

**Statement of H.E the Minister of Information and
Communication, SUDAN to the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference
(PP -01) Marrakesh,
Morocco, 23/ - 81/10/2002**

- **H.E the chairman,**
- **Your excellencies the Ministers and heads of delegations,**
- **Honorable delegates,**
- **Ladies and gentlemen**

I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate H.E the chairman of the conference, Heads of committees and work groups for the trust and confidence of the conference in their personalities and capabilities, wishing all success for the conference to arrive at actions and resolutions that would support our Union in fulfilling its missions.

Since the early nineties of the past century, Sudan has extended a special emphasis to the telecommunication and information sector and its role in the socio – economic process and has made this sector one of the corner-stones of the adopted three-year economic salvation programme (1990-1993).

This Programme called for the removal of the monopolistic environment in the sector and for the involvement of the private sector, whether local or foreign, in the telecommunication sector as well as in many other sectors of the economy in an endeavor to overcome the persistent shortfalls in investment and performance.

Since then, the telecommunication and information sector in Sudan witnessed radical development and changes, including but not limited to, the removal of the monopolistic environment, the reform and restructuring of the sector and the environment of the private sector without any restraints.

All this has led to the establishment of an infrastructure for telecommunications and information which is modern and fully-digital. This infrastructure is planned to develop and expand, both quantitatively and qualitatively, to pave the way for placing Sudan in the middle of the global information society and lead to solid national unity of the nation.

Moreover, Sudan in line with the role of the ITU has formulated an ambition strategic plan to promote ICT development nationwide and to pave the way for bridging the “Digital divide” and fostering “ Digital Opportunities”.

This plan has been endorsed by the highest political leadership of the country, the president of the republic, providing the effective and timely implementation of its plans and projects that are intended to realize ultimately the proclaimed mission of the strategic plan.

Being fully committed to the objectives of the ITU, Sudan in determined to play an active role in the activities of the union and hence ,seeks to be elected to the membership of the council of the ITU for the African group .

Sudan will be greatly honored, if elected to the membership of ITU council and that will be the first time in its history.

In conclusion I would like to renew my greetings and congratulations to the Chairman, the heads of the committees and work groups wishing all success to the conference in its deliberations.

May God bless our work and efforts and make it beneficial to marking in a peaceful world, free from terrorism oppression and tyranny

Thank you