



## **HIGH-LEVEL POLICY STATEMENT AT THE WSIS+10 HIGH-LEVEL EVENT**

**by**

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**Excellency, Mr Helmy, Minister of Communications and Information Technology of Egypt,  
Dr Touré, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU),  
Excellencies, Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is an honour to address you on the occasion of the WSIS+10 High-Level Event and I wish to express my appreciation to Dr Touré for the invitation to the Summit. ITU, which will celebrate next year its one-hundred-fiftieth anniversary, and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) have a similar and interconnected long history. Our two Organizations were created in the late nineteenth century to facilitate and regulate the interconnection and interoperability of national networks — of telegraphs and of meteorological observations. It was thanks to the telegraph and later to the shortwave radio that meteorologists were able to create synoptic weather maps and issue forecasts and warnings. Today, information and communication technologies (ICTs) play an even more fundamental role in the functioning of the global infrastructure that allows the exchange of weather and climate information worldwide, and the ever increasing accuracy of weather and climate predictions.

Changes in extreme weather and climate events are among the most serious challenges to society and the demand for information services on weather and climate extremes is indeed growing. Thanks to ICTs, we are able to better detect and forecast severe weather phenomena such as local storms, tornadoes, hurricanes or extratropical and tropical cyclones. Through the dissemination of advisories and warnings via multiple communication means, we have considerably reduced the economic and human impact of natural disasters.

Through its 191 National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and the cooperation with the UN System and other international organizations, WMO provides the authoritative information on

the global climate system and monitors the occurrence of extreme weather and climate events. This would not be possible without the crucial support of ICTs: let me mention some examples.

The WMO Information System (WIS) allows authorized users to download weather data on demand or to request that the information is supplied whenever updated. WIS also introduces alternative methods of transmitting information, making it possible for research institutes, for example, to receive information routinely without a direct connection to the core network that is used to exchange critical information.

The WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) is designed both to increase the quantity of weather, water and climate observations and to improve their quality and confidence in that quality. The system support applications that entail global weather observations, numerical weather forecasts made available to the forecasters of affected nations, and cooperation between forecasters and decision makers.

To complement this process of better decision-making, WMO is taking a leading role in the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) to ensure that nations are able to develop and apply science-based climate information and prediction to planning, policy and adaptation practices. With the support of ICTs WMO intend to further improve climate information delivery so that it can reach people in remote areas, with the required timeliness, accuracy and resolution.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The right to information and communication are critical components of the right to development and their implementation can contribute effectively to the post-2015 development agenda.

Weather, climate and water have a significant global impact on sustainable development and human well-being and affect in particular developing countries. Yet, many countries in the developing world are not benefiting fully from the progress made in ICT applications for weather and climate monitoring and warnings due to gaps in the ICT infrastructure. Other challenges include the great variability of such infrastructure among nations, a low uptake of the most advanced tools, and security constraints that restrict access to collaboration websites.

To contribute to the realization of the vision and objectives of the WSIS process, WMO is strongly committed to promoting the use of innovative solutions of ICTs for the further improvement of the collection, generation, and distribution of information and warnings on weather-, climate- and water-related hazards. This will enable us to reach out, in a timely manner, the most vulnerable people to climate variability and climate change. At the same time, WMO is committed to work with stakeholders and our Members to promote ICT energy efficiency and address e-waste in the aim of protecting our environment.

Thank you.

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