

1. What should be the key strategic priorities for ITU for the 2020-2023 period, taking into account the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals?

[Japan's comment]

We recognize the previous decade's achievements in information and communications technology connectivity, but many forms of digital divides still remain.

Towards achieving the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the key strategic priority for ITU for the 2020-2023 period is to ensure equal access and utilization of ICT for all people including education of digital literacy, and to contribute to improving the quality of life of people around the world.

2. What are the key technological trends ITU should consider while planning its strategy?

[Japan's comment]

In order to accomplish the key strategic priority mentioned in question 1, the technologies to support "ICT applications and services" (such as e-health, e-agriculture, e-learning, e-government and so on) are of growing importance. The key facilitator for "ICT applications and services" is private sector, therefore it is all the more important to involve private sector and all related stakeholders in developing and implementing ITU plans and to enhance the collaboration between three Bureaux, General Secretariat and other international organizations with a view to avoid duplication of effort and optimize the use of resources.

3. What do you consider to be the top three challenges for the ITU and the top three achievements you would like to see the ITU accomplish in the 2020-2023 timeframe?

[Japan's comment]

The first is to build an open and competitive market that encourages investment in ICT. This will promote affordable access.

The second is to implement the operational plans efficiently and swiftly by involving not only governments but also all related stakeholders, in terms of efficient financial and human resource use and more fruitful outcomes, considering ITU's severe financial situation. The important thing is that ITU plays the key role as the UN specialized agency. The third is to fulfil the core mandates of the Union as fundamental and essential ITU's activities by prioritizing in the 2020-2023 period. This will lead to an enhancement of the Union's presence among other international organizations.

4. Any other thoughts or comments you would like to make?

[Japan's comment]

As the UN specialized agency, ITU should be an effective constructor of consensus by having exhaustive discussions with transparency and fairness to members of the Union. This will increase the reputation of the Union as the UN family.