Measuring the Information Society

Geneva, Switzerland
7 – 9 February 2005

Organized jointly by the members of the
Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development:

International Telecommunications Union (ITU)
Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)
UN Regional Commissions (ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA)
UN ICT Task Force
World Bank

With the support of the Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie (AIF)

1.   Background

As the information society gains momentum, policy makers in all countries have an increasing need for reliable data and indicators regarding the information society, in particular on ICT readiness, use and impact. ICT data and indicators help policy makers to formulate policies and strategies for ICT-driven growth, and to monitor and evaluate social and economic developments related to ICT. They are also critical to documenting the impact of the information society on the implementation of the MDGs and measuring progress in the use of ICTs to achieve the MDGs. However, currently there is no globally agreed upon set of ICT indicators that could be used for the above purposes, and statistical data are particularly scarce in developing countries.

Therefore, the international community has taken a number of steps to enhance the availability of internationally comparable ICT data and indicators. The WSIS Geneva Plan of Action called upon all countries and regions to develop tools so as to provide statistical information on the information society, with basic indicators and analysis of its key dimensions. Priority should be given to setting up coherent and internationally comparable indicator systems, taking into account different levels of development. At the same time, a statistical workshop on "Monitoring the Information Society: Data, Measurement & Methods" was held as a side event of WSIS Geneva, organized jointly by the UNECE, UNCTAD, OECD, ITU, UIS and Eurostat. The workshop concluded that the UN Regional Commissions and competent regional organisations should organise regional meetings on monitoring information society issues. Both users and producers of official statistics, should work together in organizing these meetings, which are intended to provide input for a global summary meeting in early 2005 in order to prepare an action plan for the next WSIS Summit in Tunis.

Following the Geneva WSIS, a number of key stakeholders involved in the statistical measurement of ICTs joined forces to create a global Partnership on "Measuring ICT for Development". The Partnership provides an open framework for coordinating ongoing and future activities in the area of Information Society measurements, and for developing a coherent and structured approach to advancing the development of ICT indicators globally, and in particular in the developing countries. The Partnership was officially launched on the occasion of UNCTAD XI (Brazil, June 2004) and is currently composed of ITU, OECD, UNCTAD, the UN ICT Task Force, four UN Regional Commissions (ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA), the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, and the World Bank. NSOs from advanced countries are invited to contribute to Partnership activities, provide expertise and advice to NSOs from developing countries, and transfer knowledge in areas such as methodologies and survey programmes.

A number of joint activities have already been carried out:

- A global stocktaking exercise was initiated in July 2004, whereby a metadata questionnaire on ICT statistics was sent out by ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA and UNCTAD to statistical offices in all non-OECD countries. The OECD will carry out a similar exercise with its member countries at the end of 2004. The results of the stocktaking will provide a global overview of the current availability of official information society statistics and indicators and will be presented at this WSIS Thematic Meeting.

- The UN Regional Commissions, with the substantive support of other partners, are organizing workshops to take stock of e-measurement activities, taking into consideration the results of the metadata questionnaire: in Western Asia (October 2004), in Africa (October 2004, January 2005), and in Latin America and the Caribbean (November 2004). The workshops identify priorities for action in the area of ICT indicators and agree on a common set of core indicators at the regional level. The outcomes of the regional workshops will be brought together at this meeting.

2.   Objectives and expected outcome

This WSIS Thematic Meeting will bring together representatives from all countries involved in the statistical measurement of the information society, with the objective of:

- Agreeing on a common list of ICT core indicators (basic access and usage by households and individuals, businesses and schools) to be collected by all countries and harmonized at the international level, which will constitute the basis for a database on ICT statistics;

- Identifying and addressing the needs of national statistical offices (NSOs) in developing countries as regards technical assistance in the compilation of ICT indicators;

- Discussing mechanisms to quantify the relevance and contribution of ICT indicators towards improving development and achieving the MDGs;

- Presenting ongoing work concerning the creation and maintenance of an international database on ICT indicators.

The outcome of the meeting will provide practical suggestions on policies and programmes that help countries to measure ICT for policy-making. It will produce concrete recommendations to implement the Geneva Plan of Action in the area of ICT indicators for benchmarking and evaluating ICT access and use, as a practical input to the second phase of WSIS (Tunis, November 2005) and its follow-up. The report of the meeting will be presented at the WSIS PrepCom2, to be held in Geneva from 17 to 25 February 2005.

3.   Documentation and methods of work

The documentation for the meeting will consist of information notes, supporting papers and background documentation (documents already available) supplied by countries and organizations.

For each session there will be a moderator and 2-3 speakers, followed by an interactive debate with participants. All participants are welcome to submit a supporting paper to any of the sessions. Contributed papers should be submitted before 21 January 2004 in order to be considered during the meeting. Documents will be made available in the form and language in which they are received.

4.   Participation

Participants will include representatives from government offices responsible for ICT statistics, international and regional organizations, civil society, and the business community. Representatives of all Member States of the United Nations, interested intergovernmental organizations, as well as participants representing non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, are also welcome to participate.

5.   Logistics

Registration

Invitees who wish to participate in the meeting should complete the attached **registration form** and return it to Ms. Scarlett Fondeur Gil (see section 6 below) no later than 2 February 2005.

Venue and Accreditation

The meeting will take place at the Palais des Nations, Room XX on the 3rd floor of the E building (Bâtiment E), Place des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

Upon arrival, before entering the Palais des Nations, participants are requested to collect their badge at the UN Security Service, Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (close to the main entrance to the Palais on the Place des Nations, on the opposite side of the road). The Security Service is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (non-stop). **Due to the existing security measures in force, participants are strongly advised to arrive by 8.30 a.m. in order to complete procedures and reach the Meeting in good time.** Walking from Villa Les Feuillantines to the E building (Bâtiment E) of the Palais takes about 10 minutes. Participants should carry a passport or similar national identity card with them.

Visa

All participants are requested to have a valid passport and, if required, a visa. Applications for visas should be made as soon as possible at the Embassy of Switzerland in the country in which the participants reside, with reference to the WSIS Thematic Meeting on "Measuring the Information Society".

Travel and accommodation

Meeting participants are expected to arrange for their own travel and accommodation. Information on accommodation in Geneva can be obtained at the official website of Geneva tourism: http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/. Further information and suggestions on practical matters and accommodation will be made available at the website http://measuring-ict.unctad.org/.

6.   Further information and contact details

More detailed information about the meeting can be obtained at the website http://measuring-ict.unctad.org/ or from the contact persons below:

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WSIS Thematic Meeting: "Measuring the Information Society"

Geneva, 7-9 February 2005

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Monday, 7 February 2005

Chair of the meeting: *Ms. Heli Jeskanen-Sundstrom, Director-General, Statistics Finland*

Vice Chair
cum rapporteur: *Mr. Fred Gault, Statistics Canada*

10:00 – 11:30 **Session 1: Opening and introduction**

Mr. Yoshio Utsumi, SG, ITU
Mr. Carlos Fortin, ASG, OIC UNCTAD
Amb. Janis Karklins, President of WSIS PrepCom for Tunis Phase
Representative from Tunis
Mr. John Dryden, OECD

11:30 – 13:00 **Session 2: Global ICT indicators stocktaking**

Presentation of stocktaking exercise
Thematic results and global analysis

ECLAC (introduction)
ITU (household results)
UNCTAD (business results)
UIS (education and other results)
Followed by roundtable with UN Regional Commissions

Lunch break

15:00 – 18:00 **Session 3: Core ICT indicators**

Discussion and final adoption of list of core indicators

Basic infrastructure and households

ITU (basic infrastructure)
OECD (households)

Enterprises and ICT sector

UNCTAD (business use of ICTs)
OECD (ICT sector)

Education
UIS

18:15 – 19:30 **Cocktail (Delegates Restaurant, Old Building, 8th floor)**

Tuesday, 8 February 2005

10:00 – 11:30   **Session 4: Methodologies and model questions: households**

Core questions and questionnaire modules
Discussion

OECD (model survey household)
Eurostat
NSO Germany
NSO Singapore
NSO Egypt

11:30 – 13:00   **Session 5: Methodologies and model questions: enterprises**

Core questions and questionnaire modules
Discussion

OECD (model survey enterprise)
Eurostat
NSO Mauritius
NSO Chile
NSO Philippines
NSO UK
NSO Czech Republic

Lunch break

15:00 – 16:00   **Session 6: Future and supplementary indicators**

Other indicators to be considered for statistical collection
Discussion

UIS (education)
OECD (e-government)
NSO Senegal
NSO Mexico (education and government)
NSO Thailand

16:00 – 18:00   **Session 7: Capacity building for NSOs**

Partnership proposals: Action plan for capacity building
Priority needs of developing countries
Best practice from countries, partnering among NSOs, S-S cooperation
Discussion

UNCTAD/ITU (partnership project proposals)
NSOs from developing countries – NSO Western Asia, NSO Brazil
World Bank
Statistics Canada
OECD (Guide to Information Society Measurement)
ECA (SCAN-ICT)

Wednesday, 9 February 2005

10:00 – 12:00   Session 8: ICT indicators and MDGs: benchmarking and monitoring

Contribution to policy debate on monitoring MDGs
ICT indicators and ICT impact assessment
Presentations followed by a panel discussion

Richard Bourassa/Industry Canada (moderator)
Denis Gilhooly (MDGs and the role of ICT)
Bruno Lanvin, WB (monitoring and evaluation)
Tim Kelly, ITU (implementing the WSIS Plan of Action)

Panel discussion: (10:45-12:00)
George Sciadas, Statistics Canada (ICT impacts indicators)
Kerry McNamara, infoDev (impact measurement, project examples)
Fiona Powers, DFID (measurement best practice, project examples)
Mohamed Timoulali, ECA (impacts indicators, SCAN-ICT)

12:00 – 13:00   Session 9: Conclusions and the way forward: WSIS and beyond

Presentation and adoption of final conclusions (including agreed list of core indicators)
Report to PrepCom2 / WSIS
Report to UN Statistical Commission
Concluding remarks – future work of the Partnership

Chair and Vice Chair (conclusions)
John Dryden, OECD (Report to WSIS PrepCom and Tunis Summit)
Henri Laurencin, UNCTAD (Report to UN Statistical Commission)
Peter Fröhler, UNCTAD (Future of Partnership)

Afternoon (14:00-16:00) - Partnership meeting (closed), Room E-7050/52

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA *Please Print*

Conference Registration Form

Date [   ]

Title of the Conference

WSIS Thematic Meeting "Measuring the Information Society" – 7 to 9 February 2005

Delegation/Participant of Country, Organisation or Agency

[   ]

Participant	Family Name	First Name
Mr. [ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Mrs. [ ]		
Ms. [ ]	Date Of Birth [/ /] (DD/MM/YYYY)	

Participation Category

		Participating **From / Until**
Head of Delegation Members [ ]	Observer Organisation [ ]	From [ ]
Delegation Member [ ]	NGO (ECOSOC Accred.) [ ]	
Observer Country [ ]	Other (Please specify below) [ ]	Until [ ]

Do you have a badge issued as a Mission diplomat or employee, NGO card issued in Geneva or a Long Duration conference badge issued at Geneva if so PLEASE TICK HERE [ ]

Document Language Preference   English **X**   French [ ]   Other [   ]

Origin of Identity Document [   ]   **Passport or ID Number** [   ]   **Valid Until** [   ]

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Permanent Official Address

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Address in Geneva

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Email Address

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On Issue of ID Card

Participant Signature

[   ]

[   ]

Date

[   ]

Participant photograph if form is sent in advance of the conference date.

Please PRINT your name on the reverse side of the photograph

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