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WTIS-23

Programme

Monday, 03 July 2023

09:30 - 09:50

Opening session

Opening remarks

Mr Tomas Lamanauskas

Deputy Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava

Director

Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Mr Bernard Banda

WTIS-23 Chair

09:50 - 10:00

Group photo

10:00 - 10:20

Coffee break

10:20 - 11:30

High level session: Universal and meaningful connectivity - the policy perspective

Session introduction: Achieving universal and meaningful digital connectivity —the possibility for everyone to enjoy a safe, satisfying, enriching, productive and affordable online experience— is key for enabling digital transformation and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Connecting everyone is no longer enough. Universal connectivity without meaningful engagement could inadvertently exacerbate economic and social disparities both within and across nations.

Outcome: This high-level session provided insights from prominent practitioners and thought leaders about the role of connectivity and technology in development strategy, and their efforts to foster universal and meaningful connectivity respectively. Participants were able to discover innovative approaches to accelerate progress in achieving a truly transformative digital experience for all. Participants also learned how data could inform policymaking and improve the policy impact.

Ministerial Panel

Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava

Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

H.E. Ms Emma Inamutilla Theofelus

Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Namibia (Republic of)

H.E. Ms Aurora Díaz-Rato Revuelta

Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Spain

Dr Claire Melamed

CEO, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Mr Didier Kla

Director of Orange Business and Broadband, Orange, Côte d'Ivoire (Republic of)

Mr Torbjörn Fredriksson

Head of the E-commerce and Digital Economy Branch, UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

11:30 - 12:30

Universal and meaningful connectivity: tackling the measurement imperative

Session introduction: In parallel to meeting the policy imperative, we must tackle the challenge that measuring universal and meaningful connectivity represents. Without good data, we are lost. Data tell us where we were, where we are, and where we ought to be. Data tell us what works and what doesn't. While counting the number of subscriptions is relatively straightforward, measuring the meaningful side of connectivity is much harder.

Outcome: This session presented efforts undertaken to tackle the measurement challenge.

Speakers

Mr Daniel Ker

Economic Affairs Officer

Division on E-commerce and Digital Economy , UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Mr Fabio Senne

ICT Survey Project Coordinator, Regional Center for Studies

on the Development of the Information Society (Cetic.br), Brazil (Federative Republic of)

Moderator

Ms Linah Ngumba

Statistician, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Kenya (Republic of)

12:30 - 14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00 - 15:30

Keeping up with the measurement agenda: insights from the Expert Group on Telecommunications/ICT Indicators

Session introduction: How can ICT statistics follow the pace of innovations in digital technologies and communication services, and still measure the changes?

ITU's Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) reviews existing indicators and develops new methodologies for data collection, incorporating experiences from around the world. These feed into the Handbook on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators, which is the central reference on the topic.

Outcome: This session reported on the 13th meeting of EGTI that was held in September 2022, which included a report of the subgroup on the implications of 5G deployment on measuring M2M subscriptions and IoTs, a report of the subgroup on the development of indicators measuring OTT services (jointly with EGH), and a review of the indicators collected in the ITU WTI Long Questionnaire.

The second part of the session shed light on measuring middle mile connectivity (with a focus on Internet exchange points, IXPs) and the affordability of Internet-enabled devices. It also discussed the possibilities of developing globally comparable statistics that would help better understand the barriers to universal and meaningful connectivity and the deployment of new connectivity infrastructure in these domains.

Speakers

Mr Bernard Banda

Director for Economic Regulation and Consumer Protection

EGTI Chair, Zambia Information and Communication Technology Authority, Zambia (Republic of)

Ms Bijal Sanghani

Managing Director

EUR-IX

Dr Rami Amin

Project Lead, The World Bank

Moderator

Ms Linda Kambale

Economic Regulation Manager, Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority, Malawi

15:30 - 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 - 17:00	<p>Measuring connectivity using open and private sector big data</p> <p>Session introduction: The explosion of data generated from online activities and connected devices has reached unprecedented levels. The majority of these data sources are private and subject to safeguards and restrictions, ensuring the protection of individual privacy and the preservation of commercial interests. However, in recent years, there has been closer cooperation between the private and public sectors, highlighting the immense value of utilizing privately-owned big data to gain new insights that support the development of public policies. This has been particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Outcome: This session showcased the potential of utilizing big data from the private sector to establish new benchmarks for universal and meaningful connectivity.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <p>Mr Andrew Tatem Professor of Spatial Demography and Epidemiology University of Southampton Director of WorldPop , United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</p> <p>Mr Barry Graham Head of Market Impact Team, OpenSignal</p> <p>Mr Amit Misra Principal Data and Applied Scientist , AI For Good Lab Microsoft</p> <p>Moderator</p> <p>Mr Steve MacFeely Director of Data and Analytics, World Health Organization (WHO)</p>
17:00 - 18:30	<p>WTIS-23 reception</p> <p>WTIS-23 reception will be held in the restaurant Violetta Parra in CICG.</p>

Tuesday, 04 July 2023

09:30 - 11:00	<p>Preparing the ground: mobile phone data for official statistics</p> <p>Session introduction: As mobile phone usage continues to grow rapidly around the world, the wealth of data generated by these devices presents numerous opportunities for improving our understanding of the information society. The session will highlight some of the success stories in using mobile phone data for measuring the information society, as well as some of the challenges and limitations in the use of this new data source.</p> <p>Outcome: The session showcased approaches to help improve access to data, build statistical capacities of, and funding for, national statistics offices.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <p>Ms Esperanza Magpantay Senior Statistician, ICT Data and Analytics Division , International Telecommunication Union (ITU)</p> <p>Ms Ruaa Alshehhi Data Analyst, Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre, United Arab Emirates</p> <p>Mr Laurent Sarr Chief Technology Officer , Global Voice Group</p>
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Mr Trevor Monroe
Senior Program Manager
Development Economics Data Group, The World Bank

Moderator

Ms Julie Ssali
Manager of Mobile Forecasting and Modelling , GSMA Intelligence

11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 - 12:00	<p>ITU's new statistical tools and initiatives</p> <p>Session introduction: Discover how ITU assists stakeholders throughout the data lifecycle with innovative products and activities.</p> <p>Outcome: The ITU DataHub was presented, and the Dashboard for Universal and Meaningful Connectivity was launched during the session. The session also demonstrated the new tool that ITU used to collect data from Member States. In addition, an overview of two training courses on the ITU Academy, one on ICT access and use by households and individuals and one on Telecommunication/ICT indicators was also given.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <p>Mr Thierry Geiger Senior Economist and Head of the ICT Data and Analytics Division, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)</p> <p>Mr Fredrik Eriksson Data Scientist ICT Data and Analytics Division , International Telecommunication Union (ITU)</p> <p>Mr Nathan Menton Statistician ICT Data and Analytics Division, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)</p>
12:00 - 12:30	<p>Information session: update on the ICT Development Index (IDI)</p> <p>Outcome: This session provided an update on the process for developing a new ICT Development Index (IDI) and report on the progress.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <p>Mr Thierry Geiger Senior Economist and Head of the ICT Data and Analytics Division, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)</p> <p>Mr Daniel Vertesy Economist ICT Data and Analytics Division , International Telecommunication Union (ITU)</p>
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 - 15:30	<p>Tracking trends in ICT use and ownership: insights from the Expert Group on ICT Household</p> <p>Session introduction: The ITU Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) reviews global experiences to improve statistical indicators measuring ICT access and use by households and individuals. Their findings contribute to the ITU Manual for Measuring ICT Access and Use, which guides countries in conducting ICT household surveys.</p> <p>Outcome: This session highlighted the outcomes of the 9th and 10th EGH meetings held on September 13-15, 2021, and September 12-14, 2022. The meetings covered various topics, including updates on e-waste indicators, mobile money services, child online protection, OTT service indicators, and skills categories. The session also highlighted the importance of measuring ICT indicators for children and the experience of Bangladesh in implementing their ICT household survey.</p>

Speakers

Ms Linah Ngumba

Statistician

EGH Chair, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Kenya (Republic of)

Dr Daniel Kardefelt-Winther

Lead, Research on Children's Digital Engagement and Protection, UNICEF

Ms Syeda Marufa Shaki

Deputy Director , Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Bangladesh (People's Republic of)

Moderator

Ms Alana Gorospe Ramos

Chief of the Plans and Policy Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PPMED), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) , Philippines (Republic of the)

15:30 - 15:45

Break

15:45 - 16:30

The promises and perils of AI for statistics

Session introduction: As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to reshape our world, it holds the potential to revolutionize the ways in which we create, analyze, and present statistical data.

Outcome: This captivating and forward-thinking session addressed pressing questions surrounding AI's impact on data quality and the potential emergence of misleading or falsified statistics. The session focused on the merits, promises, and potential pitfalls of AI in the realm of data and statistics.

Speakers

Dr Emmanuel Letouzé

Director, Data-Pop Alliance

Moderator

Mr Alexandre Barbosa

Head , Regional Center for Studies

on the Development of the Information Society (Cetic.br)

linked to the Brazilian Network Information Center (NIC.br), Brazil (Federative Republic of)

16:30 - 17:00

Closing session

Speakers

Mr Amandeep Singh Gill

UN Secretary-General Special Envoy on Technology , United Nations (UN)

Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava

Director

Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Mr Bernard Banda

WTIS-23 Chair