

# **Producing ICT indicators in developing countries: challenges and initiatives**

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The follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) requires, as any other international agreement, a monitoring and evaluation system consisting of a set of agreed indicators. A core list of ICT indicators was proposed by the international community and endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission, including 48 indicators on ICT infrastructure, ICT access and use by households and businesses, the ICT producing sector, international trade in ICT goods and use of ICT in education. For National Statistical Systems, the production of statistics for the calculation of these indicators represents a challenge, with organisational, technical and resource implications. OECD member economies have produced ICT indicators since the late 1990s, but the availability of ICT data is still low in developing countries. Global initiatives have been put in place for building capacity for the production and dissemination of ICT statistics, such as the activities of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development. This paper discusses first the main organisational and technical challenges that developing economies face in relation to the production of ICT indicators. In the second part, the paper makes suggestions on how these challenges could be addressed presenting relevant national and international activities undertaken to strengthen the statistical capacity for measuring ICT.