



### 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting (online), 14-15 September 2022

#### SUMMARY

1. The 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ITU Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) took place in fully virtual format on 14-15 September 2022, back-to-back with the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ITU Expert Group on Telecommunication / ICT Indicators (EGTI) which was held on 12-14 September 2022. A joint session with EGTI was held on 14 September.
2. There were 259 participants attending the meeting, including experts from regulators, telecommunication operators, ministries and national statistical offices (NSOs) from 90 countries, as well as ITU-D Sector Members, other UN agencies and regional organizations. The gender distribution was 116 female participants, 141 male participants, and 2 undefined. Specific to EGH, 145 participants attended. The meeting was chaired by Linah Ngumba of the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.
3. The meeting discussed the contributions received in the EGH online forum on the 2022 Work Programme agreed by EGH at its previous meeting. Background documents on key topics of the agenda had been prepared and disseminated to all EGH members in advance of the meeting and were also shared during the meeting. The background documents aimed to provide relevant information to be used by EGH members and to support the debate and decisions to be taken during the meeting. The documents were prepared to advance these topics and make proposals to the whole EGH.
4. The discussions focused on ways forward in advancing the measurement and data collection on different topics and included items related to the measurement of e-waste and the measurement of ICT skills. A joint session with EGTI explored the topic of measuring over-the-top (OTT) services. In addition, Statistics Canada presented their experience with imputation of missing data and the ITU provided a presentation on a review of its household long questionnaire. The meeting further discussed the future work of EGH, including the identification of topics that required further review and discussion related to indicators derived from household surveys of ICT access and use. During the meeting, topics were enriched by the discussions and interventions from participants.
5. The first substantive agenda item concerned an update from the joint EGH-EGTI subgroup on measuring over-the-top (OTT) services and was introduced through a joint session with EGTI. The subgroup chairs (Oliver Füg of Telefonica and Winston Oyadomari of Cetic.br) presented a summary of [the joint report](#), highlighting existing legal and technical challenges hampering data

collection as well as the need for participants to come forward sharing experience with data collection. They furthermore recommended the extension of the mandate of the joint subgroup, conditional to the availability of additional country experiences and membership participation to build upon.

6. During the discussion, EGTI and EGH members from Colombia, Portugal, and Trinidad and Tobago pointed to recent surveys conducted by regulators in their countries. Members from Afghanistan, Colombia, Egypt, and Trinidad and Tobago expressed interest to join the subgroup. Subsequently, **EGH agreed to extend the mandate of the joint subgroup.**
7. Work on this topic should continue through further sharing of country experience on data collection practices regarding OTT beyond what is defined in the [ITU Manual for measuring ICT access and use by households and individuals](#). Member States should collect and consider how data on OTTs can be reported through the HH9 (individual Internet use, by activity) indicator structure.
8. EGH encouraged members with experience in collecting data on OTTs through surveys to contact the ITU to join and actively participate in the joint subgroup.
9. After formally opening the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EGH, the next substantive agenda item was the next agenda item concerned an update from the subgroup on measuring e-waste. The subgroup chair, Camilo Andres Mendez of the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia, presented on efforts to harmonize data collection on e-waste with ongoing surveys by the East Africa Communications Organisation (EACO) and Eurostat.
10. In the discussion that followed, EGH members shared perspectives on the existing indicators and noted available pathways to harmonize with existing surveys and/or focus on e-waste from ICT equipment.
11. EGH members indicated their interest in the topic and **agreed to extend the mandate of the subgroup** to harmonize existing and future data collection efforts. Work on this topic should continue through further sharing of country experiences and collaboration with the EACO project and others to harmonize survey questions. During the meeting, Brazil, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Namibia, Pakistan, Philippines, and Tanzania expressed their interest in continuing to participate in the subgroup or joining as new participants.
12. EGH encourages members with experience in collecting data on e-waste through surveys to contact the ITU to join and actively participate in the subgroup. Results of the EACO survey will be monitored and shared when available (likely early 2023).

13. The next agenda item addressed the subgroup on aggregating the ICT skills categories. The subgroup chair, Riina Vuorikari, presented its [report on progress toward development of an aggregate ICT skills indicator](#). Three primary recommendations were given:
- a. ICT skills indicators to be grouped by 5 areas of the DigComp framework rather than by levels;
  - b. ICT skills indicators to be complemented/balanced to include a broader range of activities through existing items collected through HH9 (Internet use, by activity);
  - c. As an interim step, the 5 areas should be treated separately rather than averaging as a single aggregate of ICT skills.
14. For future work, the subgroup recommended extending the mandate of subgroup to address remaining issues – specifically regarding the development of aggregate indicators at the individual level. The subgroup provided a brief [overview of possible methodology](#) before introducing Marcelo Pitta of Cetic.br to present findings from a pilot conducted by Brazil. He noted that calculating these aggregates was a relatively minor data processing task and that no additional data collection was required.
15. **EGH agreed to the recommendations of the subgroup** to (1) reconfigure calculation of ICT skills by skill areas, (2) include additional existing data to balance reporting on these areas, and as an intermediate step (3) treat skill areas separately rather than as a single aggregate. **EGH also agreed to extend the mandate of subgroup** to address the development of an aggregate indicator at the individual level.
16. EGH noted the importance of measuring digital skills given that it is an SDG indicator and encouraged countries to contact the ITU if they are interested in participating in a country pilot noting that further country experiences are needed to inform the discussion.
17. The item on ICT skills measurement was followed by an item featuring a presentation by Nathan Menton of the ITU on the ITU’s review of the household long questionnaire. The presentation summarized [an initial report](#) and [follow-up analysis](#) prepared by the ITU and highlighted several topics to monitor based on data provided by countries:
- a. Whether older indicators such as households with radio/television remain relevant;
  - b. Whether data provided by few countries should continue to be collected in the current format – specifically on disaggregation by occupation and the HH9 (individual Internet use, by activity) item on editing;
  - c. Whether increasing numbers of countries are reporting on newer indicators such as those on e-commerce.
18. The ITU also noted its ongoing work to facilitate data input through a more user-friendly platform and an investigation of more user-friendly upload options.

19. EGH members noted their interest in improving the long questionnaire and requested the ITU to continue to monitor the relevance and availability of indicators collected through the long questionnaire. EGH also requested that the ITU continue its work to facilitate data input.
20. EGH encouraged its members to provide further feedback on the EGH Forum to help the ITU to focus their efforts on improving user experience and increase data collected.
21. A presentation by Howard Bilodeau of Statistics Canada provided insight on its experience in imputing data through its Canada Internet Use Survey and noted challenges it faces with non-response. Imputation on the survey is focused on gender, age, location, and income of respondents as well as amounts spent on e-commerce.
22. Different imputation methods are used depending on the context ranging from using population averages to impute gender to matching with tax records and using nearest neighbour techniques to impute income levels.
23. EGH members thanked Statistics Canada for the presentation and encouraged members to continue to share their experiences and discuss on the EGH Forum.
24. The last substantive item of the agenda addressed future work of the EGH. The Chair noted the lack of activity on the EGH Forum in 2022 and requested input from members on how participation can be increased. In the discussion that followed, members recommended that participation could be increased through continuing direct invitation to NSOs, increasing coordination within countries between regulators and NSOs, and further liaising with relevant ITU study groups.
25. Subsequently, the EGH discussed the work programme for the coming year and identified the following topics for the future work of the EGH:
  - a. EGH agreed to extend the mandate of the following subgroups:
    - i. Joint EGH-EGTI subgroup on measuring OTT services
    - ii. Subgroup on e-waste indicators in household surveys
    - iii. Subgroup on aggregating ICT skills
  - b. EGH agreed to keep the following topics open as discussion topics of the EGH Forum:
    - i. Review of the household long questionnaire
    - ii. Imputation
  - c. EGH agreed to open a new discussion topic on sharing countries experience on occupation disaggregation

26. The EGH Chair presented the draft conclusions and recommendations of the 10<sup>th</sup> EGH meeting, noting that all decisions will be subject to comments until 21 October 2022, after which they will become final. She thanked all the speakers and presenters and closed the meeting.