



Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development

**Submitted by General Secretariat**

**1. Background**

1.1 The Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014) invited Member States inter alia to support, through relevant UN processes, the creation of synergies and institutional linkages between WSIS and the Post-2015 Development Agenda to continue strengthening the impact of ICT for sustainable development. Member States are also invited to contribute and closely collaborate with the Partnership on Measuring the ICT for Development as an international, multistakeholder initiative to improve the availability and quality of ICT data and indicators, particularly in developing countries.

1.2. At the operational level, ITU has also been carrying out the tasks of Steering committee member of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Measurement.

**2. Recent Activities and Progress Achieved**

2.1 ITU is an active member of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development and together with UNCTAD and UIS, one of the three members of its Steering Committee. Over the years, the Partnership has grown to a total of 14 partner organizations, with the ILO joining in 2014. In 2014, the Partnership also celebrated its 10th anniversary and at that occasion organized a special event during the WSIS Forum 2015 and the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium 2014. The Partnership has been very active in tracking the progress of the WSIS Targets and has also taken a lead role in increasing awareness about the importance of ICT for development and in international ICT monitoring.

2.2 The Partnership has made a concerted effort to highlight the role that ICTs will play in achieving the SDGs and prepared a joint proposal of ICT indicators to help track the SDGs and its targets. In February 2015, this proposal was presented as a background document to the UN Expert Group Meeting on the indicator framework for the post-2015 development agenda.

2.3 The Partnership organized a session during WSIS Forum 2015 and presented the Partnership's proposal of ICT indicators that are relevant to specific SDGs and targets. It also put the proposal in the context of the mapping exercise linking the WSIS action lines with the SDGs. The session discussed the views of countries regarding the importance of monitoring the information society, in particular in the context of the SDGs. It addressed national needs in terms of capacity building and resources for national statistical systems related to the production of indicators for the SDG framework.

2.4 The 3rd Meeting of the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) and the 6th Meeting of the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) took place back-to-back in Geneva, from 22 to 25 September 2015. Both meetings were attended by more than 100 participants, representing national statistical offices, ministries, regulators, the private sector and

members of the Partnership such as Eurostat, ILO, OECD, UIS, and UNCTAD. The main topics covered were indicators on barriers to individuals' use of Internet, barriers to household Internet access, barriers to mobile phone ownership, ICT employment, new data sources (big data), an update on SDG indicators framework which includes ICT indicators proposed by the Partnership, advanced mobile broadband technologies (LTE), review of mobile broadband definition, and other administrative data sources such as OTT service providers. In particular, the topic of ICT employment indicators, which is a topic of one of the task groups of the Partnership, was discussed at length.

### **3. Upcoming Activities**

3.1 As a main contribution of ITU to measuring ICT for Development, the 13th ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) will be held in Hiroshima, Japan, from 30 November to 2 December 2015. It will be hosted by the Government of Japan and include a Ministerial Roundtable discussing ICT as a driver of sustainable development. The WTIS will also feature an international high-level dialogue on the topic of future ICT trends, policies and measurement challenges and see the launch of the 2015 Measuring the Information Society Report (MISR) and the ICT Development Index (IDI).