

CHAPTER 6: SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS GATHERED FROM OPINIONS

6.1 Recommendations

The findings of this report and other related issues has led us to the following recommendations for the use of the results in subsequent preparation and finalization of country report on ICT development, access, usage and exploitation in The Gambia and also the creation of good database for future updates. The following are recommended, among others:

- ✚ One of the major concerns we faced during the Scan-ICT survey was the lack of Statistics in most of the institutions visited. The little information that was available was often not systemised. Therefore, we would like to recommend that government be assisted on creating institutional awareness on the importance of ICT statistics in public institutions.

- ✚ In general we found many indicators that could not be measured, due to either lack of reliable data, or no data available at all in some areas. In such cases, we had to rely on our own knowledge to provide generic evaluations. The next ICT survey should consider the possibility of revisiting those cases to consolidate the evaluation made during the pilot phase. Subsequent ICT surveys will be conducted by Gambia Bureau of Statistics with a view to establishing consistent methodology for data production relating to ICTs.

- ✚ Due to time limitations, the project was unable to consolidate a formal national ICT network for regular update of the ICT Database. Therefore, a frame for the different sectors need to be developed and put in place and, be updated regularly to help both in the design and analysis of ICT surveys.

- ✚ Administrative sources can also be exploited which would rely on the cooperation of sector coordinating agencies and their subordinate institutions. Appropriate forms could be designed for each sector which should be completed by institutions at certain time interval and for a specific reference period and then submitted to GBoS for processing.

- ✚ It will be also important to assess the need for specific information in relation to ICT by different sectors in the country and the level of use and dissemination of the existing information sources including the ICT Database. Create a dynamic ICT Database instead of the current static version. This task could not be accomplished during the pilot phase due to time constraints.

To achieve the above goals and for successful policy formulation, the GBoS should therefore have within its bureau personnel to coordinate the necessary working arrangements.

6.2 Conclusion

In conclusion, results from the different surveys on different sectors – from household sector to public and private sectors – points to the fact that it is feasible to conduct these surveys and be able to obtain reliable estimates. However, there should be commitment and cooperation on the part of all the sectors so that both the data collection mechanisms and design approach are as relevant, cost-effective and consistent as possible.

ICT statistics is a new area on which there is on-going research on common methods of measurement and survey approaches. Therefore, GBoS needs support in terms of building its capacity to undertake well designed survey and general administration of data collection, analysis and reporting on ICT surveys.