

COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)

Fifteenth Session

Geneva, 21 to 25 May 2012

Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on their efforts in 2011 to implement the outcome of the WSIS

Submission by

PARTNERSHIP ON MEASURING ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (to the 15th session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

<p>DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.</p>

The Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development was formed in 2004, as a collaborative forum for United Nations and other agencies, to address challenges of data collection and analysis concerning ICT4D and WSIS outcomes. The Partnership has 12 member organizations¹. It has published 53 core indicators for ICT infrastructure and access, the use of ICTs by households and enterprises, the ICT sector and trade in ICT goods, ICTs in education and e-governments.

The latest addition to the core list is a set of indicators on measuring e-government. The Partnership's Task Group on E-government (TGEG), led by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), in collaboration with ECLAC, ITU and UNDESA has produced a report on a framework for developing e-Government indicators. The framework document proposes a set of seven globally comparative e-government core indicators, reflecting the emphasis on e-government by the WSIS and the suggestion by the United Nations Statistical Commission that the Partnership extend its core list of ICT indicators to include indicators on ICT use in government. The document has gone through a series of reviews by members of the Partnership, in consultation with member countries, before its adoption in November 2011.

Agencies within the Partnership provide technical assistance to improve the capacity of national statistical offices. The Partnership has developed harmonised methodologies to measure the core indicators, with a view to reinforcing the international comparability of ICT data across countries. These guidelines take into account best practices by countries that have historically been at the forefront of measuring ICT and are consistent with relevant international standards, definitions, and classifications that are already available, and which contribute to the cross-country comparability of data. These guidelines are enshrined in a number of publications, including the "Core ICT indicators 2010", as well as the following documents:

- UNCTAD's Manual for the production of statistics on the Information Economy, 2009;
- ITU's Manual for measuring ICT access and use by households and individuals, 2009
- ITU's Handbook for the collection of administrative data on telecommunications/ICT 2011;
- The Partnership publication Measuring the WSIS targets, a statistical framework, 2011
- UIS/UNESCO's Guide on measuring Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in education, DATE?.

The UN Regional Commissions, which are members of the Partnership (i.e. UNECA, UNECLAC, UNECAP and UNESCWA) also take an active role in organizing and coordinating capacity building activities within their respective regions, with assistance from the relevant Partners. In 2011, ITU and UNCTAD organized a training course on ICT measurement in Jordan, for the Arab region, and ITU organized a training course on ICT household surveys in Fiji, for the Pacific Island countries.

¹ ITU, OECD, UNCTAD, DESA, UIS, the World Bank, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA and Eurostat, the UNEP Basel convention Secretariat joined in 2011.

The Partnership takes an active role in monitoring progress towards the achievement of the WSIS targets. It launched its Task Group on Measuring the WSIS Targets during the WSIS Forum 2010. The Task Group, which is led by ITU, has developed a monitoring framework document to help countries track the WSIS targets (*Measuring the WSIS targets, a statistical framework*). This document includes a proposed list of indicators, addresses methodological issues, and includes definitions and model questions. The framework document was released at the WSIS Forum 2011. It is meant to serve as a basis for national and international data collection related to the WSIS outcomes. It is expected to become the major reference document for the WSIS+10 quantitative review document and a growing number of countries will be using it to assess their progress towards the WSIS targets within the next few years.

The Partnership continues to raise awareness on ICT measurement and is expanding its scope of activities. During the 9th ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Meeting (WTIM) held in Mauritius in December 2011, the Partnership announced the new membership of UNEP/Secretariat of the Basel Convention on e-waste. This will bring to the Partnership new expertise and broaden its scope to include the measurement of e-waste. Furthermore, the Partnership continuously reports on the subject of ICT statistics to the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC). At the 43rd session of the UNSC, held in February-March 2012, the Partnership submitted a report presenting progress made on ICT statistics worldwide during the past five years, including the revised and extended core list of ICT indicators developed by the Partnership. The report also identifies the indicators and countries where most progress has been made as well as the major data gaps, highlights important statistical challenges and proposes a set of actions to be taken to enhance the availability of internationally comparable indicators on ICT by 2015, the agreed date to review progress made on the MDGs and the targets set out by the WSIS.