RATIONALE FOR THE MEETING 2009

This will be the first meeting that ITU organizes in its role of lead facilitator on WSIS AL C6, as part of the WSIS Forum 2009 (www.itu.int/wsis/implementation/2009/forum/geneva). During the last meeting in May 2008, UNDP officially requested ITU to take over the facilitation on this action line.

Countries around the world put forward efforts to create an enabling environment for investment and for ICT development. They are shaping policies based on the premise that providing access to basic and advanced telecommunications/ICT services have a wide-ranging socio-economic rationale. In terms of reaping the benefits of ICTs, further discussion is needed on what the success factors of a competitive and inclusive market are and what are the best mechanisms to spur competition and growth in the sector, how to bring fresh investment in developing countries, what is good regulation in the current circumstances of economic downturn, etc.

To this end, ITU convenes a meeting involving regulators, policy-makers, industry and civil society to exchange experiences and best practices in creating an enabling environment and building regulatory capacity in developing countries. The meeting will be driven by stakeholders' contributions. ITU will capitalize on this opportunity to capture the positives synergies among stakeholders and build on the momentum of the multiple initiatives in WSIS implementation.

1. IN THE LEAD TO THE MEETING: INFORMATION SHARING AND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FACILITATION

- Open call for stakeholder contributions was launched at: www.itu.int/wsis/implementation/2009/forum/geneva/al_c6.html. The aim is to invite stakeholders to identify topics of importance and concrete country experiences in the implementation of WSIS AL C6. The contributions received will be used to feed the discussion during the meeting (a moderator's script will be prepared in advance).

- As a second phase, develop a section of the webportal dedicated to track progress in the implementation of WSIS AL C6 where contributions received from stakeholders will be posted.

2. FORMAT OF THE EVENT

➢ **High-level speakers:** welcome and key notes **(20 min)**

➢ The moderator will then open the **panel discussion** (among panelists only) picking up on questions defined in advance (the questions will be elaborated based on suggestions received via the call for contributions) **(30 min overall)**

➢ **Interactive discussion** involving both panelists and the audience led by the moderator **(40 min overall)**

3. SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

> **High-level speakers**

- Sami Al-Basheer Al-Morshid, Director, BDT, ITU (opening remarks)
- Petko Draganov, Deputy Secretary General of UNCTAD (Key note)

> **Chair/ Moderator**

- Mario Maniewicz, Chief, Strategy & policy Department, BDT, ITU

> **Panelists**

- *see final list of panelists on the website*

4. FOLLOW-UP

> The webportal will continue to be maintained and to receive stakeholder contributions following the meeting to track progress made in the implementation of WSIS AL C6, and will be boosted to the 2010 edition of the WSIS Forum.

> A concise document summarizing the discussions and the contributions received will be prepared after the event and posted on the webportal.

For more information about this meeting:

- ⏱ Visit www.itu.int/ITU-D/treg/WSIS/c6/index.html
- ⏱ Contact us at: bdt-rme@itu.int