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| A black and white logo  Description automatically generated | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**TELECOMMUNICATIONSTANDARDIZATION SECTOR**STUDY PERIOD 2022-2024 | TSAG-TD420 |
| TSAG |
| Original: English |
| **Question(s):** | N/A | Geneva, 22-26 January 2024 |
| **TD** |
| **Source:** | Director, TSB |
| **Title:** | Opening address at TSAG Meeting, 22 January 2024 |
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**Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group**

**Geneva**

**22 January 2024**

***Welcome Remarks***

**Seizo Onoe**

**Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau
International Telecommunication Union**

TSAG Chair

ITU Secretary-General

Colleagues and friends,

Good morning and welcome to Geneva. I wish you all a very happy New Year.

Let me begin by thanking you for the support that you have offered me throughout my first year in office. It's an honour to serve you as TSB Director and I am very much looking forward to our work together in 2024.

I would also like to join our Secretary-General in highlighting my gratitude to India for hosting our upcoming WTSA. Our first Assembly in Asia is certain to be one to remember.

I thank Shri Ritu Ranjan Mittar for your commitment to chair WTSA as well as Shri Ajay Kumar Sahu for joining us today as we open registration. We highly appreciate your support.

Our preparations are well underway.

Last week, I had the pleasure of opening the first inter-regional meeting for WTSA preparation, and we see on our agenda for this week that TSAG and our study groups are firmly focused on achieving a productive WTSA.

WTSA is a key opportunity to ensure that our strategy, structure and working methods are fit for the future. We need to continue evolving in tune with the always fast-evolving ICT industry.

We are supported by WTSA-20 Resolution 99 on the consideration of organizational reform of our study groups, and our structure will be one of the key points of discussion at this meeting of TSAG.

Our work must be efficient, effective and focused on global impact. Our platform must be attractive to all expert communities. And our trusted standards must help everyone to benefit from the latest advances in ICT.

WTSA comes amid increasing recognition of the role that standards play in shaping global technological progress.

Advances in fields like AI and quantum information tech will continue to drive global debate around hopes and fears for our high-tech future.

We are seeing increasing emphasis – from a wide variety of stakeholders – on the importance of standards supporting human rights and responsible AI.

ITU has a responsibility to build trust in ICT and help everyone benefit from the tech innovation changing our world.

That's why we are so invested in building bridges between different areas of expertise and helping everyone to influence our work.

That's also why industry engagement, bridging the standardization gap and empowering women are among my highest priorities.

I plan to continue strengthening our CxO meetings, building on our productive discussion with industry leaders in Dubai last year. These meetings highlight emerging industry priorities, leading to a valuable exchange of views on the value that our standards can deliver.

We also receive key support from our focus groups, collaboration initiatives and problem-solving challenges – where we place ITU expertise at the service of converging industries and regulators, and the next generation of ICT innovators.

Our work to bridge development and gender divides is key to ITU's mission and values. I very much encourage you to join tomorrow's BSG information session and Network of Women breakfast to discuss the future of our work together in these areas.

I thank our TSAG Chair Abdurahman Al Hassan and his leadership team for your expert guidance of TSAG's work, as well as everyone contributing to this work.

TSAG and WTSA help us to remain well positioned to meet emerging standardization demands, demands that are growing and evolving very rapidly.

I wish you every success in your work to ensure that we rise to the challenge.

Thank you.

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