

Mr. Chairman  
Excellencies  
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Liechtenstein Government I would like to thank the Kingdom of Morocco for their heartily welcome, kind hospitality and as host of the Plenipotentiary Conference of ITU.

The Principality of Liechtenstein is a member of the European Economic Area, grouping Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Although being a very small country we have a highly developed economy, Liechtenstein demands high standards in the fields of telecommunication and information technology. As a small country we are concerned adopting the new regulatory framework which will be implemented in the near future by all EU-member states as well as in the EEA countries.

Liechtenstein believes in a strong ITU. It seems to be very important that international telecom framework is well coordinated. ITU is very competent in its telecom-field. We would like to see ITU playing an active part in the preparation of WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society), not only in the preparation of the Summit itself but also in the content of its topics. Generally speaking we would like to see ITU fixing priorities as well in topics and on financial issues.

Reform of ITU has to be assured to have a flexible process adopted to the present and future telecom field, which must be friendly to the private sector too. Therefore it might be a challenge for ITU to be more present in the international political scene. A closer relation between governmental organizations and the private sector could mean a win-win-situation. ITU is invited to close this gap and play a significant role in the direction of a global harmonization.

From our point of view ITU should be a key player in order to reduce the "digital divide" to the profit of the population all over the world and to offer the same possibilities everywhere in the world.

Europe takes its responsibility very seriously. We would like to invite all ITU members to play an active role within the organization. Mr. Chairman, Excellencies on behalf of the Liechtenstein Government I would like to express my confidence and ensure you our active support.

Thank you.