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Your Excellencies, our WSIS partners, ladies and gentlemen I ask for your kind attention for a few minutes to introduce our IFIP IP3, the International Professional Practice Partnership which is leading the development of the global ICT profession.

Our mission is to establish a global partnership that will strengthen the ICT profession and contribute to the development of strong international economies by creating an infrastructure that will:

- encourage and support the development of both ICT practitioners and employer organizations,
- give recognition to those who meet and maintain the required standards for knowledge, experience, competence and integrity; and
- define international standards of professionalism in ICT.

To carry out this mission, IP3 works closely with its partners who share a commitment to creating a sound global ICT profession.

We invite our partners to join IP3 and become members.

IP3 encourages employing organisations, governments, commercial enterprises and IFIP member societies to join in this partnership through their membership.

Any organisation that professes a commitment to the mission of IP3 may join and contribute to the development of the ICT profession.

Together with the European Commission we believe that:

"The most important reason [to examine and build ICT professionalism] stems from the extent to which the increasing pervasiveness of ICT has the potential to harm our economy and society. The extent to which ICT is embedded in our lives is inevitably growing. If we fail to take steps to mature the ICT profession, it is likely that the risks to society from ICT will grow to unacceptable levels."¹

The journey from Geneva 2003 to Tunis 2005 saw in the Outcomes Document the requirement for Capacity Building to take into account that:

Everyone should have the necessary skills to benefit fully from the Information Society. Therefore, capacity building and ICT literacy are essential. ICTs can

1 E-SKILLS: Promotion of ICT Professionalism in Europe, an EU Call for Tender, July 2013

contribute to achieving universal education worldwide, through delivery of education and training of teachers, and offering improved conditions for lifelong learning, encompassing people that are outside the formal education process, and improving professional skills.

Today the journey continues with undertakings in the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015 documents variously placed as:

1. Promoting professional standards and continued research on the ethical dimensions on the uses of ICTs and with respect to Capacity Building, it is asserted that everyone should have an opportunity to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to benefit fully from the information society for bridging the digital divide. Therefore, capacity building, digital literacy and competences are essential for all.

Furthermore the Priority Areas Document from the Multistakeholder Preparatory Program states that:

fostering ICT capacity building and ensuring that professional expertise keeps pace with advancing technology by building mechanisms for ICT skills development, to support economic development, help generate jobs and allow more people to benefit from the information society.

It is these sorts of imperatives that inspire the members of IP3 to work in a voluntary capacity to achieve our objectives.

We participate in the WSIS process because we know we can make a difference to the partners in WSIS.

In considering the documents that have emerged from the WSIS Multistakeholder Preparatory Process there are a number of messages that encourage us to continue our partnership with the World Summit for the Information Society.

Firstly we are urged to:

promote professional standards and continue(d) research on the ethical dimensions on the uses of ICTs as well as provide assistance for those countries that would like to adopt legal frameworks to promote their domestic ICT markets in the future, and providing other forms of assistance.

And the Action Lines make it clear that we need to:

develop a wide range of general and specialized training programmes for all stakeholders such as (creators, maintainers and operators) and beneficiaries of the ICT sector (especially in developing countries) in all aspects of telecommunications/ICT.

Partners recognise that governments need to continue to create a trustworthy, predictable, pro-competitive, supportive, transparent and non discriminatory, legal, regulatory and policy environment that enables innovation, entrepreneurship, investment and growth.

WSIS Stakeholders also think that the Information and Knowledge Societies should be subject to universally recognized values which promote the common good and which

prevent abusive uses of ICTs. Giving effect to this should happen through awareness programs and debates on the ethical opportunities and challenges related to ICTs., through the promotion of fundamental ethical values in the use of ICTs whilst we continue to invite all researcher stakeholders to continue research on the ethical dimensions of ICTs.

The outcomes from this Multistakeholder Preparatory Platform has demonstrated that collaboration will continue to be the key, particularly from and with philanthropic and international organisations in order to achieve the Post 2015 Agenda.

IFIP IP3 is such an organisation and is in a position to assist with the resolution of issues about driving professionalism in the ICT workforce.

IFIP IP3 mapping and harmonization addresses the fragmentation and non-alignment between industry and academia with regards to Skills and Competences Frameworks.

IFIP IP3 is taking a proactive approach to solving labour force diversity issues including shortages because of the ageing society, lack of STEM graduates and lack of appropriate workplace diversity e.g. unequal representation of women ICT professionals.

IFIP IP3 localized mentorship programs address the need for developing vs developed countries, and recognises that approaches need to be different.

IFIP IP3 will support local entities in driving the professionalism of its workforce.

IFIP IP3 collaborative model and best practices provide a ready toolbox to develop the maturity of the Society's profession.

In conclusion we believe that trustworthiness is earned but easily lost and without professionalism the benefits to development in a sustainable way cannot be fully realised.