Indicator 17.8.1

Indicator Name, Target and Goal

Indicator 17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet

Target 17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Definition and Rationale

○ Definition

Proportion of individuals using the Internet

○ Concepts

The Internet is a worldwide public computer network. It provides access to a number of communication services including the World Wide Web and carries e-mail, news, entertainment and data files, irrespective of the device used (not assumed to be only via a computer - it may also be by mobile telephone, tablet, PDA, games machine, digital TV etc.). Access can be via a fixed or mobile network.

○ Rationale and Interpretation:

The Internet has become an increasingly important tool to access public information, which is a relevant means to protect fundamental freedoms. The number of Internet users has increased substantially over the last decade and access to the Internet has changed the way people live, communicate, work and do business. Internet uptake is a key indicator tracked by policy makers and others to measure the development of the information society and the growth of Internet content – including user-generated content – provides access to increasing amounts of information and services.

Despite growth in networks, services and applications, information and communication technology (ICT) access and use is still far from equally distributed, and many people cannot yet benefit from the potential of the

Internet. This indicator highlights the importance of Internet use as a development enabler and helps to measure the digital divide, which, if not properly addressed, will aggravate inequalities in all development domains. Classificatory variables for individuals using the Internet –such as age, sex, education level or labour force status – can help identify digital divides in individuals using the Internet. This information can contribute to the design of targeted policies to overcome those divides.

Data Sources and Collection Method

Communications Usage Trend Survey

Method of Computation and Other Methodological Considerations

○ Computation Method

Percentage of respondents to the Communications Usage Trend Survey who are aged 6 years or older and have used the Internet within the past year (excluding non-responses)

○ Comments and limitations

Based on a sample survey targeting those aged 6 years or older

Data Disaggregation

By sex, age, and region

References

http://www.soumu.go.jp/johotsusintokei/statistics/statistics05.html

Custodian Ministries of Data

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Custodian Ministries of Related Policies

Digital Agency

International Organizations

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)