

Secretary General, Chair, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

It is a pleasure to be here today. I am the Director for Global Internet Policy and Human Rights at the Center for Democracy and Technology, CDT. CDT is a civil society organization focused on addressing issues at the intersection between Internet policy, governance and human rights. We have participated throughout the WSIS+10 review process, including the first MPP meeting at UNESCO.

We appreciate the commitment by both UNESCO and the ITU to a multi-stakeholder approach to the WSIS review and to ensuring that the inputs and views of civil society, indeed all stakeholders, were recognized throughout the process. And we trust, indeed expect that this same commitment will be carried through into the modalities of the WSIS review going forward.

A significant amount of effort has gone into the drafting of the documents that have been forwarded on to the High Level Event for endorsement. We have labored over these documents, and they reflect a best effort by a diversity of players with a diversity of views. We could not agree everything - as might be expected.

There were challenges. We looked back to 2003 all too often, could not agree on how the world of the media has changed since then, and were at times thwarted by political and governance agendas. But, the end result is something that stakeholders should welcome, made richer by the multi-stakeholder nature of the process.

The WSIS review Vision document makes a number of important recommendations with regard to the post-2015 world. For example, it calls for

- The need to protect and reinforce all human rights, to recognize their importance to realizing economic and social development,

and to ensuring equal respect for and enforcement of all human rights online and offline

- Encouraging and facilitating people-centered and inclusive governance models and mechanisms, and strengthening open, democratic, transparent and multi-stakeholder approaches
- Ensuring a clear and direct link between the key aim of the WSIS, that of harnessing the potential of ICTs to promoting and realizing development goals, and the post-2015 development agenda.

These are powerful exhortations and calls to action. Laboring over the wording of these documents in the WSIS MPP process was the easy part. The hard part comes next.

We have made progress towards addressing these priority areas since the Geneva and Tunis phases of the WSIS, but nowhere near enough. We need to redouble our efforts. After all 1) protecting and promoting human rights, 2) implementing people-centered and inclusive governance, and 3) harnessing ICTs for development, are fundamental to building strong and vibrant communities and to realizing social and economic development.

And, although we have heard a lot today about the WSIS, ICTs and development on the one hand and the importance of the post-2015 SDGs on the other, the linkages between them are not apparent. This needs to be addressed.

Our challenge - whether we are from government, business, civil society, or whatever stakeholder grouping - is to converse, collaborate and work together to bring about information societies for all. We should ensure that this WSIS+10 review vision becomes a reality and that the benefits of ICTs, and particularly the Internet, are realized.

Thank you.