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WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION ASSEMBLY

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

CLOSING CEREMONY

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>> REINHARD SCHOLL: Ladies and gentlemen, we are starting to finish now.

>> CHAIR: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate ‑‑ have been seated, let's give them a moment so everyone will be in their seats.

Thank you. Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to the Closing Ceremony of the WTSA 2012. Now that we've concluded all the matters and all the subjects on our agenda, the relaxing part remains, the Closing Ceremony and the thank you notes. We hope that you've enjoyed the two weeks of hard working within Dubai. I think it's time for you to enjoy the remaining of the week and the weekend, and the leisure and pleasure of all the exciting places in Dubai.

Without any further ado, I would like to invite the Director General of the United Arab Emirates Telecommunications Regulatory Authority to give us his speech. Thank you.

>> MOHAMED AL‑GHANIM: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, Your Excellency, the Secretary‑General of the ITU, Mr. Director General, Mr. Director of the TSB, ladies and gentlemen, when the events of the WTSA started, we had placed great hopes of the outcomes that we would arrive at, and today, as this session draws to a close, we hope that the Resolutions reached and the decisions taken will see implementation. We look forward to greater achievements in the area of telecommunication and further development of this Sector in different parts of the world with special emphasis on the developing countries. Developing countries are in need of assistance, of help to try and resolve several economic, health, educational, and social problems.

We in the United Arab Emirates, in cooperation with our colleagues in the ITU, aspire to provide the necessary assistance to these developing countries, and through the WTSA and other events, we aim to improve our technical capabilities, improve manpower, and use standards to improving the quality of services, reducing costs, and granting developing countries the opportunity to make the utmost of bridging the digital gap and to enable the peoples of these nations to achieve prosperity.

Ladies and gentlemen, with the conclusion of the work of this session of the WTSA in 2012, allow me, on behalf of the United Arab Emirates, to extend my sincere thanks to the ITU and namely, the Secretary‑General for his efforts to ensure that the ITU will play the supporting role to make this meeting a success on the territories of the UAE and I'd like to thank the Secretary‑General personally for his special endeavors in all areas. I'd like to thank Mr. Malcolm Johnson the Director of the TSB for his constructive role, and I would like to thank all members of the Secretariat of the ITU, the staff, the interpreters, for their excellent work.

I would like also to thank the President of the WTSA, Mr. Mohammed Gheyath for his distinguished performance and the role he played in bringing views together, reaching compromises, achieving consensus on several issues. I'd like to greet him and I would like to say to him, you have done us proud and you have led this meeting to an important success.

I would like to thank all representatives of the TRA here in the United Arab Emirates for their support. I'd like to thank the staff who are working hard behind the scenes to ensure the success of this session.

Ladies and gentlemen, in a few days time, we will celebrate the 41st anniversary of the National Day of the UAE, and I would like to use this opportunity to extend congratulations to His Royal Highness, the ruler of ‑‑ the President of the United Arab Emirates, and the ruler of Dubai, and all the rulers of the Emirates under the umbrella of the UAE.

Thank you once again for having accepted our invitation to participate in this important event, and I wish you had a pleasant stay in our territory. Thank you, and God bless you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Your Excellency. I'd like to invite Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Director of TSB, to give us his remarks, please. Thank you.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Director General of the TRA, Secretary‑General, Deputy Secretary‑General, Director of the Radio Bureau, Director of the Telecommunications Development Bureau, distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, we're coming to the close of the 2012 world Assembly for ITU‑T's ‑‑ ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Sector.

After more than a year of preparatory meetings around the world and 10 days of very full and intense hard work here in Dubai, I believe I can say that WTSA 12 has been a great success. There have been differences of view on some subjects, but we've all been united by the desire to support ITU‑T and its efforts to meet its strategic objectives.

This world Assembly has been built on the decisions made in Johannesburg, strengthening our mandate in many ways, and initiating new areas of work. During this world Assembly and the Global Standards Symposium that preceded it, the importance of collaboration and cooperation with other standards bodies and the vertical sectors has been emphasized, recognizing the competitive forces and the many challenges that ITU‑T faces.

I'm pleased that we now have a new Review Committee as a forum with the time to discuss these issues seriously, and come up with suggestions on how ITU‑T, as the only truly global ICT standards body, can best ensure that it remains the place to come to develop international standards.

The strength of the ITU‑T compared to other standards bodies is in its membership. No other standards body has the unique combination of 193 Member States, and around 430 Sector Members and associates, as well as our new academia members. This diverse membership ensures that ITU‑T standards are truly international, non‑discriminatory and meet the needs of the full membership, whether in developing countries or in developed countries.

This is why the growing participation of developing countries in our work is so important, and I'm pleased to see the impetus given in the efforts to bridge the standardization gap in the revised Resolution 44. On that note, I'd like to highlight again the fund that was set up after Johannesburg to support developing country participation in our work. The Bridging the Standardization Gap Fund has had four contributors: The Korean Communications Commission, NSN, Microsoft, and Cisco, and I'm pleased to say that we now have a new contributor, Canada. So thanks to Canada.

Let me take this opportunity to repeat my plea yesterday and encourage others to contribute to this fund. Participation at this world Assembly was the best we've ever had, almost 1,000 participants from over 100 countries. We've appointed 4 new Chairmen, and a total of 50 new Vice‑Chairmen. I congratulate them all, and myself and my colleagues look forward to working with them closely to meet the expectations of the World Assembly.

We will hold a tutorial for the new Chairmen and Vice‑Chairmen in Geneva on the 10th to the 11th of January, to go over the rather complex working procedures that we have in the Sector, to ensure that they're all well prepared to take on their new responsibilities. And I very much hope that the experienced Chairmen and Vice‑Chairmen will come along to that event so as to pass on their knowledge and experience.

Although unfortunately for this study period we do not have a woman Chairman, we do have a number of new women Vice‑Chairmen, and I'm confident that at the next World Assembly, we will have candidates for women Chairmen.

Over the last 10 days, we've worked in 5 Committees, 4 Working Groups, 17 Ad Hoc Groups, 11 informal groups. They've worked through 240 documents, often into the night and over the weekend. This Plenary has adopted 49 revised and 10 new Resolutions, and 6 new recommendations. Following many years of collaboration with the ITF, I was very pleased that the 2 recommendations on MPLS‑TP, which urgently required by operators to increase network efficiency and reduce costs were approved.

We also approved a key recommendation on management of network access devices. In addition, 7 of the A‑series recommendations which guide our work have been revised, and in particular, A.7 on focus groups, which now allows the TSB to support focus groups.

During one of the 3 side events we held during the Assembly, we launched a new innovation challenge for the design of an app that would improve the social and economic inclusion of underserved communities, with a prize of $5,000 kindly offered by NSN.

This is the latest in an ongoing series of challenges which we started last year to encourage innovation. We have adopted the first‑ever ITU‑T Resolutions on e‑health, software defined networks, e‑waste, and the engagement of academia in our work, among many other important Resolutions. We have made significant changes to Resolution 76 on conformity and interoperability, and given the task to Study Group 11. I believe this puts us on a much better footing to take this very important programme forward in the next study period with the help of our industry members.

A Revision of Resolution 34 on voluntary contributions will hopefully encourage more financial contributions to TSB's work, increasing the funding will be essential if we are to implement the decisions of the world Assembly, and so I would encourage our Member States and Sector Members to consider providing TSB with some voluntary funding.

Over the last 12 months, the ITU Secretariat has participated and helped organise, together with the regional organisations, the many preparatory meetings, and these meetings not only prepared for WTSA, but also the World Conference on International Telecommunications starting next week. In order to inform the membership of the outcome of the World Assembly, we're willing to cooperate with the regional organisations to organise information sessions on the results, and to discuss how we can implement in the region the decisions taken.

I'm pleased that APT has already invited us to participate in a joint ITU‑APT seminar for the regions provisionally on the 7th to the 8th of March next year.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to express my sincere thanks to you. Your calm and assured approach created a conciliatory ambiance and I'm sure all the Delegates here today felt a successful conclusion in your hands. I would also like to thank the Vice‑Chairman of the Assembly, the Chairmen and the Vice‑Chairmen of the Committees and the Working Groups and the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Groups and the informal groups and especially our hard working Editorial Committee.

I wish to express not just my own personal appreciation but the appreciation of the Secretariat to all the participants for the huge amount of effort that you all put in to ensuring a successful Assembly. I would also like to express my appreciation and thanks to my colleagues, especially the Secretary‑General, for his unfailing support, and the other elected officials, all of whom attended WTSA‑12.

I'd also like to thank the staff of the TSB, the BR, and the BDT, the Directors of the regional offices, as well as the staff of the general Secretariat who all worked very hard to ensure a successful conclusion.

I'd also like to thank the interpreters and the translators and the captioners, both here in Dubai, in the U.S. and in Geneva, and all the 602 local staff who have worked so hard to ensure a smooth‑running Assembly.

Last but not least, it gives me great pleasure to express my thanks to our hosts for the magnificent job they've done. We know just how complicated organising an event of this size can be. We have enjoyed a wonderful level of hospitality and support, and I know that everyone here will join me in expressing our gratitude to them for that.

In particular, I would like to express my thanks for the wonderful reception we enjoyed on the beach at Jumeirah which was kindly sponsored by Du who were also kind enough to provide mobile phones for all the staff and officials of the ITU. I'm sure that night will retain as a fond memory for all of us.

I'd also like to announce that a DVD has been prepared by the hosts with some of the key features of this Assembly, including the Director's presentation in all six languages, and some very nice photos that were taken during the 10 days, and you should be able to find that DVD in your pigeonhole.

I hope that will be a nice souvenir to take home.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you all very much for your participation and your contribution to the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2012. For those of you leaving Dubai, I wish you a very safe journey home. For those of you that are staying for the WCIT, I hope you'll find time to recharge your batteries.

Thank you, Chairman, and I wish you and all your colleagues a very enjoyable National Day.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. I would like now to invite His Excellency Dr. Hamadoun Touré, the Secretary‑General of ITU, to give his final remarks. Thank you.

>> HAMADOUN TOURÉ: Mr. Mohamed Al‑Ghanim, Director General of TRA, Mr. Mohammed Gheyath, I should have started with His Excellency, your father who is here in this room, Mr. Gheyath Al Gheyath, very proud father of a great son. And I would like to welcome you in this room. Please give him a round of applause.

[ Applause ]

Distinguished Heads of Delegations, distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, fellow elected officials, Director of TSB, in particular, as this event draws to a close, I would like to reflect on the importance of ITU's standardization work. But before, I would like to thank the United Arab Emirates. Many Delegates said here during these two weeks that Dubai is one of the most fascinating cities in the world, and you have proved it.

[ Applause ]

I would like therefore to congratulate United Arab Emirates for a very successful event due to excellent facilities, highly professional staff, legendary hospitality, and above all, peace, stability, security, and social and Economic Development that we see all around us.

So as this beautiful country is celebrating the 41st anniversary of its Union, which is why we are all wearing the proud flag of United Arab Emirates today, I would like with your permission to send a message of congratulations to His Highness, Khalifa bin Zeyed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, and congratulate him for this beautiful anniversary.

[ Applause ]

Thank you very much. Under the excellent stewardship of the Director of TSB, Mr. Malcolm Johnson, I'm sure you've all seen the body language up here of the elected officials from the Deputy Secretary‑General to the Directors of TSB, Director of BR, and Director of BDT. This has been a team work. The results that we see in all of these things is a result of team work which is not only the result is important, but the journey with which we are taking it is equally important, and you have proven it also in the deliberations here, so I would like to thank you very much.

Ladies and gentlemen, under the stewardship of the Director of TSB, Malcolm Johnson, ITU‑T has led a new era of standards production that truly embraces the hyperconnected world that we live in today. As well as taking into account convergence between the Information Technology and telecommunication worlds, we are now seeing a trend toward defining ICT standards for vertical sectors, enabling e‑health, intelligent transport systems, mobile banking, and smart grid, among others, and Mr. Malcolm Johnson has just in detail have already given you the report of this wonderful successful meeting.

I can safely say that ITU standards for broadband are a vital component of the Information Society today, and will continue to be a vital important for the knowledge society that we are dreaming of. Indeed, the broadband services that we have come to rely on would simply not work without standards providing the access technology to homes and businesses, and the transport mechanisms to carry information from one side of the world to another.

ITU standards gave most people the taste of the Internet, their first taste of the Internet, via simple modems, ISDN, also standardizing ITU. Then the Internet became the technology of choice. ISDN was arguably opening up a whole new experience for a whole new generation of Internet users. ADSL in its many variations are also standards authored by ITU experts who are here present in this room.

New techniques are emerging for telephone companies to maximize their investment in copper wire and so‑called bounding and vectoring techniques are now emerging to increase even the super fast ITU standard VDSL2. If you are lucky enough to have an optical fiber connection to your home, then it won't surprise you to know that ITU is active here, too, fiber to home. FTTH standards are also being produced here in ITU‑T.

At the heart of the network, the so‑called transport domain ITU standards focus on new methods to make the most of installed fiber optics, technologies such as wave division multiplexing, WDM, were in ITU allowing many carriers to share the same optical fiber. If you are watching a video on Youtube or conducting a secure transaction on the Web, the chances are that you are using an ITU‑T recommendation.

The rapid increase in global IP traffic demands that operators can maximize their investment in existing networks, while also preparing for the future, our experts, our members also have their ears to the ground in order to detect what's coming up on the next ‑‑ what is coming next on the ICT horizon. And when I say ITU members, it's private Sector, the 700 or so companies that are Sector Members of the Union, and their Governments that are all part of it.

I would like to take this opportunity both to thank them and to congratulate them on these past achievements. What you have achieved here in the last 10 days, and what we will achieve in the future, this makes me very proud indeed.

Ladies and gentlemen, now that WTSA‑12 is nearly over, we can focus on the next study period with confidence that the decisions made here in Dubai will provide focus to our work and facilitate the best mechanisms for that work to take place. We managed to emerge from this Assembly with very little conflict or controversy. This is the true spirit of ITU. Indeed, consensus building is at the heart of what we do, and has been doing ‑‑ and this has been our guiding principle during the last two weeks.

You have proved again, ladies and gentlemen, that ITU is a place where East and West meet. ITU is a place where North and South come together, that we all come together for a common good, because we all have one thing in common, this planet earth, and we have to make it a better place for living.

And I would like to hope that I will be able to say the same in a little over two weeks time at the end of WCIT 12. I see the faces brightening, shining here today at the end of this 10 days of experience. I've seen the same faces over and over again at many ITU conferences, and I have no doubt that WCIT starting tomorrow ‑‑ on Monday will be no exception.

I would like to congratulate all of the new members of the Study Group management teams, and wish them every success in their new roles, and of course, I cannot forget the outgoing Chairmen and Vice‑Chairmen for their great commitment and invaluable contribution over the past years.

I congratulate their countries, as well as their numerous companies that have put forward their candidature. All of them have done so with an admirable and honest intention to satisfy their time and resources, and provide expertise to the Union with its aim to connect all citizens of the world.

My thanks go to all of you who have worked hard in the various Committees and Ad Hoc Groups, our Emirati hosts did their utmost to help achieve the results that we see here and to help each and every one of us make the best of our tame here in Dubai, and I'm extremely grateful for the support. Please give them a hand.

[ Applause ]

The team here worked together with ITU team, and I can see how bright the future of this country is. You have a great leadership that just in 41 years took this great nation to where it is today. And I can see on the faces of the younger generation that are here in this room that they're looking to the future with confidence and competency. They're all well educated and know where they want to take their country and the rest of the world and that pleases me a lot.

My thanks go to all the ITU staff, the interpreters, who once again proved that they are our greatest asset. I noted the very kind words of many of you during this conference toward the ITU staff, be it those in the Secretariat to work for some of your Committees and Study Groups, be it those behind the scenes working hard, as well, and it makes me proud to be leading this great organisation with such a competent staff. And I would like to thank them again and ask them to continue to do the great job that we are doing.

Those of you who have expressed those thanks, those kind words, publicly or privately to me have been heard and relayed to our staff, and I can tell you those words of encouragement are only for us a new way of asking us to continue to do more, and we all understand it loud and clear.

Distinguished Delegates, we've had an eventful Assembly here serving as a prelude to new and exciting period for ITU and standards work. So let me thank you all. I should not forget the people who have worked behind the scenes, from the drivers to the cleaners, from the security staff to the support staff in other matters. They all made our time here useful.

As Malcolm has noted many times ‑‑ noted, many of the Assembly's notable achievements, I will not repeat them all. We have adopted many key Resolutions, including those on e‑health, software defined networks, and e‑waste, and so on. I share Malcolm's enthusiasm for the establishment of a Review Committee to ensure that ITU‑T's structure will continue to meet the needs of the continually evolving and converging ICT landscape. This will be very important in this increasingly complicated ICT World.

In addition, I applaud the many revised and new Resolutions that focus on increasing collaboration and a new Resolution that will help us explore how to better recognize the contributions of academia. Again, one very important group of stakeholders that you recognized earlier at the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2010 in Guadalajara.

And just days away from the World Conference on International Telecommunications, WCIT‑12, the adoption of the Resolution inviting Member States to refrain from taking any unilateral and/or discriminatory action that could impede another Member State from accessing public Internet sites underlines ITU's commitment to a free and inclusive Information Society. This could send a strong message to the international community about accusations that ITU's membership wishes to restrict the freedom of speech. Clearly, the opposite is true.

It is in this spirit, fostering an Internet whose benefits are open to all, that I would like to head into WCIT 2012. Revised Resolutions on technology watch, Climate Change, international naming, numbering, addressing and identification resources, Internet Domain Names and addresses, security, WSIS, IPv6 will serve to refine our Han date in these important issues.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me reserve my warmest gratitude for our Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my dear brother Mohammed, thanks for your able guidance and your confident leadership, patience and humor. We have been able to steer a clear course through some turbulent waters.

On this great moment, and I can proudly say in the presence again of your father, Mr. Gheyath Al Gheyath, that I have the pleasure to present to you the ITU medal in recognition of your work here and your constant support of ITU over the years. I truly believe we have emerged from this Assembly with renewed strength and confidence that will help us maintain ITU's role as a key player helping to define the next generation of ITU ‑‑ next generation of ICTs and connecting the world.

Mohammed, I would like to invite you to join me here so I can give you the ITU silver medal.

[ Applause ]

[ Applause ]

I get very emotional when I know that Mohammed's father is here. It pleases me. It reminds me of my younger days at primary school when they were calling our parents at the end of a year for the end of the year prizes, the spark that I was seeing from my father's eyes have stayed forever with me and continue to accompany me today. So again, congratulations.

[ Applause ]

Ladies and gentlemen, the result of the last two weeks and the manner with which they have been achieved are equally important, and I would like to congratulate you all. I expect you all next week, those of you who will not be with us at WCIT, I wish you a safe return back home. Again, I reiterate the fact that I am proud that ITU is a place where east and West come together, north and south meet again, all together we come discuss and agree. This is a true society in all its diversity complementarity, and above all the spirit of compromise as we all share again this little planet earth.

Let's continue to work together. I thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Your Excellency for the kind words. Before I start my speech which is in Arabic I would like to request the interpreters to bear with me for additional 5 minutes. I'll give my speech and I would they'd you because it's in Arabic. Then I would request who would like to have the floor to give their remarks in English, please, because we've stretched the times ‑‑ the time allocated for the interpreters beyond their limits now so we appreciate if you give us another 5 minutes.

 in the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, may the peace and mercy of God be upon you and upon his prophet.

His Excellency Mr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary‑General of the ITU, Mr. Zhao, Deputy Secretary‑General of the ITU, Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, Mr. François Rancy, Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, Excellencies, and also Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director of the BDT, all of you ladies and gentlemen, heads and members of participating Delegations at the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly in Dubai, for the past two weeks, the city of Dubai has hosted the proceedings of this Assembly. I trust that you have enjoyed your stay in the city and I trust you've enjoyed the many sites to be seen here, the many landmarks and sites of which the United Arab Emirates is proud and for it is famous.

I hope you've managed to do that despite the fact I know you've been extremely busy during this Assembly.

On the occasion now of the National day of the United Arab Emirates, which falls on the 2nd of December, on your behalf and on behalf of ITU, I would like to extend to His Highness Sheik Khalifa bin Zeyed Al Nahyan, the President of the UAE, and to His Highness Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President of the UAE, and also to their Highnesses the members of the supreme Council of the UAE and indeed to the noble people of the Emirates, I would like to extend to all of them on your behalf and on my own behalf our heartfelt wishes for progress and prosperity in the future and I ask God Almighty to bestow further progress on us all and continue to bless us with peace and security.

Ladies and gentlemen, two weeks ago you honored me by entrusting me with the task of Chairing this Assembly. It was indeed a great responsibility because this Assembly had to undertake many tasks born of four years of considerable effort, labor and study.

I will not hide from you the fact that when I assumed the Chairmanship the words of support and encouragement I received from His Excellency Dr. Touré and also Mr. Mohamed Al‑Ghanim, the Director General of the TRA, greatly facilitated my task and they really encouraged me a lot and spurred me on to strive to the very best of my ability to be equal to the honor conferred upon me.

I sought to be worthy of that great honor. And I did that in order to seek to achieve the best possible results serving the common interests of Member States and the ITU‑T.

At that time outset, I would like to extend profuse gratitude to the UAE for the confidence shown in me by nominating me for to the Chairmanship of this Assembly. I am to represent my country at this major international gathering which is being held for the first time in the Middle East. In this regard I must single out for special thanks the Board of Directors of the TRA and its Director General, Mr. Mohamed Al‑Ghanim. I thank them for giving me the opportunity for serving as Chairman of the Assembly. It is an honor of which I am proud, and which I hope represents a duty that I have discharged in a way that befits the TRA and indeed brings honor to it.

The TRA played a very significant role in hosting such a high level international event.

Ladies and gentlemen, the responsibility which you placed upon me was not an easy one. Many important and sensitive subjects were before this Assembly and the time available to address them was very short. I would like to state here that I greatly appreciate your constant presence, your wise counsel, and the valuable advice that you gave me, in particular, I'm grateful for the precious advice given to me by the ITU Secretary‑General, Dr. Touré, throughout this meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen, allow me here to address you wearing two hats, so to speak. One in my capacity as representative of the UAE, and the other as Chairman of the sixth WTSA. I would like to take this opportunity of extending sincere gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Touré. I would like to say how greatly I have appreciated the remarkable work done by ITU during his mandate. All of this has undoubtedly helped to strengthen the ITU and has contributed to fostering its leading international role in our Sector.

And I know that Dr. Touré is still striving to achieve more with a clear and sharp strategic vision serving the interests of all ITU Member States. I believe without any doubt that Dr. Touré's legacy in promoting ITU will not be forgotten. It will indeed go down in the annals of the ITU. Thanks also are due to Mr. Zhao, the ITU Deputy Secretary‑General for the way he has constantly supported me and supported the work of this Assembly. And also for his efforts in support of the administration and development of the ITU as a whole.

Similarly, I am grateful for the support given to me by Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Director of TSB, throughout the work of this Assembly. I am especially grateful to him for his support, because he was able to propose appropriate solutions to me in the light of his experience of working in the ITU‑T Sector.

On your behalf, I would like to extend heartfelt gratitude and thanks to Mr. Johnson for all of the remarkable work that he has conducted during his two terms of office at the helm of the ITU‑T Sector. Indeed, during this time, the work of the Sector has taken a significant leap forward, and we have seen a constant increase in the number of Sector Members. Despite ITU‑T's limited resources, Mr. Johnson has been able to achieve many significant results, drawing on his vast experience of the work of the Sector.

Furthermore, thanks are due to the Committee Chairmen and the Vice‑Chairmen who have spared no effort over the past two weeks in seeking to complete the work entrusted to them competently and efficiently. They have also thereby greatly facilitated my task in the Plenary meetings, and in fact, we had a minimum number of square brackets in the documents that came to us, which made our life much easier.

And thanks go to all of you, ladies and gentlemen, for your efforts and your consistent commitment to the work of the Committees. I have certainly benefited greatly from your expertise, which has been so evident during your contributions and discussions. I thank you for the flexibility you have shown throughout discussions and debates, your acceptance of the opinion of others, your willingness to listen to others, your willingness to accept compromises and this was evident during group meetings and in Plenary sessions.

Ladies and gentlemen, this two‑week gathering has consolidated all of the tireless and unstinting work done by ITU‑T Study Groups over the past four years. In this regard, speaking as Chairman of this Assembly and also speaking on behalf of all of you, I wish to express deep and sincere gratitude to the Chairman and Vice‑Chairman of the TSAG and also to everyone who participated in its work. Thanks go to the Chairmen and Vice‑Chairmen of the ITU‑T Study Groups and to everyone who participated in the work of those groups. I thank them for their great efforts and constant endeavors over the past four years. These efforts were effective and generated positive outcomes that facilitated our work here at the Assembly, and that helped us to produce a large number of recommendations and Resolutions in the interest of all.

We appreciate the generous gesture made by the Director of the TSB in awarding a certificate of appreciation to Chairmen of ITU‑T Study Groups as a token of appreciation for their efforts in leading the work of ITU‑T groups, and I do not forget our debt of gratitude to the member administrations which gave their experts the opportunity of leading those groups and participating in the work, although we're all fully aware of how busy they are. I'd like to extend profuse gratitude to the UAE administration for its huge efforts in hosting this session. I extend particular thanks to the unknown army of people who worked night and day behind the scenes preparing for this Assembly. In addition to the considerable burdens and duties of their day‑to‑day jobs.

I would single out for special mention my friend and colleague Tariq Al Awadhi for his constant support before and during the conference and for all of the advice and suggestions that he gave me. Thanks to his expertise he passed on to me a lot of the wisdom he had acquired in the course of his Chairmanship of the world Radiocommunication conference held in Geneva earlier this year.

And his successful Chairmanship of that conference resulted in everyone who took part in it recognizing his skills and qualities. I cannot fail to mention the considerable efforts deployed by ITU in preparing for this conference, this WTSA, and I would like to extend thanks and appreciation to the ITU Secretariat and its administrative and technical services. As we know they always operate at a very high level of efficiency in the performance of their duties and in the management of ITU meetings and conferences, and I thank them once again.

I'm very grateful to the interpreters. They were always patient and ready to work with us throughout the Assembly, even when sometimes we exceeded normal working hours. So thanks go to them. I also wish to thank the Secretariat staff and my Secretaries in particular, who supported me throughout the Assembly, special thanks are due to Madam Judith Quist for her indispensable efforts and support. She was an enormous help to me in organizing and coordinating my office business here over the two weeks of the Assembly while I was busy with many side meetings.

Last but not least, ladies and gentlemen, allow me in closing to extend to you all the gratitude and appreciation that I feel. This is really a duty that I owe out of thankfulness, fidelity and devotion. I would like here to express my thanks to my parents, my parents who have supported me throughout my life, who have always been there for me, who have helped me and supported me, thanks to their love in achieving the success that I have been lucky enough to achieve. May God protect them and remain with them.

Nor can I forget the considerable support and help I have received from my wife and children, who have encouraged me and been patient with me throughout the days of the conference itself and throughout all of the preparatory period. The way they helped me and stood beside me was the best support I could have. They have all of my thanks, appreciation and all of my love. I thank them from the depth of my heart.

Ladies and gentlemen, it was very ambitious on the part of the UAE to think about hosting this Assembly, but through the TRA, we were able to make our dream a reality. All of this was possible thanks to tireless work, constant effort, and thanks to the support of Allah, with the help of Allah we have indeed been enabled here this year to host three international ITU events in Dubai. ITU Telecom World was held in October at the Dubai world trade Centre. We are also honored to be hosting and Chairing this, the sixth WTSA, and as you know, the World Conference on International Telecommunications will be held very shortly here in Dubai. In fact, this is a conference that has not been held since 1988 when it was held in Australia. And I think that that endorses the fact that we are able to host events of this type. Thanks to the wise leadership of Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the country. And in fact, I would like to conclude my statement by quoting him. He says, it's a fine thing to dream of the future but we are not content with dreams alone. We strive and endeavor to achieve them. Ambitions are great but dreams are greater. May the peace and blessing of God remain with you all.

[ Applause ]

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Now the interpreters may be excused if there are any further requests from the floor for any further remarks, we'd appreciate if the remarks are made in English and thank you interpreters for your support until now.

South Africa, please.

>> SOUTH AFRICA: Chairperson, I would also like to echo some of the sentiments that have been expressed on behalf of the Africa group. I doubt whether I can match the eloquence of the words that have been spoken, but I think it's important to restate anyway. That we are greatly appreciative of your efforts in leading this conference. In fact, the outcomes, the successful conclusion is due in no small measure to your excellent leadership.

So we would also like to thank you and your family for that. We would like to also thank your country through you Chairperson for the excellent hospitality we've received and for the facilities both during the Assembly and in this amazingly modern city of Dubai, in which we've been very comfortable, Chairperson.

We know that the success of the conference of course was also excellent due to the excellent team you had around you, so we'd also like to thank the Vice‑Chairs and the chairs of the Committees, and also those who were brave enough to Chair the Ad Hoc Groups, because you never quite know when those meetings are going to finish and if you're going to have to time to attend to your personal matters like eating and sleeping and contacting your families. So a special thanks to them, too.

Of course, this conference and the work of the ITU has excelled under the leadership of the Secretary‑General, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, and his team who are here present today, Dr. Malcolm Johnson, Mr. Rancy, and Brahima Sanou from the development Sector. We have a slight regret at this moment that we know that this may be the last WTSA for our Secretary‑General in his current role, and it also may be the last WTSA for Malcolm Johnson in his current role. So we have to say a very special word of thanks for the excellent progress that's been made in this Sector under their leadership.

[ Applause ]

I do hope neither of you are thinking of retiring as yet because I believe the Sector still needs your attention and your wisdom. So we expect to see you, whatever role you come back in, both of you.

I would also like to echo the words that would were stated about I think it was stated by the Secretary‑General and by the host country, by the Chairperson, about the uniqueness of the ITU as a standards‑making body based on the participation of Member States and also of the industry. I think it has a critical role, and critical within that role is the continued participation and the strengthened participation of developing countries. And I'm glad that we've been able to make progress in facilitating their participation.

I should remind all Delegates that Africa is a Continent that is rising. It is rising politically and economically, and it needs to play an increasingly important role in standards. And I believe that the progress we've made will accommodate that, and it will be for everybody's benefit globally.

I would also like to mention the sensitivity with which the meetings were conducted and thank all the Delegates. I think everybody made an exceptional effort to accommodate each other's views and, it was highly appreciated. I'd like to wish good luck to the Chairs and Vice‑Chairs of TSAG and the Study Groups and the Review Committees. It is up to all of us now and ITU of course to implement the decisions that have been made. So just to repeat lastly, Chairperson, we are greatly indebted to you and to the host country for hosting this conference, and we believe it's been a great success. Thank you very much, Chairperson.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, South Africa. Japan, please.

>> JAPAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to express our appreciation for your excellent Chairmanship in this WTSA‑12. We are very happy that we could conclude this Assembly very successfully even when we had difficult and sensitive issues. It's all thanks to your excellent guidance and leadership.

We also would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for hosting this Assembly in this Dubai. With your wonderful hospitality we all enjoyed staying in this city for two weeks.

With the number of decisions we have made at this Assembly, the new study period will start and it is widely recognized that the cooperation and collaboration with other standardization bodies becomes crucially important for ITU‑T and for everyone. We are very pleased that the Assembly decided to establish a Review Committee, and we believe that it helps to enhance cooperation and collaboration with other standardization bodies. Such cooperation and collaboration will be necessary to facilitate better infrastructure and services of telecommunication in the world, and Japan would like to continue our contribution and to work together with all stakeholders in the new study period.

Last but not least, we would like to express our gratitude to all the participants who participated and contributed to this Assembly, in particular Chairmen and Vice‑Chairmen of Study Groups and TSAG and Committee Chairs, ad hoc and Drafting Group Chairs, as well as all elected officials of ITU and ITU Secretariat for their very hard work which made this WTSA‑12 a very successful one. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Japan. As all deliberations will be in English, the interpreters team, you may be excused at your wish, please. So the remaining deliberations will be in English only. So you may be excused whenever you want.

China?

>> CHINA: English, I'm sorry. Two weeks meeting will be over. We liked this meeting very much. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Chinese Delegation to thank United Arab Emirates Government who provided very good service for this meeting, and also I would like to congratulate the 41 anniversary of the country, and I think through the Chairman's hard work and efficient work we make this WTSA‑12 successful.

And China again to thank Secretary‑General Touré and Deputy Secretary‑General Mr. Zhao and TSB Director General Mr. Johnson, and all the people around them, and around us to make the good efforts for this meeting.

And thank all the Chairmen and the Vice‑Chairmen in the different Committees to contribute a lot for the success of the meeting. And also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the interpreters, including the Chinese interpreters, for the hard work, efficient work for the success of the meeting and we are looking forward to the new period of research to have good cooperation with all the members of the ITU to push forward for the telecommunication and the ITU progress forward. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, China. Armenia?

>> ARMENIA: Thank you, distinguished Chairman. Distinguished Secretary‑General ITU, distinguished Deputy Secretary‑General, distinguished Directors, TSB, BR, BDT, I prepared a long speech in Russian, but now I promise to cut and just formulate my thanks, which is as follows:

Distinguished Chairman, first of all, on behalf of administration and Delegations of RCC, we congratulate you and all citizens of the United Arab Emirates with National holidays, and it is very, very pleasure to be here and express our view.

Mr. Chairman, Standardization Assembly under your very, very efficient leadership, identified volume and programme of studies for the next study period. The role of the ITU is an organisation where we are developing worldwide standards is convened once more and we may say and we may be proud that ITU follow as a leader in the development of the worldwide standards.

I would not like repeat all good words which was expressed by previous speakers. I would like to, through you, Mr. Chairman, congratulate and thank the Steering Committee Chairmen and all Delegates who did contribution on very difficult questions which have been considered at this Assembly.

Many, many drafting groups, Ad Hoc Groups was chaired by very competent Delegates, and therefore we thank all them. But nevertheless, promise to be very thorough, I would like to emphasize one important item. We are all in the information age, and our main purpose ‑‑ sorry ‑‑ objective of ITU, it's to provide technical, scientific and organisation for creation of the GII, Global Telecommunication infrastructure for the aim that anybody in any place in any time have wide band access to the necessary information.

And finally, we would like to thank all organisers, all teams. I will not list them all for their excellent conditions which we had during the work of whole Assembly. Thank you very much once more, distinguished Chairman. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Armenia. Iran, please.

>> IRAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful, I would like to at the beginning on behalf of my administration and also since I served as the Chairman of the APT preparatory meetings in which we had four of those meetings during the past years, to congratulate you on the excellent work that you did. I would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the Government and people of United Arab Emirates on this 41st anniversary, and for the excellent arrangements of this conference.

Mr. Chairman, we in the preparatory meetings of the Asia Pacific Telecommunity in which we had also the good support and presence of Director of TSB, Mr. Malcolm Johnson, who participated in some of our meetings, and we always had the support of TSB, came up with about 14 APT Common Proposals, and I'm very happy to see that in the last coordination meeting that we had here yesterday, we felt that most if not all of our recommendations, our contributions and proposals reached to successful results. This is due to your able Chairmanship and all those responsibility for the Committees and everyone who was involved in these arrangements, and we are happy with those outcomes.

I would like also to take this opportunity to thank all elected officials, particularly Dr. Hamadoun Touré and Mr. Malcolm Johnson, and all of the staff in ITU who worked very hard during these past four years in order to make arrangements to come to such fruitful results.

Mr. Chairman, at the end of these more than 10 days of hard work, we would like to express that this is not the end, but this is just the beginning for us and my administration, that we look forward with a lot of optimism and hope that these four years will be the ‑‑ this now we are beginning the start of four years of hard work for those Study Groups, and we wish our best for the Chairpersons and Vice‑Chairpersons of those Study Groups for the four years ahead of them, and wish them best. Again, thank you very much. God bless you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Iran. Saudi Arabia.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: On behalf of Saudi Arabia, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your able leadership and wisdom, and we also would like to thank His Excellency Mr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary‑General of ITU, Deputy Secretary‑General Mr. Zhao and Mr. Malcolm Johnson, the Director of TSB for their efforts during the Assembly. Also, I would like to extend our thanks to all who lead to the success of this Assembly.

I also would like to thank the distinguished Delegates for their collaboration and good spirit during the work of this Assembly. Please allow me in advance to congratulate the United Arab Emirates on the National day, and we thank them for their hospitality.

We wish you a continued success next week at the World Conference on International Telecommunication. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Saudi Arabia. Egypt?

>> EGYPT: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Arab group and the Arab standardization team, I would like to thank the Chair of the Assembly, the Secretary‑General, the Directors of the ‑‑ Director of TSB and the elected officials of the Union, the Chairs and Vice‑Chairs of the Committees and Working Groups on the great efforts exerted along the lengthy sessions of the Assembly in order to achieve consensus and Resolutions based on acceptable compromises that keep all parties equally happy, and equally ready to continue working in the next study period with a team spirit that enshrines the purpose and goal of the Union.

The Arab group would like to thank the respectful counselors who showed cooperation and flexibility in difficult times to reach consensus. We also congratulate the Chair and Vice‑Chair who have been elected to lead the Study Groups and the TSAG and the other groups wishing them all the success during the next study period.

Ladies and gentlemen, decision taken in this Assembly sustain for the Union and in particular, the T Sector is vitality and efficacy as a specialized U.N. Agency with special nature that can accommodate Member States, Sector Member associates, industry, academia and others and thus can raise the spirit of cooperation and collaboration with all organisations and those interested in standardization activities for assisting connectivity between people of the world by developing its networks and services with the latest technologies in harmonized and balanced way.

The target is a connected, peaceful and secure happy world. Last but not least, we reiterate our thanks to the United Arab Emirates for excellence organisation and generous hospitality and those who will be staying for the WCIT will enjoy for sure two more weeks of this kind hospitality in this lovely city.

Would not forget to can great late United Arab Emirates of their National event, wishing for them continuous progress, stability and prosperity. Thank you for the Government and administration of the United Arab Emirates for the ITU leadership and staff, and if you allow me that I will not forget also to thank the Arab group for the efforts in this Assembly, and for their contribution which approaches about 30 proposals, for the success of all people, and congratulate you once more for success of the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Egypt. France, you may have the floor, please.

>> FRANCE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of CEPT, I would like to say first that I didn't prepare any speech in English, so you will excuse me for what I will ‑‑ the way I will speak in English. I would like first of all to thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for the way you conducted this Assembly. And you have been able to make us take appropriate decisions, and also the way you have always heard the very ‑‑ sorry ‑‑ always heard the problems we had very carefully.

I would like to thank the United Arab Emirates for having organised this Assembly so well, with very good facilities, and having permitted us to visit the city of Dubai, which is really an incredible city.

Mr. Chairman, I think that CEPT is satisfied with the results of this Assembly, while of course we had to make compromise between different opinions, but I think that the decisions we have taken will lead us to have a full period of activity work in ITU‑T, and we will of course continue to help the Director of TSB as much as possible with ‑‑ in his activity.

Personally Mr. Chairman I would like also to say that after two mandates as Study Group Chairman I have to leave my mandate which is of course the rule, and I regret to ‑‑ not to be able to continue. It was a very great honor to elected as a Chairman of Study Group. I think I was the first woman to have this possibility, and while I regret is no other woman who applied to be Study Group Chairman but I think the future will be also better for the Chairmanship of women.

Mr. Chairman, again, thank you so much for your Chairmanship, and thanks also to all participants with the Assembly, the elected officials, the Chairmen of the Committees, Vice‑Chairmen and all people who have helped us and especially all the hidden people who have helped us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Madam. Your English was perfect. As Chairman of Committee 5, I thought you as Chairman of Committee 5 I thought you'd speak six languages, Madam. So English is not your problem. And I wish you all the best of luck. We hope to see you around at ITU more often.

Bahrain, you've got the floor, please.

>> BAHRAIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although my sentiments will echo those of my comrades who have already spoken, my appreciation for the efforts that have gone into the successful event are such that I feel I must give my own appreciation or my own compliments on this, as well. To begin with, I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your excellent management of this ‑‑ or Chairing of this event. I would like to thank the Secretary‑General, Deputy Secretary‑General, the Directors, the elected officials of ITU, the Chairs and Vice‑Chairs of the Committees and the Study Groups, both for the previous period and the upcoming period, and of course, the interpreters that have made all of this possible.

I would particularly like to thank the Government of the UAE for hosting this event and for the TRA for all the efforts that have gone into managing it. The comments I would like to add to the thanks that I've expressed reflect what goes into this event. Mr. Chairman, we've heard about the networks that we hope to set up, the standards we hope to establish, the progress that we want earth and the people on this planet to achieve. But, Mr. Chairman, I submit that this world is not made up of networks of technology. It is made up of networks of people.

We are Ambassadors of our countries. We are Ambassadors of our cultures, and while we may disagree on certain matters, while we may choose to take different approaches to solving problems, I submit, Mr. Chairman, that we have far more in common than the differences that we tend to focus on.

Throughout the last 10 days, there has been a real sense of cooperation, of collaboration, of trying to achieve something better, and it is my sincere hope that we carry forward this sense of camaraderie, and this sense of cooperation and collaboration into WCIT to make it an extremely successful event, and another feather in the cap for the UAE and a tribute to the efforts of the management team that have made this such a successful event. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Bahrain. Argentina?

>> ARGENTINA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank you and your country for having organised this successful Assembly. On behalf of CITEL, of course, we would like also to congratulate you for your 41st anniversary next 2nd December. And finally, to reiterate our commitment for working with the Union. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Argentina. Our last comments but not least from United Arab Emirates, the host country. Thank you.

>> MOHAMED AL‑GHANIM: Thank you, Chairman. And I would like first to thank everyone who thanked the UAE for hosting this important event, as well as their congratulations for the UAE 41st National day. As you know, it's a very dear date for us, the 2nd of December of every year, and just to let you know, there will be a lot of celebrations in different places. Pick up the schedule from the hotel that if you are staying for WCIT, and I really wish you all the best. Also, appreciation, thanks to Dr. Touré and the management team of the ITU as well as the Secretariat, the people who are behind the scenes, the UAE Delegation team who have been working very hard. A lot of people as much as many as you can see them here, there are a lot of people who are actually outside this hall who have been working very hard to trying to arrange to make our life easy.

The last thing I want to say is thanks to the Chairman of this conference, Mr. Mohammed Gheyath who have done a fantastic job in leading this conference to such a wonderful conclusion and he cannot just make us proud. He made us too proud of having him Chairing this conference, a person who we are really proud of from United Arab Emirates, and today is the ceremony that also his father is here with us witnessing such a fantastic milestone in the history of the TRA, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, and the UAE in hosting a very, very important standardization, global standardization event in the UAE and the beautiful city of Dubai.

One thing, the last thing I want to say is, I really hope for everyone who came here and will leave us back home to have a safe trip back home. As many as I want to have majority of you attend also WCIT next week, I wish you all the best, all the best in your trips with your families and for the people who are staying. Please enjoy the stay. Looking forward to seeing you next week and welcoming you again next week.

And thank you again, Chairman, for such wonderful work. Congratulations. You have done great for such a conference that it's going to be put in the history of the books of the ITU, as well as the Telecommunication Standardization Sector. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Excellency. So we have no further requests for the floor. We'd like to close the Closing Ceremony of the Assembly. With this, the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly of 2012 is closed. Thank you very much everyone. And have a good day.

[ End of Assembly ]

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