ITU FORUM ON 'TOWARDS 5G-ENABLED GIGABIT SOCIETY'

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ATHENS, GREECE

WELCOME REMARKS

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Excellency Nikos Pappas, Minister of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media, Greece
Vassilis Maglaras, Secretary General for Telecommunication and Post, Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media, Greece
Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, European Commission

Distinguished colleagues
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. It is a great pleasure to address this ITU forum to discuss the route towards a 5G-enabled Gigabit society.

Let me begin by thanking our generous host, the Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media of Greece. We have received a very warm welcome. I thank you for your great hospitality.

As we approach 2020, one of the most important areas of ITU work will be our international standardization of 5G systems.

In 2012, ITU established a programme on "International Mobile Telecommunications for 2020 and beyond, IMT-2020", providing the framework for 5G research and development worldwide.

ITU members have defined the framework and overall objectives of this standardization process, as well as the roadmap to guide this process to its conclusion by 2020.

ITU is applying the same process used to coordinate the standardization of IMT-2000 (3G) and IMT-Advanced (4G) systems. This process has a proven track-record of success and reliability befitting its importance.

It is a highly cooperative process that closely involves all Member States; industry; mobile operators; and research and standardization bodies of national, regional and global scope.

At this Athens forum, we will discuss national policies and strategies relevant to 5G. We will explore the evolution of regulation. We discuss spectrum requirements. We will look at technology development and supporting standardization. And we will debate business challenges and opportunities, for the ICT sector as well as sectors such as automotive and smart cities.

This ecosystem view is critical.

The 5G vision is one of great possibilities. We speak of highly reliable services to all end-users; trusted communications supporting innovation in all industry sectors; automated driving; industrial robotics; advanced virtual reality, and much more.

Making this vision a reality will demand contributions from a wide range of technical and policy communities.

This Athens forum brings these communities together to discuss our respective contributions to the 5G ecosystem.

Inclusive discussion helps us to play to our unique strengths. Inclusive discussion ensures that we make mutually reinforcing contributions to ICT innovation.

This is the philosophy underlying ITU's approach to 5G.

Working together, we can build a trusted 5G environment able to support social and economic development in all regions of the world.

Thank you. I wish you a most successful Forum.