



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: Circular BDT/DKH/IDA/005

Geneva, 9 March 2023

Administrations of ITU Member States
Palestine (Resolution 99)

Subject: ICT Development Index (IDI)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hope this letter finds you well.

In October 2022, the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) held in Bucharest, adopted a revised text of [Resolution 131](#). The new text defines, *inter alia*, the main steps of the process for developing a new ICT Development Index (IDI) methodology and the main features of the index (see Annex 1). I am pleased to share with you some information about the process and timeline, both summarized in Annex 2. The process is designed to be transparent and inclusive, providing opportunities for experts and Member States to participate in the development of the index, while ensuring a statistically sound and conceptually relevant tool.

The process kicked off on 21 February with a message posted on the discussion forums of the Expert Group on Telecommunications/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH), inviting members to comment on a 'zero draft' document to facilitate the process. The consultations are taking place on a [discussion forum](#) dedicated to the IDI, as per EGTI/EGH working methods. Following this initial consultation, we will revise the methodology. In April-May, Member States will be invited to comment. I will share more information about this consultation in due course.

Consistent with the urgency imposed by Resolution 131, the objective is to launch the IDI in 2023. This imposes a very compressed timeline. We have ensured that each consultation phase lasts at least four weeks. Following each consultation, we will compile and publish all the comments received and the responses.

On 13-15 June 2023, I will convene a virtual joint meeting of EGTI and EGH with a view to resolving any contentious issues and seeking consensus. An invitation will be sent shortly. Following this meeting, we will revise and finalize the methodology.

The process will conclude in August-September with a final consultation of Member States during which they will be asked: 1) if they approve the index methodology; and 2) if they want to opt out from the 2023 edition of the index (in which case, they will be able to join in subsequent editions). The methodology will be adopted if 70 per cent of responding Member States approve it, as per Resolution 131.

I look forward to your contribution to this process.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director

Annex 1: Main implications of Resolution 131 for the development of the IDI and its features
Annex 2: Development and launch of the ICT Development Index (IDI) 2023: Notional timeline

Annex 1

Annex 1: Main implications of Resolution 131 for the development of the IDI and its features

[Resolution 131](#) (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) describes the main steps of the process for developing the IDI methodology and some key features of the future index (relevant paragraphs of the resolution appear in brackets):

- ITU must publish a new IDI “urgently” (*instructs to BDT Director 1*);
- The new IDI is to be published without ranking (*resolves 3*);
- ITU should establish a valid structure and methodology for the IDI, working through EGTI/EGH, and through formal consultations (*resolves 3*);
- The BDT Director should facilitate the work of EGTI/EGH (*instructs to BDT Director 8*);
- Methodology will be submitted to Member States for approval and adopted if 70 percent of respondents approve it (*resolves 3*);
- If adopted, the methodology will be valid for four editions, namely 2023-2026 (*resolves 4*);
- In each edition, MS will have the possibility to decline to participate (*resolves 5*);
- A meeting of EGTI/EGH will be convened following a formal consultation of Member States with a view to resolving any contentious issues and seeking consensus (*instructs to BDT Director 9*);
- Integrity of all ITU's statistical work must be preserved, in strict adherence to UN principles on good statistics (*instructs to BDT Director 12*).

Annex 2

Annex 2: Development and launch of the ICT Development Index (IDI) 2023: Notional timeline

