

RESOLUTION 8 (Rev. Baku, 2025)

Collection and dissemination of information and statistics

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Baku, 2025),

recalling

- a) Resolution 8 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC);
- b) Resolution 131 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on measuring information and communication technologies (ICTs) to build an integrating and inclusive information society;
- c) Resolution 37 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;
- d) Resolution 208 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on appointment and maximum term of office for chairs and vice-chairs of Sector advisory groups, study groups, and other groups;
- e) Resolution 1 (Rev. Baku, 2025) of this conference, on rules of procedure of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D),

considering

- a) that ITU-D, as the main source of international information and statistics on telecommunications/ICTs, performs a key role in the collection, coordination, exchange, analysis and dissemination of information;
- b) that the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) are enabling wider participation, including from relevant technical experts beyond ITU-D membership, and its value to informing fulfilment by the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of this resolution;
- c) the pivotal role of EGTI and EGH in developing and reviewing telecommunication/ICT indicators and data collection methodology;

- d) that clear working methods for EGTI and EGH can enhance active participation, including from developing countries¹;
- e) the importance of BDT databases and tools, in particular ITU DataHub and the regulatory database, and the usefulness of the analytical reports published by ITU-D;
- f) the need to collect and disseminate information and statistics for follow-up on and monitoring of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development related to ICTs, World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) outcomes, and the strategic plan for the Union, and the cross-cutting nature of telecommunications/ICTs as a strategic component in achieving the goals under the Agenda;
- g) that, despite all the efforts made, various types of digital divide persist, especially in developing countries, based on economic, age, gender and geographical aspects, making it necessary to enhance the collection of corresponding disaggregated statistics and their dissemination, which would make it possible to address public policies at the national level, with a view to facilitating the formulation of public policy at national level in order to continue and monitor efforts made to bridge the digital divide;
- h) that numerous regional and international organizations make use of and rely upon the statistics prepared and published by the Union in their indicators and reports;
- i) that the ITU Council at its 2017 session instructed the Secretary-General to grant all Member States the right of free electronic access to ITU publications relating to statistics and indicators,

considering further

- a) the value for Member States in having free electronic access to up-to-date ITU publications relating to statistics and indicators to facilitate prompt and effective implementation;
- b) the rapid and varied development of the telecommunication/ICT sector at national, regional and international levels and the advantages for Member States in sharing information and best practices,

¹ These include least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

recognizing

- a) that the work of BDT to collect and produce information and statistical data is fundamental to enabling Member States to design informed national policies and monitor their impact;
- b) that the EGTI and EGH working methods should enhance transparency and efficiency and facilitate active participation by ITU-D members and relevant invited statistical experts;
- c) that the WSIS Tunis Agenda for the Information Society stresses that all indices and indicators must take into account different levels of development and national circumstances, maintaining a collaborative approach, in a cost-effective and non-duplicative fashion;
- d) that § 70 of Resolution 70/125 of the United Nations General Assembly, on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, acknowledges the importance of data and statistics to support the use of ICTs for development and calls for further quantitative data to support evidence-based decision-making, as well as for the inclusion of telecommunication/ICT statistics in national strategies for the development of statistics and in regional statistical work programmes;
- e) that high-quality telecommunication/ICT indicators and statistics are key elements for drawing up evidence-based public policies;
- f) that Member States, especially developing countries, still lack the necessary capacity to compile and disseminate high-quality telecommunication/ICT indicators and statistics in an effective manner;
- g) the importance of the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS),

recognizing further

- a) that telecommunication/ICT statistics are extremely useful for the work of the study groups and in assisting ITU to monitor and evaluate telecommunication/ICT developments and measure the digital divide;

- b) that telecommunication/ICT statistics are highly valuable for academia and other organizations from a quantitative perspective, providing evidence-based justifications for ICT regulatory frameworks;
- c) the new responsibilities to be held by ITU-D pursuant to the Tunis Agenda, in particular §§ 112–120 thereof, as well as the WSIS-SDG Matrix which makes it possible to connect the WSIS action lines with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- d) the targets of SDG 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation) and SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- e) the need to further enhance transparency, efficiency and inclusiveness in the working methods of expert groups;
- f) the importance of timely and consistent reporting to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) for proper oversight and guidance,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to continue to support this activity by providing adequate resources, including resources of ITU regional and area offices, and according it the necessary priority;
- 2 to continue to assist and work with Member States in developing best practices for designing national telecommunication/ICT policies and strategies, including capacity-building initiatives on the collection of data and the use of administrative data for statistical purposes, designing surveys at the national level and the development and dissemination of statistics, disaggregated as necessary, for the formulation of national public policies that take into consideration issues such as gender, age, geographical location, disability and other criteria or analytical perspectives that contribute to the identification and evaluation of digital divides;

3 to continue to survey countries and produce global and regional analytical reports which highlight country experiences and impact, in particular on:

- how far the telecommunication/ICT sector has advanced, such as in bridging the digital divide, adapting to new and emerging technologies, digital transformation, digital economy, with examples of national and regional initiatives carried out to achieve progress in telecommunications/ICTs;
- world telecommunication/ICT developments at subregional, regional and international level;
- trends, best practices and regulation in the field of telecommunications/ICTs and tariff policies;
- the use of telecommunications/ICTs to achieve the WSIS outcomes and SDGs;
- how household surveys are a source of information for measuring the widespread use by the population of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs;
- statistical analysis of different funding mechanisms, including the role of public and private partnerships, used in advancing digital inclusion and expanding broadband access in underserved areas;

4 to rely primarily on official data provided by Member States based on internationally recognized methodologies; only in the absence of official data may other sources be used, after consulting the Member States concerned in advance of using other sources to obtain the information and publishing the data;

5 to provide, upon request, technical assistance to Member States to strengthen their capacity to design surveys, gather and record telecommunication/ICT data, in line with ITU documents, and ensure the appropriate use of the material produced;

- 6 to support Member States in establishing national databases that bring together statistics and information on policy and regulation in the sphere of telecommunications/ICTs;
- 7 to establish and collect indicators and to encourage countries to collect statistics and information in order to illustrate the progress, in particular in developing countries, in creating an information society, in bridging the digital divide and in evaluating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 8 to consult on a regular basis with Member States and encourage the membership to submit contributions on issues related to the identification and definition of indicators and data-collection methodologies, especially for implementation of Resolution 131 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), within the ITU-D study groups, EGH and EGTI, and other groups, coordinated by BDT;
- 9 to monitor the development and improvement of methodologies relevant to indicators and methods of data collection, through consultation with Member States and responding to needs resulting from the accelerated transformation of telecommunications/ICTs;
- 10 to monitor the level of development of the telecommunication/ICT sector, taking into account national and regional perspectives, as well as trends in telecommunications/ICTs, through indicators, indices and ICT price baskets;
- 11 to continue to convene WTIS on an annual basis for discussion and generalization, in the form of a final document/report, of best practices in determining indicators and data-collection methods for international comparison in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, based on contributions submitted by the membership, as well as ITU-D study groups, EGH and EGTI;
- 12 to ensure that WTIS does not conflict with any major events of the Union and, as far as possible, to hold it in each of the regions in turn;
- 13 to continue to convene regular meetings of EGTI and EGH, in view of their importance;

- 14 to develop and disseminate standardized guidelines for the submission of contributions to EGTI and EGH;
- 15 to appoint management teams for specific areas of work within EGTI and EGH, according to their terms of reference, with a view to enhancing engagement from across membership;
- 16 to ensure that meetings of EGTI and EGH are scheduled well in advance, with timely notifications to facilitate adequate preparation and coordination;
- 17 to use the expert groups to review draft methodologies and datasets in a timely manner, with sufficient time for comments from the membership;
- 18 to ensure that contributions to EGTI/EGH are submitted to BDT no later than 12 calendar days before the expert group meetings, in order to allow for thorough consideration and timely publication of all submitted contributions on the EGTI/EGH website;
- 19 to ensure that EGTI/EGH chairs present the outcomes of the annual EGTI/EGH meeting to WTIS and TDAG, outlining its work, achievements, recommendations and future work;
- 20 to review, revise and further develop benchmarking, including through consultation and inviting contributions from Member States and experts, and ensure that ICT indicators, the ICT Development Index and the ICT Price Basket reflect the real development of the ICT sector, taking into consideration different levels of development and national circumstances, as well as ICT trends, in application of the WSIS outcomes;
- 21 to encourage Member States to collect statistical indicators and information for follow-up on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to illustrate national digital divides as well as the efforts made through various programmes to close the gap, showing, as much as possible, the impact on gender issues, children and adolescents, as well as older persons, persons with disabilities and different social sectors and geographical areas (e.g. urban and rural areas);

- 22 to encourage countries to participate in working groups coordinated by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), relevant United Nations agencies, and ITU to discuss ways to increase the availability of ICT data with experts and Member States with the aim of identifying innovative data-collection tools to support methodological recommendations for consideration by the relevant experts in statistics;
- 23 to encourage and support Member States in the setting up of national centres for statistics on the information society and in the advancement of existing centres;
- 24 to strengthen ITU-D's role as a member of the Steering Committee of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development and through active participation in discussions and activities geared to achieving the partnership's main objectives, related to the development of telecommunication/ICT indicators and capacity building for national statistical offices;
- 25 to encourage Member States to bring together stakeholders in government, the private sector, academia and civil society in raising national awareness about the importance of the collection and dissemination of globally comparable data, statistics and information in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, including for policy purposes;
- 26 to continue to cooperate with relevant international and regional organizations, such as the members of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), UNSD and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, including on capacity building, developing training material and conducting specialized training courses on telecommunication/ICT statistics;
- 27 to assist Member States with indigenous populations in developing indicators to evaluate the impact of telecommunications/ICTs on Indigenous Peoples that enable the achievement of the objectives set forth in § C8 of the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action;
- 28 to organize regional workshops on statistics in cooperation with relevant regional and international organizations, with the aim of building capacity in ways and means of collecting and processing data and statistics in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, particularly for developing countries;

29 to post in a timely manner all questionnaires, surveys, methodological manuals, reports and publications relating to ITU-D statistics and indicators, particularly those relating to regulatory information, statistics and indicators which rely on data submitted by Member States, on the website of the Union, making them easy to identify and access;

30 to send, by means of a circular letter, the information regarding ITU data collection and questionnaires, including the data dissemination and data collection schedule and validation process timeline, ensuring regular updates if any;

31 to continue to seek technical solutions to work on statistics in the field of telecommunications/ICTs in all six languages of the Union;

32 to report annually on the implementation of this resolution to TDAG;

33 to coordinate with Member States, including through the ITU regional offices, on the statistical data collection process, with a view to providing support to BDT in facilitating and streamlining the overall process;

34 to make available to Member States their scores, for information purposes, prior to publication;

35 to make available the interactive web-based tools for the ICT indicator definitions in all six official languages of the Union;

36 to ensure that all ITU-D ICT statistics databases, including but not limited to ITU DataHub related publications, indices and reports shall explicitly indicate the year of issuance, guaranteeing that the scores reflected on the dashboard and in previous publications are not changed retroactively, in order to accurately reflect the situation and progress achieved within each respective year;

37 to promote the integration of data sources, such as mobile phone data and real-time geospatial information, in coordination with national regulatory authorities, national statistical offices and mobile network operators for production of official ICT statistics;

38 to update the ITU Manual for Measuring ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals to reflect the latest ICT definitions and standards,

instructs the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators and the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators

to review and revise, where appropriate, their terms of reference in their first meeting after a WTDC,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to participate actively in this endeavour by providing the statistics and information solicited, including statistics in the field of telecommunications/ICTs disaggregated by gender, age, and also by other vulnerable groups, as appropriate, and by engaging actively in discussions on ICT indicators and data-collection methodologies through contributions, in particular by means of EGH and EGTI and other expert groups coordinated by BDT;

2 to develop national systems or strategies for strengthening the consolidation of statistical information related to telecommunications/ICTs to ensure the quality and timely availability of statistical data;

3 to establish effective national and institutional coordination mechanisms for the compilation and dissemination of telecommunication/ICT information and statistics to monitor achievement of the SDGs at the national level;

4 to establish mechanisms for effective national coordination in order to mobilize and guarantee the quality of statistical data produced by various national stakeholders;

5 to contribute with experiences of policies that have a positive impact on telecommunication/ICT indicators;

6 to strengthen collaboration among national stakeholders for ICT statistics including national statistical offices;

7 to strive to harmonize the methodologies for their domestic statistical data-collection systems with those used at the international level, encouraging interoperability with domestic open data systems, in line with standards on reusable metadata and formats;

8 to promote the documentation, anonymization and availability of statistical microdata on telecommunications/ICTs, ensuring the protection of confidentiality and promoting their reuse by researchers and decision-makers,

encourages

donor agencies and relevant United Nations agencies to cooperate in providing relevant support and information on their activities.