Remarks delivered at the Sub-Committee A session
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Mr. Chairman
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am very pleased to be given this chance to speak to you on behalf of ITU.

 As observers of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG), ITU has actively followed the debate and exchanged views with participants. We were pleased to see the *Report from the Working Group on Internet Governance* presented in Document 5 (WSIS-II/PC-3/DOC/05). As Mr. Desai said during his presentation, the Report does not judge the past, but look for an improved arrangement to meet the future requirements.
Alongside that document we also note those very valuable comments received from Member States, civil society and the private sector compiled in the Working Document DT 7 (WSIS-II/PC-3/DT-7, *Compilation of Comments received on the Report of the WGIG*). I would like to congratulate the secretariat for their excellent efforts to publish this document. I believe together with Doc 5, DT 7 can facilitate the discussion..

Like everybody in this room, ITU has been paying a great deal of attention to issues of Internet Governance. In recent years especially it has been very high on our agenda. All ITU Study Groups now have continuous work programmes on internet-related issues. ITU has organized workshops in Geneva and in all global regions to address the issues of internet governance, with the last one on IPv6 held in June 2005, which covered a wide range of topics related to IPv6 address resource management.

At the ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (or WTSA) held last October in Brazil, there were a number of resolutions adopted that mandate ITU's activities relating to Internet Governance. These include ITU activities related to country code Top-Level Domains; Internationalized Domain Names; ENUM; Cybersecurity and countering spam. This WTSA Assembly also defined ITU study group activities related to Next Generation Networks which reflects a rapid convergence between separate telephone and internet protocol based networks to a future unified network for all communications.

The WTSA also mandated a short-lived group to develop definitions relevant to the technical aspects of the telecommunication networks used by the Internet. ITU Council has approved for transmission to WSIS the work of that

group, which can be found in the ITU contribution to PrepCom3. I will mention cite here only one item, a definition of Internet, which is:

> A collection of interconnected networks using the Internet Protocol which allows them to function as a single, large virtual network.

I would also like to mention that in response to a request by ITU Council in 2003, we have developed an IP policy handbook, which covers many of the topics discussed under the rubric of internet governance and which is available on the ITU web site. Paper copies of this manual in six ITU official languages are also being made available to Prepcom-3 participants outside the main meeting room. I would like to highlight here Chapter 3 of the Handbook, titled "Key Policy Questions Associated with the general use of IP-based Networks". Quoting from that chapter, I will state that the one constant with respect to communications technology is perpetual change. The technological changes have driven, and have been driven by, the policy changes. Governments around the world are faced with the issues arising from these fundament changes, in particular how to manage the policy issues that are typical of any "network product". I hope the Handbook can provide a useful complement to other material presented to WSIS regarding policy questions relevant to IP-based networks.

As a specialized agency of the UN dealing with telecommunications and therefore more broadly, ICT issues, ITU is very well positioned and willing to work with others to consider the many technical and policy aspects of Internet governance issues. The ITU is cognizant that efficient governance requires a participatory approach - one built on cooperation and dialogue between both the private and public sectors.

ITU has been an effective public-private partnership since 1865, counting 189 countries and about 700 private sector and other non-governmental organizations among its membership. The former number includes 158 developing countries, while the latter includes all the leading multinational equipment manufacturers, network operators and service providers from the telecommunications and IT industry sectors, as well as more than 150 companies from the developing world. Since representatives of these actors produce the bulk of the ITU's output, inclusive participatory ICT coordination is a practical, day-to-day reality in the ITU environment.

However, the WSIS process has demonstrated that we must work harder to be more inclusive and expand our efforts to work with many stakeholders and organizations, including civil societies and others who are active in this process, to bring the benefits of ICTs widely to all – in particular to fulfill the ITU's mission of "helping the world communicate".

To close, ITU wishes the great success of this meeting.

Thank you for your attention