

**Smart Sustainable Development Model (SSDM) Initiative**

**Third Advisory Board Meeting, 11 October 2015**

**Budapest, Hungary**

**Statement by José Manuel Toscano**

**Acting Chairman, SSDM Advisory Board**

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Good morning to you all. Welcome to the third SSDM meeting. First and foremost, I wish to express my personal thanks and that of the SSDM Advisory Board to the Director of the BDT, Mr. Brahima Sanou, and to ITU Secretary General Mr. Houlin Zhao, for their hospitality here in Budapest.

Today I am acting as Chairman of the Advisory Board on behalf of the Hon. John Nasasira, Minister of Information and Communications Technology of Uganda. Unfortunately, he is unable to attend this meeting due to health issues. I would like to thank him for his leadership and support at all stages of this Initiative. As you all know, he has worked tirelessly on this Initiative and I am sure we will all miss him today. I would suggest that we send him our best thoughts for a complete and quick recovery through the SSDM secretariat.

I would also like to extend my thanks and appreciation to each of the three Task Forces and their leaders Mr. Christian Roisse, Ms. Donna Bethea-Murphy and Mr. Flavien Bachabi, for their diligent work this year. I would appreciate if you could transmit to all the members of your respective Task Forces our appreciation for their assistance. Additionally I would also like to recognize the rest of the Advisory Board for their contributions and efforts.

As you may know, this cycle of the Advisory Board is about to end. We all started this journey 2 years ago and I believe we accomplished a lot during this period. Let me remind you of the latest developments of the SSDM initiative. After last December's meeting in Doha, we published a Report which focused on the link between ICT for Development and ICT for Disaster Management and how these play a role in sustainable development. The Report urged, inter alia, governments to make telecommunication infrastructures more resilient to disasters, especially in developing countries that are vulnerable to economic and social issues. In addition to the Report, we approved an Action Plan to guide the implementation of the SSDM Initiative.

As a way forward, the Advisory Board created three new Task Forces last December to develop innovative recommendations that will assist to achieve the objectives of the Action Plan. Each Task Force has worked diligently in creating innovative recommendations.

The Advocacy and Global Dialogue Task Force, led by Mr. Christian Roisse, focused on linking ICT for Development and ICT for Disaster Management. The objective was to illustrate the social, financial and economic benefits of investing in ICT for disaster management. Moreover, it proposed organizing global

dialogue events that would bring together different stakeholders to discuss issues related to the SSDM Initiative.

The Innovation Task Force, led by Ms. Donna Bethea-Murphy, reviewed current practices and developed ideas to improve the delivery of ICT for development and ICT for disaster management projects, optimizing the use of scarce resources.

The Resource Mobilization Task Force, led by Mr. Flavien Bachabi, was responsible for exploring new and appropriate funding models for the SSDM initiative. It also analyzed strategic partnerships that may lend financial and resource based support to the Initiative. The objective was to identify the most relevant investment models to proceed with the Initiative.

I thank all who contributed to these three reports. Your valuable input in each report certainly captures different elements of your professional know-how and experience. Since we are a group of people from diverse backgrounds, with the three reports, we were to provide a blend of expertise that was expected from us. This is an important achievement for our Board. I strongly believe that it will be an important reference to guide all interested stakeholders.

I would like to give all Members additional time to review the three reports. Please send your comments to the SSDM Secretariat by mid-November. We will then compile all observations and come up with one final version of each report. This will be shared with the Director.

We are now closing a very important cycle at the SSDM initiative since the term of this Advisory Board is coming to an end. I hope that all of you have enjoyed those 2 years that we have worked together. I wanted to thank all of you for your support, contributions and time devoted to the SSDM initiative.

Thank you very much for your dynamic involvement today. We have discussed the reports from the three Task Forces and the future work of the SSDM Initiative. Our deliberations today proved how important this initiative is for ICT4D and ICT4DM, especially for the well-being of human beings around the world. I am confident that the steps we have agreed on in this session would bring us closer to the objectives that we intend to achieve.

As Ambassadors of the SSDM Initiative, please take the opportunity to share and promote our work.

Thank You.