



## ITU WSIS Thematic Meeting on Cybersecurity

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Geneva, Switzerland  
28 June – 1 July 2005

Good morning

It is my pleasure to welcome you here to Geneva for this ITU WSIS Thematic Meeting on Cybersecurity. I would like to relay the ITU's special appreciation to the many experts from government, the private sector, civil society and others who have travelled here from around the world to share with us over the next few days their special expertise and vision.

I would also like to welcome those who are joining us via cyberspace, as this meeting is being audiocast live over the Internet. The ITU looks forward to working in partnership with all of you in addressing the many cybersecurity issues that plague today's information society.

At the start of the 21st century, our societies are increasingly dependent on what we call ICTs – the information and communications technologies that today span the globe. Communication networks are the lifblood of modern societies. They are responsible for a growing share of national wealth, as well as hopes for greater prosperity.

Yet this dependency also brings new risks. We have growing concern that we are also making ourselves increasingly vulnerable, and this is reinforced by a growing number of attacks in cyberspace. And we are particularly worried about protecting critical infrastructures, those systems and assets whose incapacity or destruction would have a debilitating impact on national security and the economic and social well-being of our citizens.

Today, the future of shape of cyberspace is something we still have the power to create and shape. How do we create and shape a global culture of cybersecurity? Our strategic path is one that must be forged through foresight, vision and specific action.

And this brings us to why we are here. Since cyberspace does not respect national borders, and because no country alone can solve the world's cybersecurity problems, we must find methods for national, regional and international cooperation.

ITU, with its broad membership of 189 Member States and 700 private sector members, is ready and able to assist in this endeavour.

On that note, and to conclude, every ship needs a good captain to ensure it charts sure and steady progress and has a successful voyage. We have asked Ms. Deborah Hurley to serve as our commander over the next few days, to help us to navigate the still shallow waters of international cooperation in cybersecurity.

Ms Hurley's achievements are far too numerous to list here, but let me just mention that her long and impressive career includes roles as director of the Harvard Information Infrastructure Project at Harvard University, adjunct lecturer in Public Policy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, and senior-level work with the OECD, where she was responsible for the drafting the OECD Guidelines for Security of Information Systems. More recently, as many of you know, she chaired the ITU's workshop on Creating Trust in Critical Network Infrastructures in Korea.

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Hurley.