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Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

10 February 2020

Popov, ITU Headquarters, Geneva

*Welcome Remarks*

Chaesub Lee

Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau
International Telecommunication Union

Secretary-General Houlin Zhao

BDT Director Doreen Bogdan-Martin

TSAG Chairman Bruce Gracie

Distinguished colleagues and friends,

Good morning. It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to this meeting of TSAG.

Indeed, as Mr Zhao highlighted in his opening remarks, year 2020 brings with it strong winds of change.

The approach to WTSA-20 is a time to reflect on what we have accomplished and craft our vision for the future of ITU-T.

We are seeing tectonic shifts in the technology landscape, shifts that are giving rise to major transformations in business dynamics.

All industries and public-sector bodies hold a stake in the future of ICT.

Inclusivity is more important to ITU-T’s work than ever before.

We aim to be a valuable partner to all ICT innovators, and in today’s world, achieving this aim calls for new modes of collaboration and concerted efforts to welcome new communities to our membership.

I have encouraged our members to approach WTSA-20 with a strong spirit of innovation. And I am very glad to see our members adopting exactly this spirit.

Our discussions about the structure of ITU-T are gathering momentum.

We see clear will among our members to innovate; to ensure that ITU-T continues to delivers unique value to the ICT market.

Our ultimate aim is to develop high-quality international standards using an efficient, inclusive standardization process.

Our work must support ICT growth and innovation across a wide range of industry sectors, and it must bridge development divides as well as gender divides.

Standards, due process and community – these are the three key pillars of ITU-T, and WTSA is our opportunity to strengthen these pillars.

I am looking forward to an influential WTSA.

We see strong growth in our collaboration initiatives in areas such as artificial intelligence, financial services and smart cities.

We see increasing demand for Focus Groups.

We see standards experts experimenting with new ways of working, strengthening the relationship between standardization and open-source projects.

The winds of change have grown very powerful, and it is for WTSA-20 to decide where these winds will take us. I wish you every success in this endeavour.

I would also like to join Mr Zhao in thanking India for its kind offer to host us in Hyderabad this November. We very much appreciate your generous hospitality.

Colleagues and friends,

I would like to conclude by thanking our members for their dedicated contribution to ITU standardization. We continue to achieve key results in fields characterized by ITU leadership. And we are proactive in addressing emerging standardization demands.

Speaking for TSB, we are always in search of new opportunities to help members maximize the value of their participation in ITU-T.

We continue to innovate to provide ITU-T members with state-of-the-art electronic working facilities. And we continue to investigate new opportunities to strengthen our BSG programme.

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.

To Bruce Grace and his TSAG management team, I express my gratitude for all that you do to protect and nourish the ITU standardization platform. I am grateful for your support.

Thank you. I wish you a most successful meeting of TSAG and strength to your arm for your preparations for WTSA.

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