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| ITU logo | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  **TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**  STUDY PERIOD 2017-2020 | | | **TSAG-TD1067** |
| **TSAG** |
| **Original: English** |
| **Question(s):** | | | N/A | E-Meeting, 25-29 October 2021 |
| **TD** | | | | |
| **Source:** | | | Director, TSB | |
| **Title:** | | | TSB Director Opening address at the TSAG meeting, 25 October 2021 | |
| **Purpose:** | | | Information | |
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ITU Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

25-29 October 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,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this meeting of TSAG, and I hope that you and your families are all in good health and good spirits. My sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General and fellow directors on their warm remarks showing worked as one team “OneITU.”

This year we have approved over 200 new and revised standards, and we have had the pleasure of welcoming 35 new members to ITU-T.

Our Study Groups and Focus Groups continue to see valuable results emerging from their work to ensure the close alignment of Focus Group deliverables with associated standardization ambitions in Study Groups.

And our efforts to stimulate inclusive dialogue and support new partnerships continue to bear fruit.

The AI for Good digital platform is now well recognized as the world’s premier platform to advance AI applications for sustainable development.

The second edition of the ITU Challenge on AI and machine learning in 5G has maintained the strong momentum created by its ground-breaking first edition in 2020.

And building on many years of ITU support to innovation in mobility, earlier this month we established a new AI for Road Safety initiative together with the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Road Safety and Envoy on Technology.

The Financial Inclusion Global Initiative has produced authoritative guidance set to deliver benefits for many years to come, and we are seeing rapid growth in the number of regulators and companies seeking out the services of our new Security Lab for Digital Financial Services

The collaboration driven by the United for Smart Sustainable Cities initiative has led over 150 cities around the world to adopt KPIs based on ITU standards, and the initiative’s Implementation Programme is making an influential contribution to broader national strategies for sustainable development.

I am also pleased to highlight the ITU Journal on Future and Evolving Technologies is achieving exactly what it set out to, taking up a unique position in the research landscape with its publication of top-tier papers at no cost to authors or readers.

I thank you all very much for your support through the challenging times that we have navigated over 2020 and 2021.

I would also like to join our Secretary-General in highlighting the importance of WTSA in demonstrating ITU’s commitment to cooperation and consensus.

I associated with Secretary-General’s warm words about thanks to India to support the Union.

WTSA is key opportunity to strengthen ITU’s unique value as an inclusive international platform, where all voices heard as we build consensus on how advances in ICT should factor into our future.

This is a platform that the world cannot do without, one that grows in importance day after day – the pandemic has made this clearer than ever.

I thank our TSAG Chairman, Bruce Gracie, with the managements as well as all TSAG participants for your contributions to this meeting and I wish you every success this week and in your preparations for WTSA.

Thank you.

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