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Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

23 September 2019

ITU Headquarters, Geneva

*Welcome Remarks*

Chaesub Lee

Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau  
International Telecommunication Union

Chairman of TSAG, Bruce Gracie

Distinguished colleagues and friends,

Good morning and welcome to this meeting of TSAG.

TSAG is the guardian of the ITU standardization platform. Its ultimate aim is to make ITU the world’s most valuable venue for ICT standards development.

I thank you all for taking on this significant responsibility.

ITU-T is supporting digital transformation in areas ranging from energy and transportation to healthcare; financial services; and smart sustainable cities.

We have seen a sharp upward trend in ITU-T membership. We have welcomed 41 new members this year, and this follows 45 new members last year.

New ITU-T members include companies in energy and utilities; shipping and logistics; mobile payments; over-the-top applications; automotive; blockchain; quantum communications; and Artificial Intelligence or Machine Learning.

We have spent many years building new partnerships, bringing ICT decision-makers together with decision-makers in other sectors.

We have promoted inclusive dialogue, helping new partners to move forward on a basis of mutual trust and understanding.

This hard work is bearing fruit. We have created the conditions necessary to deliver influential ITU standards for sectors such as automotive, healthcare and fintech.

The ITU standardization platform – for many years central to building trust in the ICT sector – is now helping the ICT sector build trust with its many new partners.

Here we receive valuable support from open platforms such as Focus Groups and collaboration initiatives like the AI for Good Global Summit, the Financial Inclusion Global Initiative, and the United for Smart Sustainable Cities Initiative.

These platforms bring together a wide range of stakeholders to understand their respective roles in supporting emerging ICT innovation – they have helped to clarify the contributions expected from ITU standardization.

Three Focus Groups have concluded their activities since the last meeting of TSAG.

Study Group 20 will consider the output of our Focus Group on Data Processing and Management. This meeting of TSAG will consider the output of our Focus Groups on Digital Fiat Currency and Distributed Ledger Technology.

The work launched by these Focus Groups will continue in our Study Groups, but we also see emphasis on the need for broader collaboration.

For example, a new partnership between ITU and Stanford University will provide lab environments to support pilot implementations of Digital Fiat Currency.

Blockchain experts are also highlighting that our standards work in this domain will receive valuable support from ITU’s efforts to accommodate SMEs and start-ups.

This meeting of TSAG will consider proposals to establish two new Focus Groups in support of Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Information Technologies.

I wish you all the best in your efforts to decide our response to these proposals.

Distinguished colleagues,

Year 2020 is fast approaching. And we are approaching WTSA-20.

In the years following 2020, ICT-enabled innovation is expected to drive unprecedented digital transformation. We see major changes in business dynamics as well as our daily lives.

And this is the lens through which we should approach our preparations for WTSA-20.

I hope to see an influential WTSA. I hope to see WTSA setting goals for 2024 with a view to supporting ICT innovation through 2030 and beyond.

Consider the changing dynamics of ICT innovation. Consider the progress achieved in ITU-T’s support for various vertical markets. Consider the many new communities joining ITU-T.

WTSA-20 is a key opportunity to ensure that ITU-T remains well positioned to serve emerging standardization demands.

TSAG will of course play an important role in our preparations for WTSA and I wish you every success.

To open this meeting of TSAG, it is now my pleasure to give the floor to our Chairman, Bruce Gracie.

Thank you.

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