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| Telecommunication Development Sector | |  |
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| SOURCE: | ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT | |
| TITLE: | REVISION OF WTDC RESOLUTION 8 (Rev.DOHA, 2006) SO THAT THE UNDERLYING INDICATORS REFLECT THE REAL GROWTH OF THE ICT SECTOR IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES | |

Pursuant to WTDC Resolution 8 (Rev.Doha, 2006) and Resolution 131 (Rev. Antalya, 2006) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, ITU has produced a single index for measuring the digital divide, called the "ICT development index" (IDI).

This index is not in line with the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which stressed that it is important for indicators to reflect countries' levels of development and their economic and social situations. There is no doubt that the IDI does not take into account these dimensions, given that the method of calculating the index penalizes all developing countries with large populations – for example, the ranking of several countries with strong ICT sector development is extremely low, such as China (73), Egypt (94) and India (118).

It is necessary to modify the methodology for the ICT development index, since the current methodology favours developed countries and countries with small populations, and does not portray the true picture in regard to ICT sector growth in developing countries and those with growing populations.

Until such time as the index is modified, it is necessary to revise the general framework on which this index is based, so as to be consistent with the WSIS outcomes, to which end WTDC Resolution 8 (Rev.Doha, 2006) and PP Resolution 131 (Rev. Antalya, 2006) should be revised to the effect that all relevant indicators, in particular the ICT development index, should duly reflect countries' levels of development and their economic and social circumstances.

The Egyptian Administration proposes amendments to some of the provisions in Resolution 8 (Rev.Doha, 2006), as follows:

*•* Add a paragraph c) under *recognizing further*, to read as follows:

"that § 116 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society stresses that all indices and indicators must take into account different levels of development and national circumstances, and § 117 also states that the further development of these indicators should be undertaken in a collaborative, cost-effective and non-duplicative fashion,"

*•* Add a paragraph 4 under resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, to read as follows:

“to ensure that the ICT development index reflects the real development of the ICT sector, taking into consideration different levels of development and national circumstances, in application of the WSIS outcomes."

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