

INAUGURATION MEETING

**THURSDAY 15 JANUARY 2015
ITU HEADQUARTERS, GENEVA**

FRANCOIS RANCY

**DIRECTOR, RADIOCOMMUNICATION BUREAU
INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)**

EXCELLENCIES,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

- Good morning and let me add my thanks to you for coming to our inauguration and I wish you all an excellent 2015!
- It is an honour and a pleasure to continue to serve the ITU Membership for the coming four years, under the leadership of Mr Houlin Zhao, as part of a very united team of elected officials.
- The ITU Radiocommunication Sector has a key role in managing the radio frequency spectrum and in particular in ensuring a stable international regulatory framework for the development of radiocommunication networks, including broadband mobile, broadcasting and satellite services, but also scientific and exploration services which will determine the ability of mankind to cope with climate change.
- This year will be marked by the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference, [WRC-15](#), which will pave the way for the harmonious development of all

radiocommunication services in the future. It will also be marked by the deadline for switchover to digital television broadcasting on 17 June, for Region 1 countries and Iran. This represents a critical milestone for making available the spectrum resources corresponding to the digital dividend, a key contributor to reducing the digital divide.

- I am looking forward to working with you to make these two milestones a new success for all of us.
- Thank you.