



**Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development input to the  
United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2020 <sup>1</sup>**

**1. Key policies and measures to ensure “accelerated action and transformative pathways” for realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development**

More and better data on how ICTs can accelerate progress towards the sustainable development goals, including by facilitating the implementation and delivery of measures in all domains, is needed. Countries need to step up the production of national level data on ICT access, use, and their enabling environment that are relevant to their sustainable development policies, goals and targets, but that are also internationally comparable. Countries may use the thematic list of ICT for SDG indicators produced by the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development as guidance.

**a. Critical gaps in implementing the 2030 Agenda within the area of responsibility of the body (bearing in mind interrelations with other goals and targets)**

The Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development has noted that ICT indicators beyond the Sustainable Development Goals monitoring framework are necessary in order to adequately assess the impact of ICTs.

In addition, lack of ICT skills continues to be an important impediment for people to access the Internet, as well as the lack of “soft” skills beyond technical and navigational skills. Scarce data suggest developing countries are particularly disadvantaged when it comes to digital skills.

**b. Priority measures to:**

**i. accelerate action**

The growth of ICTs has resulted in a rapid increase of new data sources, including big data, in particular from the ICT industry. Several members of the Partnership are looking into innovative ways to utilize big data as a new data source and to overcome important data gaps. Collaboration is key. For example, ITU plays an active role in the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics through its task teams on methodologies, skills and

<sup>1</sup> The Partnership is currently made up of 14 partners organizations: International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), The World Bank, United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IASS), UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), EUROSTAT, UNEP Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC), International Labour Organization (ILO). See also <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/intlcoop/partnership/default.aspx>

capacity-building and through the sharing of experiences on how mobile phone, satellite and social media data could be used for official statistics.

**ii. ensure transformative pathways to realize the decade of action for achieving the 2030 Agenda**

All countries must step up the production of meaningful data on ICT access and use, and on the ICT environment, in order to support the monitoring of progress towards the 2030 agenda and to guide the policies to be implemented during the decade of action.

**2. Contribution of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development to accelerated action and transformative pathways and realizing the decade of action and delivery for achieving the 2030 Agenda within its area of responsibility (including its cooperation with ECOSOC and other intergovernmental bodies)**

The Partnership developed a thematic list of ICT indicators for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The thematic list is now available for use by countries and has been shared with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators. The thematic list includes 26 ICT indicators, which are related to 27 targets under 11 Sustainable Development Goals and were discussed and agreed upon through a consultation process involving Governments and international organizations. The list covers the following areas: ICT infrastructure and access; access to and use of ICT by households and individuals; use of ICT by businesses; the ICT sector; trade in ICT goods and services; ICT in education; e-waste; and e-government. A summary of the thematic list is provided in the annex to the present report. A more detailed presentation of the list is provided on the ITU website.<sup>2</sup> Going forward, the Partnership will disseminate the list widely to countries and is considering preparing a report. The Commission endorsed the thematic list of ICT indicators for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

**3. Selected recommendations for accelerating progress and moving on transformative pathways for realizing the decade of action, for possible use in drafting the HLPF declaration**

**Selected recommendations:**

- The need for more and better official ICT statistics to help to measure progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda has been widely recognized. Countries will need to consider ICT indicators beyond the Sustainable Development Goals monitoring framework in order to adequately assess the impact of ICTs the 2030 Agenda. The Partnership's thematic list of ICT indicators for the SDGs will provide guidance to countries in this regard.

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<sup>2</sup> See [http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/intlcoop/partnership/Thematic\\_ICT\\_indicators\\_for\\_the\\_SDGs.pdf](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/intlcoop/partnership/Thematic_ICT_indicators_for_the_SDGs.pdf).

- New data needs for the digital economy will require countries to strengthen national coordination and include all stakeholders in order to improve data quality and availability as a means to inform policy.
- Issues of data access, sharing and data protection, privacy and security will have to be addressed, and national statistical systems will need to develop protocols to be able to leverage new data produced by technologies such as artificial intelligence and big data.
- Development partners should consider expanding their support for technical assistance for ICT statistics, in particular to train national statisticians and other producers and users of official ICT statistics, and to finance related data collection, analysis and dissemination. The Partnership will continue to review and update its list of ICT indicators, cooperate in developing new indicators and related methodologies and contribute to the statistical development of countries by offering capacity-building assistance.