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| APTlogogreen3 | ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY | **Document No.:** |
| **The 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-21 (APT WTDC21-3)** | **APT WTDC21-3/**  **OUT-09 (Rev.1)** |
| 5-8 October 2021, Virtual/Online Meeting | 7 February 2022 |

Chair, WG2

**PRELIMINARY APT COMMON PROPOSAL**

**Proposed modification TO WTDC RESOLUTION 8**

**Collection and Dissemination of Information and Statistics**

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| **Priority area:** (Please mark “X” in front of the appropriate item)  \_\_\_ Declaration  \_\_\_ Thematic Priorities, Action Plan, Regional Initiatives and SG Questions  \_\_\_ Working Methods  \_X\_\_ Resolutions and Recommendations  \_\_\_ Other proposals  **Summary:**  APT Member administrations propose to revise this Resolution and aims to improve the mechanism to introduce, review, and revise indicators and methodology of ITU’s future ICT index. APT Member administrations view that revisions to ITU ICT indicators and methodology should be conducted through the convening of the regular, annual EGTI and EGH meeting and obtain approval by consensus from all member states. The EGTI and EGH regular, annual meeting is the formal platform where statisticians, experts, data scientists and member states gather to review, revise, propose and develop methodology and indicators of ITU’s ICT Index. Therefore, APT Member administrations propose modification to WTDC Resolution 8 as appears in the following annex.  **Expected results:**  APT Member administrations invite WTDC to examine the proposal to revise Resolution 8 and approve the modifications contained therein.  **References:**  WTDC Resolution 8 (Rev. Buenos Aires 2017) |

**PROPOSAL**

APT Member administrations propose to modify WTDC Resolution 8 accordingly, as appears in the annex below.

**MOD**

RESOLUTION 8 (Rev. Addis Ababa, 2021)

Collection and dissemination of information and statistics

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Addis Ababa, 2021),

recalling

*a)* Resolution 8 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference;

*b)* Resolution 131 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on measuring information and communication technologies (ICTs) to build an integrating and inclusive information society,

considering

*a)* that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU‑D), as the main source of international information and statistics on telecommunications/ICTs, performs a key role in the collection, coordination, exchange and analysis of information;

*b)* the importance of the existing Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) databases, in particular the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (WTI) database and the regulatory database;

*c)* the usefulness of analytical reports published by ITU‑D, such as the World Telecommunication/ICT Development Report, the Measuring the Information Society Report and the Trends in Telecommunication Reform report, the Global Cybersecurity Index and Cyberwellness Profiles report and other reports;

*d)* the need to collect and disseminate information and statistics for follow-up on and monitoring of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*e)* the cross-cutting nature of ICTs as a strategic component in achieving all the goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*f)* that, despite all the efforts made, the world divide in Internet use by men and women has widened, especially in least developed countries (LDCs), therefore making it necessary to enhance statistics and their dissemination disaggregated by gender that would make it possible to address public policies at the national level;

*g)* 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;

*h)* that the 2017 session of ITU Council 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)* that the ICT sector at the national level is reforming at an incredible pace;

*b)* that policy approaches vary and countries can benefit from the experiences of others,

recognizing

*a)* that, by acting as a clearing house for the exchange of information and statistics, BDT will be able to assist Member States in developing informed national policies;

*b)* that the countries must participate actively in this endeavour in order to make it successful;

*c)* 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, bearing in mind that statistics need to be improved in a collaborative, cost-effective and non-duplicative fashion;

*d)* that § 70 of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) (UNGA Resolution 70/125) has called for further quantitative data to support evidence-based decision-making, as well as for the inclusion of ICT statistics in national strategies for the development of statistics and in regional statistical work programmes,

*e)* that ICT indicators and statistics are key elements for drawing up evidence-based public policies,

*f)* the importance of the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS),

recognizing further

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

*b)* the new responsibilities to be held by ITU‑D in relation to this subject, pursuant to the Tunis Agenda, in particular §§ 112 to 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);

*c)* 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,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to support this activity by providing adequate resources and according it the necessary priority;

2 to continue to work closely with Member States for the sharing of best practices concerning policy and national ICT strategies, including the development of statistics and their dissemination, and considering gender, age and any other information relevant to the development of national public policies;

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

• trends in the telecommunication sector, such as adapting to new technologies, digital economy, etc.;

• world telecommunication developments at regional and international level;

• trends in tariff policies, in collaboration with the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector;

• the use of ICTs to achieve the SDGs;

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

5 to establish and collect community connectivity indicators and to participate in the development of core indicators to measure efforts to build the information society and, in so doing, to illustrate the scale of the digital divide and the efforts of developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1 to close the gap;

6 to monitor the development and improvement of methodologies relevant to indicators and methods of data collection, through consultation with, and inviting contributions from, Member States, particularly by means of the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) and the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and the World Telecommunication/  
ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS), coordinated by BDT;

7 to continue to convene WTIS on an annual basis, to seek to ensure that it does not conflict with any major events, conferences or assemblies of the Union and, as far as possible, to hold it in each of the regions in turn;

8 to continue to convene regular meetings of the expert groups on telecommunication/ICT indicators, in view of their importance;

9 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 (IDI) and the ICT Price Basket reflect the real development of the ICT sector, particularly by means of the regular meetings of the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) and the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) as well as the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS), taking into consideration different levels of development and national circumstances as well as ICT trends, in application of the WSIS outcomes;

10 to encourage countries 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 the elderly, persons with disabilities and different social sectors;

11 to strengthen ITU‑D's role in the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development by acting as a member of the steering committee and through active participation in discussions and activities geared to achieving the partnership's main objectives;

12 to provide statistics and regulatory information on the ITU‑D website, and to establish appropriate mechanisms and modalities for countries which do not have electronic access to obtain this information;

13 to encourage Member States to bring together different stakeholders in government, academia and civil society in raising national awareness about the importance of the production and dissemination of globally comparable high-quality data for policy purposes;

14 to provide technical assistance to the Member States for the collection of ICT statistics, in particular by means of national surveys, and for the development of national databases containing statistics and regulatory policy information;

15 to develop training material and conduct specialized training courses on ICT statistics for the information society in developing countries, favouring collaboration with members of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development when necessary, including the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the regional commissions of the United Nations, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);

16 to unify existing information and statistical databases on the BDT website so as to respond to the objectives stated in §§ 113, 114, 115, 116, 117 and 118 of the Tunis Agenda, and to play a primary role in relation to §§ 119 and 120;

17 to assist countries with indigenous populations in developing indicators to evaluate the impact of ICTs on indigenous peoples that enable the achievement of the objectives set forth in § C8 of the Geneva Plan of Action;

18 to continue to cooperate with the relevant international bodies, in particular UNSD, the regional commissions of the United Nations, and other international and regional organizations, such as OECD, involved in the collection and dissemination of ICT-related information and statistics;

19 to organize regional workshops on statistics in cooperation, when required, with relevant regional and international organizations, with the aim of spreading awareness about ways and means of collecting data and statistics, particularly for developing countries;

20 to consult regularly, and seek contributions from, Member States as to the definition of indicators and methodologies for data collection, in particular by means of the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) and the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) coordinated by BDT; in which any set of indicators and methodology shall only be implemented upon the approval, by all Member States

21 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;

22 to post in a timely manner all reports and publications relating to the statistics and indicators published by ITU-D, particularly those relating to the statistics and indicators which rely on data submitted by Member States, on the website of the Union, making them easy to identify and access,

invites Member States and Sector Members

1 to participate actively in this endeavour by providing the statistics and information solicited, including statistics disaggregated by gender, as appropriate, and by engaging actively in discussions on ICT indicators and data-collection methodologies through contributions, in particular by means of the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) and the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) coordinated by BDT, including contributions for the review, revision and further development of benchmarking of ICT indicators and the ICT Development Index (IDI) and the ICT Price Basket;

2 to establish national systems or strategies for strengthening the consolidation of statistical information related to telecommunications/ICTs;

3 to establish institutional mechanisms to promote and coordinate the compilation and dissemination of ICT information and statistics to monitor implementation 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 ICT indicators;

6 to strive to harmonize their domestic statistical data-collection systems with the methods used at the international level,

encourages

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

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1. 1 These include least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)