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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**MESSAGE TO THE SYMPOSIUM
ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
AND CLIMATE CHANGE
London, 17-18 June 2008**

The information and communication technology sector has much to offer in creating a cleaner, greener world. But it must also apply international standards in reducing its own emissions. It is all about “learning by doing”.

A high-bandwidth, low-carbon economy offers one of the best prospects for sustaining economic growth without endangering the future of our planet. But although the Internet is virtually “weightless” in terms of the information it carries, it is not yet climate-neutral. The power consumption of the Internet is growing.

It is vital, therefore, that experts such as you work to develop new standards and best practices for energy efficiency in the ICT industry. At the same time, it is important that your symposium look for ways in which ICTs can be best used to help other sectors reduce their emissions.

I commend the International Telecommunication Union for working with partners inside and outside the United Nations family to give high priority to actions in this field, by holding symposiums such as this one and by making it the theme for your Council’s High Level Segment in November. I wish you every success in your deliberations.