

## **Third session of the Committee on ICT**

# **Item 6: Measuring progress: review of the targets and information and communications technology indicators of the World Summit on the Information Society**

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## Partnership on Measuring ICT – core list of ICT indicators

- Timely, relevant and accurate data essential for policy making
- WSIS called for harmonised data on ICT and creation of **Partnership on ICT for Development**, endorsed by UN Statistical Commission and ECOSOC
- Partnership developed a core list of ICT indicators on wide array of ICT issues (access and infrastructure, use by individuals and enterprises, education, e-government)
- Growing data availability thanks to Partnership efforts, however **significant data gaps remain**, especially in Asia Pacific
- Upcoming areas for measurement due to evolving nature of ICT and increased data needs of policy-makers include:
  - E-waste
  - Gender disaggregated data on ICT access and use
  - Trade in IT and ICT-enabled services
  - Economic impact of ICT use
  - Infrastructure networks (e.g. mapping of broadband networks)

## Core indicators reveal the nature of new digital divide

- **Mobile miracle:** mobile phone penetration rose from 25.8% to 81.9% between 2005-2011 on average for ESCAP. Spectacular catch-up in previously marginalised countries (LDCs, Pacific islands, landlocked)
- However, the **digital divides widens for broadband**
- Fixed broadband penetration growing slowly from 2.3 to 6.8% for Asia Pacific between 2005 and 2011
  - Asia Pacific has world's greatest divide between most advanced countries and less advanced ones
  - 10 best performers between 2005 and 2011 in terms of increased broadband are all high income countries
  - Large disparities in terms of tariffs. Even though prices have gone down significantly, they typically remain high relatively to income in the developing countries of the region



## Relatively low availability of ICT indicators

- Relatively **low data availability** beyond indicators on ICT access in Asia Pacific
- Indicators that are based on surveys (ICT use by households, individuals, enterprises) allow for crossing of ICT and other development variables, revealing more specific information on digital divide and allowing for more specific remedial measures
- However too few countries collect these core indicators systematically
- More coordination across national statistical systems could facilitate and improve quality of data collected (e.g.: using NSOs' sampling frameworks)
- ESCAP-IDD and Statistical Divisions will organise a Side-event to Committee on Statistics on the issue of improving coordination on 14 December 2012

Connecting economies  
and empowering people

## Review – measurement of WSIS targets

Review is a set of commitments and to **measure WSIS outcome**

Review to evaluate this outcome. The Partnership developed a set of indicators to measure attainment of these targets.

Review of WSIS outcome will be based on these indicators

Review (with UN regional Commissions) to assist the review by existence of these data in member states

Review data will be sent to WSIS national focal points on 23 October 2011.

Review could be facilitated if member states could fill and return questionnaires to ESCAP before end of year.

Review in cooperation with ITU and other members of the Partnership, intergovernmental meeting to review and coordinate the activities on WSIS implementation

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