the participation of the organisations members of the *Partnership*.

d. Methods of work

The EGH shall be chaired by a representative of the group, to be selected by the ITU. The EGH, in agreement with the ITU, may set up working groups to study specific sub-sets of indicators. The ITU may invite ICT experts and observers with specific knowledge to participate in the work of the EGH and/or its working groups.

The EGH and its working groups shall exchange ideas using the online discussion forum that has been set up for this purpose on the ITU website (<http://groups.itu.int/expertgrouphh>). EGH members are invited to use the forum actively to exchange ideas, post documents, and to provide comments on documents. The EGH discussion forum will be moderated by ITU in close cooperation with the EGH chair.

Draft proposals for revisions of the existing indicators and for exploring new topics will be prepared by ITU and posted on the EGH discussion forum. The EGH is invited to use them as the basis of its work, together with other reference documents posted in the EGH discussion forum, such as the Partnership Core ICT Indicators (http://www.itu.int/pub/D-IND-ICT_CORE-2010/en), the Manual for Measuring ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals (<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/hhmanual/2009/index.html>), and household questionnaires from different organisations.

The EGH can hold face-to-face meetings in Geneva or in other locations, as agreed by the EGH. ITU staff members will be present at such meetings and may take part in the discussions. The results of the EGH will be reported to the WTIM on a regular basis, by the Chair of the EGH. At the end of their work, EGH members should agree on a revised list of ICT household indicators and definitions and a revised version of the *ITU Manual*.

e. Timing

The EGH will start its work in May 2012. A first version of the revised core ICT household indicators will be presented during the 10th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Meeting (WTIM) to be held on 25-27 September 2012, in Bangkok, Thailand. The entire work, including the revision of the *ITU Manual*, is expected to be completed in 2013.