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**Delivered in "Priorities of the Stakeholders" session on 15 July**
**Amb. Ms Lyndall Shope-Mafole (South Africa) in the chair**

**Delivery was shorter to come in under the 5 minutes limit for interventions in this session**

Thank you Mme Chairman.

The Reference document includes the input provided by the OECD. It includes nine selected specific points for the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action that we have worked up in consultation with our Member governments. The collective experience, success and failure stories of the 30 OECD Member countries of the past couple of decades are a rich source of material for global information society and the digital economy. We understand the Working document for this meeting includes only the comments from Governments of the UN Member States. That is why we expect the delegates of our Member countries to intervene, as appropriate, during the coming drafting sessions.

However, I feel it is important to re-state some general points made in earlier preparatory meetings and focus on areas where I feel the current texts need important change of emphasis to be credible as a launch pad for mobilising a truly global mass-participation information society. In addition, these points respond to a question repeatedly posed by ITU SG Utsumi in the recent months: What are the issues most likely to attract Heads of State, CEOs and Civil Society figures, lead to workable partnerships with enterprises and a workable Action Plan?

As I have previously stated, these are: the Economy; Security and Trust; and Development and Inclusiveness. The draft instruments still are inadequate concerning the economy, could improve significantly concerning security and trust and still miss something concerning development and inclusiveness. In this sense, previous efforts, notably the G-8 Okinawa Declaration of 2000 and the subsequent "Report Card" of the DOT Force bear re-reading. But Declarations – or even Action Plans – are not lacking. It is the will and the mechanisms needed to carry them out. Action Plans need objectives and targets – and they need commitments that reflect reality.

Let me make three points – on the economy, development assistance and the role of international organisations.

First, the Economy. There needs to be increased awareness of the role played by ICTs, in particular their applications throughout the economy and society, in creating growth, incomes, jobs and social welfare. This needs more stress at the Summit. Now, everyone appreciates the efforts made by the summit organisers to achieve a multi stakeholder approach. Everyone can agree that the efforts of governments, civil society and the non-commercial "corporate social responsibility" actions of enterprises must be redoubled. However, these must be allied with the normal commercial activities of enterprises – from the largest multinationals to the smallest SMEs. This is the only way to ensure those efforts are leveraged into the kind of mass participation in information society likely to make a significant impact on the MDGs. In addition to their direct actions, in their "e-strategies" (and all countries need one) governments need to provide the regulatory and policy framework that favours the competitive open market dynamics that will bring the information society within reach. This needs to be reflected up front in the Summit instruments and throughout their text.

Next, Development and Inclusiveness. Both Summit instruments should recognise the potential role of Official Development Assistance in bridging the digital divide between nations, of mainstreaming ICT in ODA strategies and a coherent approach to development aid, whether bilaterally or multilaterally through the World Bank or Regional Development Banks.

Finally, and this will not surprise you, coming from the OECD, it is regrettable that, in the drafts of both Declaration and Action Plan, insufficient recognition is given to role of international organisations outside the UN family.  I refer you to their contributions.  Their role is a reality.  That is why I think references that imply that only UN-family organisations have a role in creating information society should be amended, particularly when considering the institutions and mechanisms of the Action Plan.  Let me give one example – a month ago the OECD Member countries adopted policy guidelines to protect consumers against the growing problem of cross-border fraudulent and deceptive practices, particularly on the Internet.  These Guidelines are the latest OECD contribution to help global electronic commerce fulfil its promise.  Although naturally I wish to highlight the OECD's expertise and initiatives – and our contribution to the text of the Action Plan was intentionally limited to actions the OECD itself could reasonably commit to and deliver on, I suggest the drafters take full account of the current and projected activities of other IGOs in the Plan.

Thank you again Mme Chairman