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ITU Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

11-18 January 2021

*Welcome Remarks*

Chaesub Lee

Director of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau  
International Telecommunication Union

Secretary-General, BDT Director, BR Director

TSAG Chairman

Distinguished colleagues and friends,

Welcome to this first meeting of TSAG in 2021 and I wish you a happy New Year. I hope that you and your families are all in good health and good spirits.

From our experience of 2020 we take confidence that we will meet our targets for 2021.

All online, ITU-T meetings and open events are welcoming a greater number and diversity of participants than ever before.

Last year, we approved over 350 new or revised ITU standards, and another 49 new members joined ITU-T.

In December, we established two new Focus Groups on autonomous networks and AI for natural disasters.

December also saw the publication of the first issue of the new ITU Journal on Future and Evolving Technologies, and we look forward to five upcoming special issues in 2021.

We have entered a new partnership agreement with UN-Habitat as part of work together in support of smart cities, and we also welcome our new ITU-ISO-IEC Joint Task Force for smart city standardization.

And in November as part of G20 activities hosted by Saudi Arabia, ITU, ISO and IEC led a Call to Action for the recognition, support and adoption of international standards in light of the global challenges we continue to face.

These challenges have highlighted the enduring importance of ITU’s work. We see the need to achieve a trusted ICT environment able to support social and economic development in all regions of the world – WTSA will ensure that ITU-T remains well positioned to build this trust.

I would like to join our Secretary-General in highlighting my gratitude to India, our generous host for WTSA. Your commitment is highly appreciated.

With the new WTSA dates in 2022 and current dates of WTDC in 2021, the BDT Director and I are working closely to coordinate our preparatory processes.

Let me conclude by thanking our TSAG Chairman, Bruce Gracie, and all TSAG participants for your support. I thank you and wish you a most successful meeting.

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