

**Connect Americas Summit  
Panamá City, Panama  
17-19 July 2012**

**Closing Remarks  
Thursday 19 July 2012**

**Dr Hamadoun I Touré  
Secretary-General  
International Telecommunication Union**

Excellencies,

Honourable Zelmar Rodriguez Crespo,

General Administrator of the National Authority of Public Services of Panama,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- We are coming to the end of this remarkable gathering.
- I would like to start by thanking our generous hosts, The Government of Panama, for their excellent arrangements and collaboration to make this Summit a success.
- I also thank our regional partners in organizing this Summit, especially CITEL, COMTELCA and CTU. They made significant contributions to the preparatory process, and we count on their support for all major ITU events in the Americas.
- Let me also thank the staff of ITU for their dedication and professionalism.
- And finally, thank you, all of the participants for bringing your ideas, enthusiasm and openness for collaboration.
- I am proud of the support from the leaders of the region, including Heads of State and Government, and many Ministers, as well as CEOs from industry and heads of various regional organizations.
- The Connect Americas Summit set out a number of key priorities for the region to ensure a broadband-enabled future for all.
- Leaders and stakeholders agreed to work together to:
  - rebuild human capacities,
  - Expand broadband infrastructure, including in rural and remote communities,
  - modernize policy and regulatory frameworks to boost investment,
  - Strengthen emergency communications and,
  - Develop internet exchange points to reduce the cost of internet access.
- The challenge of realizing this ambitious vision is too great for any single player. Everyone has their part to play.

- The good news is that we have all the ingredients for success in this room. We just need to put it all together. That means developing innovative public-private partnerships.
- As the BDT Director just outlined, the many projects and announcements made by stakeholders this week are the real success of this Summit. They will be the legacy of our efforts and will yield benefits for years to come.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- As the world turns its attention to London for the Summer Olympics, I thought it appropriate to turn to an ancient Greek Philosopher in closing this Summit.
- Archimedes said: "Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it, and I shall move the world."
- Leveraging a powerful combination of technology and partnerships, we are indeed rewriting the human story and moving the world.
- If we get it right, we will bring billions more people into the modern economy and radically expand access to health care, education and employment on a scale never before achieved.
- This is the future we are making together.
- My hope is that we all go home inspired by what we have shared here in Panama and motivated by the possibility of what we can achieve as we work together to realize the vision of this Summit.

**Thank you**