



Measuring the Information Society



2012

I n t e r n a t i o n a l T e l e c o m m u n i c a t i o n U n i o n

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Foreword

It is my pleasure to present to you the 2012 edition of *Measuring the Information Society*. Now in its fourth year, this annual report draws on innovative and authoritative benchmarking tools developed by ITU to monitor information-society developments worldwide as well as to provide valuable information for use in formulating evidence-based policies and in effective peer learning.

The report presents the *ICT Development Index (IDI)*, which ranks countries' performance with regard to ICT infrastructure and uptake, and the *ICT Price Basket (IPB)*, a unique metric that tracks and compares the cost and affordability of ICT services. This edition also features new data series and analyses concerning revenue and investment in the ICT sector, and proposes a new methodology using non-conventional data, to measure the world's telecommunication capacity.



The past year has seen continued and almost universal growth in ICT uptake. Much of this enhanced connectivity is due to the rapid uptake – a 40 per cent rise in 2011 – of mobile-broadband subscriptions, to the point where there are now twice as many mobile-broadband as fixed-broadband subscriptions. The surge in numbers of mobile-broadband subscriptions in developing countries has brought the Internet to a multitude of new users. The report nevertheless notes that the prices for ICT services remain very high in many low-income countries. For mobile broadband to replicate the mobile-cellular miracle, 3G network coverage has to be extended, and prices have to go down further.

Indeed, the disparities in ICT development between countries remain substantial, with IDI values that are on average twice as high in developed compared to developing countries.

I trust that the data and analysis contained in this report will be of great value to the ITU membership and others working towards building an inclusive global information society. I am pleased to note that, overall, considerable strides have been made since the launch of the 2011 edition.

Brahima Sanou
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