

Opening Speech to the Workshop on E-Government
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Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

It is my pleasure to open this workshop on “Challenges, perspectives, and standardization issues on E-Government”. I am pleased to welcome you all here.

The end of the 20th century witnessed a veritable explosion in communication and information technology: the rapid growth of the Internet and mobile telecommunication, the WTO basic telecommunications agreement, the worldwide trend of liberalization, globalization and the convergence of technology and services. The modern world is undergoing a fundamental transformation in all aspects of our lives, including knowledge dissemination, social interaction, economic and business practices, political engagement, media, education, health, leisure and entertainment. In my opinion, standardization plays a key role in making telecommunications accessible to all, thus fostering development and growth in all domains on a global scale.

All governments have a stake in the Information Society, whatever their level of national income or their infrastructure facilities. Governments are key for bringing the benefits of the Information Society to everyone through the development of national and global policies and frameworks to meet the challenges. The public Administrations should use ICT tools to enhance transparency, accountability and efficiency. As a matter of fact, many governments have already launched their e-government services. However, it seems true that all such projects are implemented separately from each other, since there are no global standards for such services. For the sake of efficiency, it is now time to seek the development of global standards for e-government. I am very pleased to share with you the fact that, during the preparation of the World Summit of Information Society

(WSIS), both the topic of e-government and the request to have global standards for e-government have received wide support from all regions of our planet, and the references to these two subjects are provided in the Draft Declaration of Principles and Draft Action Plan of WSIS.

The purpose of this workshop is to discuss the perspectives and issues on e-government solutions with a focus on standardization issues. I am pleased to see our distinguished speakers and guests who will share their views with us. We have also planned some round-table discussions to provide you with an opportunity to discuss with our panelists the issues you are interested in. I encourage you to actively participate in the discussions. I welcome any proposals or opinions you might have on this important topic on e-government.

To conclude my short opening remarks, I would like to acknowledge the excellent preparation work done by the ITU staff and the experts we have invited. I pay my particular thanks to the invited speakers and session chairs, whose contributions greatly enhance our workshop. I would like to thank you, dear participants, for your interest and your time in joining us at this workshop.

I wish you a successful meeting and a pleasant time in Geneva for the next two days.

Thank you for your attention.