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TITLE: Draft new Question: ICTs and urban governance in developing countries

ALG-ATL/17/1 Objective(s): 3

Abstract:

This document presents a proposed new Question for study for the upcoming ITU-D study period, 2014-2018, on the subject of “ICTs and urban governance in developing countries”. The theme of the Question is an important and priority area for developing countries, which need to adopt a sustainable approach to development. Definition of development plans with structural projects must include ICT applications and solutions as essential aids to any form of land use planning. For the new Development Sector study period 2014-2018, as regards the subject matter of this Question, suitable areas for study will include the following:

- 1) The role of ICTs and their inclusion in the definition of sustainable development projects and the characteristics and conditions of management and governance of smart cities.
 - The role that ICTs can play in solving the problems facing cities including land management, construction of smart infrastructure and other developments including buildings, sports centres, leisure facilities, urban transport networks, stations and airport infrastructures, etc.
 - The role that ICTs can play in:
 - protection of property and persons;
 - smart management of motor vehicle traffic;
 - saving electrical energy;
 - measuring the effects of environmental pollution;
 - management of healthcare and education;
 - management and control of drinking water supplies;
- 2) Permanent communication, information and knowledge exchange for citizens

Theme: ICTs and urban governance in developing countries

1 Statement of the situation

in view of

1. the important role that national telecommunication/ICT policy can play in stimulating innovation and investment in new technologies;
2. the sovereign right of each country to establish its national telecommunication/ICT priorities and policies;
3. the importance of telecommunication network and ICT infrastructure for economic development;
4. the potential for a broader range of telecommunication and ICT applications that are made available by, *inter alia*, the new technologies;
5. the role that ICTs can play in solving the problems facing cities including land management, construction of smart infrastructure and other developments including buildings, sports centres, leisure facilities, urban transport networks, stations and airport infrastructures;
6. the role that ICTs can play in:
 - protection of property and persons;
 - smart management of motor vehicle traffic;
 - saving electrical energy;
 - measuring the effects of environmental pollution;
 - management of healthcare and education;
 - management and control of drinking water supplies;
 - permanent communication, information and knowledge exchange for citizens;
7. the growth in migration flows of rural populations to major urban centres as a result of which it is almost impossible to provide the amenities needed for these populations, especially in the countries of the South which are experiencing intensive and uncontrolled urbanization leading to the emergence of **mega cities**,

considering that

- the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in its Tunis 2005 Agenda set objectives of building an inclusive information society and harnessing the potential of ICTs at the service of development;
- the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) adopted specific Action Lines in its Plan of Action, including in particular:
 - a) Action Line C1: The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development;
 - b) Action Line C2: Information and communication infrastructure: an essential foundation for the Information Society;
 - c) Action Line C7: ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life;
- the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has launched studies in its different Sectors and in particular in the Standardization Sector ITU-T on aspects of "**smart sustainable city development**" including aspects relating to urban planning, environmental protection, waste management and recycling, management of water and electricity, road traffic management, use of green technologies, the launch of e-government services, and, in the Radiocommunication Sector, initiatives on spectrum management systems for frequencies allocated to telecommunication and ICT operators' services;
- the ITU Council at its session in 2009 chose the theme "Better City, Better Life" for World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2010; this was linked to the theme of the Shanghai World Expo held the same year, where numerous initiatives were presented with the

aim of making cities more prosperous, green, safe and better managed through the multiple potentialities of ICTs for improving living conditions for city dwellers.

2 Question for study

The theme of the Question is an important and priority area for developing countries, which need to adopt a sustainable approach to development. Definition of development plans with structural projects must include ICT applications and solutions as essential aids to any form of land use planning. For the new Development Sector study period 2014-2018, as regards the subject matter of this Question, suitable areas for study will include the following:

- 1) The role of ICTs and their inclusion in the definition of sustainable development projects.
- 2) Characteristics and conditions of management and governance of smart cities, and definition in such cases of the role of administrative institutions, local communities, investors, urban planners, economic sectors, etc.
- 3) Development and application of systems for managing and operating infrastructures for health, education and culture, urban transport, sports centres, urban residential areas, controlled distribution of water and electricity, road networks, and leisure facilities, using telecommunications and ICT applications, while maintaining conditions conducive to environmental protection and preservation.
- 4) Creation of a national ecosystem that includes all stakeholders involved in defining a national land use planning policy, in particular the creation of new towns from the "smart city" perspective.
- 5) Definition of a measurement and performance benchmark for quality of life indicators in smart cities, and possible regulation and communication mechanisms that can be followed for good urban governance.
- 6) The experiences of developed countries that have built smart cities.

3 Expected outputs

- Annual progress report on the status of studies on the each of the topics listed in section 2 above, including an analysis of factors affecting the efficient roll-out of the main telecommunication services and ICT application supports required for governance of smart cities.
- A detailed final report covering the different subject areas considered, to be produced at the end of the study period.
- Guidelines for good urban governance using telecommunications and ICTs.

4 Timing

Annual progress reports. This study should last four years.

5 Proposers

Algérie Télécom SPA (Algeria).

6 Source of input

- 1) Results obtained in this area by the ITU-T and ITU-R study groups concerned.
- 2) Contributions from Member States, Sector Members, Associates, other United Nations institutions, regional groups, and BDT coordinators.
- 3) Contributions from service providers and telecommunication/ICT equipment manufacturers.
- 4) Contributions from local communities in Member States that have adopted the smart city concept.
- 5) Contributions from recognized bodies in areas of study and standardization relevant to the governance of smart cities.

7 Target audience

	Developed countries	Developing countries*
Policy-makers in telecommunications, planning and investment, domestic affairs and local communities, safety of property and persons, environment, transport, and other areas	*	*
Telecom regulators	*	*
Telecommunication/ICT service providers/operators	*	*
– Telecommunication/ICT equipment manufacturers – Economic sector – Local communities	*	*

a) Users of the results of the study

All national bodies involved in the urban development and governance ecosystem, including the communications, multimedia and TV broadcasting sectors.

b) Proposed methods for implementation of the results

- in defining national policies for sustainable development and land use planning;
- in guidelines for implementing BDT regional initiatives.

8 Proposed methods of handling the Question

The results of relevant studies, Resolutions and Recommendations of ITU-T and ITU-R should be the basis for studies under this Question.

- 1) In the work of ITU-D Study Group 2, as a Question studied over a period of four years during the study period 2014-2018.
- 2) In the implementation of BDT Programmes 1 and 2 and of BDT regional programmes, a survey will be carried out on the needs of developing countries in the area of urban management and governance (economic, regulatory and technical aspects).
- 3) In collaboration with other United Nations organizations working in this area.

9 Coordination

In order to ensure effective coordination, it is important to take into account:

- the results of work done by study groups in other ITU Sectors; and
- contributions under relevant BDT programmes.

10 BDT Programme link

BDT Programmes 3, 4 and 5 are concerned by the Question as regards in particular aspects relating to an enabling environment, digital inclusion and emergency telecommunications.

* This includes least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition.

11 Other useful information

- Results of relevant studies carried out in developed countries once they have been made public.
 - Recommendations arising from relevant regional seminars and conferences held under BDT Programme 4.
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