United Nations Statistical Commission
Fifty-third session
Item 3 (q) of the provisional agenda
Items for discussion and decision: information and communications technology statistics

Document E/CN.3/2022/21 – Report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development

Statement provided by:
USA (United States of America)
Statement:
The United States (U.S.) welcomes the report on the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development and supports the many recommendations included therein. We endorse the revised list of core indicators for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) goods and services, including the need for increased data on ICT infrastructure and access. In December 2020, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) published a paper, "Measuring Infrastructure in BEA's National Economic Accounts," that emphasized the growing importance of non-traditional infrastructure assets – specifically ICT goods and services. Moreover, BEA continues to proactively support global initiatives to advance the measures of the digital economy, including the creation of a handbook on compiling Digital Supply-Use Tables. The Census Bureau and the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics recently collected data through the Annual Business Survey on the diffusion among U.S. firms of advanced technologies including artificial intelligence, cloud computing, robotics, and the digitization of business information. We also agree with the report's conclusion that the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need to implement revised guidelines to improve the availability and quality of ICT indicators. The pandemic illustrated the potential of non-traditional digital solutions to support critical activities, including education and health care services. The need for better indicators to track access and the use of these ICT products is evident. Finally, we also support ongoing efforts to explore the use of alternative data, including administrative data, big data, and data-sharing arrangements. The pandemic highlighted this need as traditional methods fell short under rapidly changing economic conditions. Moreover, the need for accurate, timely ICT statistics was critical for policymakers and other users of these vitally important economic statistics.

Submitted on:	2/25/2022