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Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

26 February 2018

ITU Headquarters, Geneva

*Welcome Remarks*

Chaesub Lee

Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau
International Telecommunication Union

ITU Deputy Secretary-General, Malcolm Johnson

Chairman of TSAG, Bruce Gracie

Distinguished colleagues and friends,

Good morning and welcome to this meeting of TSAG.

I would like to thank TSAG for its contribution to the efficiency of the ITU-T standardization platform.

I have been glad to see the strong will and energy with which ITU-T members have responded to the directives of WTSA-16.

Our 5G studies continue to accelerate. We have approved a first suite of 5G standards covering terminology, network management and orchestration, network softwarization, and fixed-mobile convergence. We can expect to see many more – 5G projects are gaining momentum in a variety of our Study Groups.

We have made considerable progress in our work to provide regulators with technical guidance in QoS and consumer protection.

We have approved new standards on VoLTE interconnection, a key contribution to high-quality voice communications.

Our programme to ‘bridge the standardization gap’ between developed and developing countries continues to grow in strength. ITU members have been especially welcoming of TSB’s new training programme to enhance delegates’ skills in Study Group participation.

We are always in search of new opportunities to expand the assistance that we offer to our members from developing countries. This work is essential to the inclusivity of ITU – we are working to ensure that ITU standards deliver value to all regions of the world.

I would also like to highlight the significance of the new ITU Journal: *ICT Discoveries*. The long-term vision of academia helps ITU to prepare for the future. The first special issue of the journal will assist ITU-T experts in preparing for the influence of Artificial Intelligence on their standards work.

I was very pleased to hear Malcolm highlighting ITU-T’s work to create an environment for ICT innovation to flourish in vertical markets.

We aim to support all innovators in achieving their ICT ambitions. We are seeing key results emerging from the years of effort that we have dedicated to building new partnerships.

ITU-T achieved a net increase of 14 new memberships in 2017, including 9 new Sector Memberships and 21 new Associates.

We are seeing new ITU-T memberships being taken up by companies in the automobile and insurance industries, as well as emerging market segments in IoT and M2M.

The ‘Financial Inclusion Global Initiative’ and the ‘United for Smart Sustainable Cities Initiative’ have provided vehicles for collaboration in two fields of critical importance to sustainable development.

I have been glad to see the great vision with which ITU-T is supporting digital finance and smart cities. Here we are seeing ICTs introducing new opportunities to improve the quality of life enjoyed by billions of people worldwide.

ITU-T’s work on data processing and management is yet another field of work with potential to support a very broad scope of innovation. Our contribution to data management is a contribution to smart governance, data-driven business, and all forms of sustainable development. We also see widespread recognition that efficient data management will be critical to the success of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence.

I would like to conclude by thanking ITU-T members for their dedicated contribution to ITU standardization.

We have approved more than 270 new and revised ITU-T standards since the last meeting of TSAG.

We continue to achieve key results in fields characterized by ITU leadership. And we continue to take proactive steps towards ensuring that ITU remains well positioned to serve emerging standardization demands.

Speaking for TSB, our Study Groups department is always in search of new opportunities to help members maximize the value of their participation in ITU-T. This includes support for effective participation from developing countries through the BSG programme and Regional Groups.

Our Operations and Planning department continues to innovate to provide ITU-T members with state-of-the-art electronic working facilities.

Our communications, membership and workshops divisions are providing valuable support to ITU-T Study Groups in raising the profile of their work and attracting new participants.

TSB management takes every possible opportunity to meet with members to discuss their priorities – this helps us to deliver valuable TSB services. I look forward to our discussions of what more TSB can do to ensure that our services meet your needs.

I wish you all the best in your standards work this year as well as every success in your preparations for Council and PP-18.

Thank you.

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