



BDT MEMBER COMMUNIQUÉ

Priorities for the future of data set at leading global forum for digital development statistics

26 September 2025, Geneva, Switzerland - The 2025 edition of the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS-25) addressed new data needs to advance inclusive digital development in an evolving global landscape.

The Symposium emphasized how data can guide evidence-based policymaking, bridge digital divides, strengthen statistical capacity, and ensure that no one is left behind in the digital era.

Organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), WTIS-25 was held as part of ICT Data Week alongside the annual meetings of ITU's Expert Groups on ICT Indicators (EGTI and EGH), shaping a full week dedicated to digital development statistics in Geneva.

"WTIS has become the foremost global forum for digital development statistics," said Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau. "To make real progress towards universal and meaningful connectivity, we need data that is granular, regular, reliable, and internationally comparable. We are committed to helping countries close data gaps; strengthen the capacity of individuals, organizations, and communities by enhancing skills, knowledge and resources; and pioneering methods for leveraging big data for statistics by working closely with our partners."

Under the theme "WTIS@20: The Past, Present, and Future of Digital Development Statistics", the event brought together policymakers, business leaders, regulators, statisticians, researchers, and representatives of international organizations to discuss key issues at the intersection of ICT policy and data.

WTIS-25 was chaired by Apolonija Oblak Flander, Director-General of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia.

"Our digital future must not only be fast but also fair. For us, the statisticians—providers of high-quality data and indicators for policymaking and the general public—the question is: Are we agile enough? Are we keeping up with users' demands? This Symposium provides us with a unique opportunity to reflect, share, and strengthen our cooperation across sectors and geographies," Oblak Flander said.

Since the first meeting in 1996, WTIS has established itself as the leading global forum for digital development statistics.

During the 2025 edition, participants highlighted the key priorities that must be considered to ensure the future of digital development:

- Strengthening the relationship between data users and producers to foster a cycle of supply and demand which will drive sustainable investment in data collection, improve availability and quality, and ensure that evidence is fully used in decision-making;
- Expanding digital development statistics, including new approaches using satellite-based broadband access and insights into sub-national variations in connectivity;
- Financing ICT household surveys, showcasing global best practices, cost estimates, and collaborative funding mechanisms to bridge data gaps in line with the Global Digital Compact;
- Ensuring the future of ICT household statistics and integrating emerging topics such as artificial intelligence and digital skills.

The Symposium also featured a keynote speech by Professor Paul Cheung, Director of the Competitiveness Institute at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, who showcased perspectives from national data agencies on keeping pace with digital transformation and highlighted the role of institutional frameworks and innovative data capture methods in strengthening ICT statistics.

Following WTIS-25, the [13th Meeting of the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators \(EGH\)](#) and the [16th Meeting of the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators \(EGTI\)](#) were held at ITU Headquarters in Geneva from 24 to 26 September 2025.

As part of the ICT Data Week, a Practitioners' Workshop was organized for members of EGTI and EGH. The workshop offered participants an opportunity to learn, exchange experiences, and strengthen their practical skills in the production and use of ICT statistics.

Resources and background information:

- [WTIS 2025 webpage](#)
- [ITU-D Statistics page](#)
- Photos - [WTIS-25 Flickr](#)
- Video: [WTIS-25 highlights video](#)

Discover what others are saying on social media and join the conversation by searching and posting with the hashtag #ITUWTIS and #ITUdata

About the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations agency for digital technologies, driving innovation for people and the planet with 194 Member States and a membership of over 1,000 companies, universities, civil society, and international and regional organizations. Established in 1865, ITU coordinates the global use of the radio spectrum and satellite orbits, establishes international technology standards, drives universal connectivity and digital services, and is helping to make sure everyone benefits from sustainable digital transformation, including the most remote communities. From artificial intelligence (AI) to quantum, from satellites and submarine cables to advanced mobile and wireless broadband networks, ITU is committed to connecting the world and beyond.

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