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ITU Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

Geneva, 29 July 2024

*Welcome Remarks*

Seizo Onoe

Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau  
International Telecommunication Union

TSAG Chair Abdurahman Al Hassan

Secretary-General Doreen Bogdan-Martin

BDT Director Cosmas Zavazava

Deputy to the BR Director Joanne Wilson

Colleagues and friends,

Good morning, and a very warm welcome to you all. It’s a great pleasure to see you all again.

At the recent meeting of SG15 in Montreal, I was reminded that this year marks 40 years since ITU first standardized optical fibre.

Just 40 years…

Think of how much we depend on optical fibre today. Think of how much we have built together, and how rapid our progress has been.

It’s remarkable.

We have created enormous value by working together on ITU standards.

And with ICTs now impacting the biggest issues of our time, we are welcoming new stakeholders.

Our collaborations are growing, in areas from AI and machine learning to virtual worlds, smart cities, health, financial services, agriculture, and climate and disaster resilience.

With our focus groups, collaboration initiatives, partner standards bodies, and fellow UN agencies, we are stimulating new business and innovation ecosystems – many with huge potential to drive sustainable development.

Discussions at our recent AI for Good Global Summit emphasized that technical standards and capacity building will make foundational contributions to global AI governance.

It’s clear from the number of AI standards projects underway that ITU members are committed to meeting these high expectations.

And when it comes to capacity building, I know that ITU members contributing to TSAG share my commitment to issues such as strong industry engagement, bridging the standardization gap, women’s leadership in ICT, standards supporting human rights, and welcoming the next generation of consensus builders to ITU.

WTSA will consider our value, our growth, our new partners, and our increasing support to developing countries – and we will work to ensure that they are well connected, working in synergy, and all contributing to the future we want for ITU.

The future we want will call for the right priorities and strategy, and the right supporting structure and working methods.

I thank India once again for hosting us.

Our first WTSA in Asia promises to be especially memorable, and it also has the potential to be especially impactful.

I thank our Chair Abdurahman Al Hassan, the larger TSAG management team, and everyone contributing to TSAG for your outstanding service to ITU.

I wish you a most productive meeting and every success in your final preparations for WTSA.

Thank you.

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