



***WELCOME REMARKS***

**BY**

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INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

**AT THE**

**REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE ARAB STATE REGION FOR  
WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (WTDC-14)**

**MANAMA, KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN, 28 OCTOBER 2013**

- H.E. Dr. Mohamed Amr Chairman TRA Kingdom of Bahrain,
- Mr. Mohammed Bubshait, Director General of the TRA,
- Mr. Houlin Zhao, Deputy Secretary General of ITU
- Honorable Ministers, Deputy Ministers
- CEO, Presidents and Chairmen of the Regulatory Agencies
- Representatives of ITU-D Sector members
- Representatives of Regional and International organizations
- Mr. Ebrahim Al-Haddad, Regional Director, ITU
- Other Heads of delegations
- **Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me first to express my deep appreciation to the Government and the Kingdom of Bahrain, to the Telecommunication Regulatory Authority for hosting this Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Arab State Region, and for the warm welcome and the excellent facilities.

I would also like to welcome all the delegates to Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Arab States Region. This is the fifth RPM of the 6 that will be held this year. The reports of the 4 past RPMs have been sent to you by the Regional Director for your preparation for this meeting and the same are submitted to you as an information documents during the RPM.

Yesterday, we had a very exciting Regional Development Forum whose outcomes are presented to this RPM. But I am sure that beyond the report which is a summary, the experience and knowledge sharing during the RDF will inspire the deliberations of this RPM.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Regional Preparatory meeting gives me the opportunity and the pleasure to report to you on the implementation of the Hyderabad Action Plan over the past three years and half.

The detailed report is contained in document 2 that will be presented to you later today. However let me mention few points.

When I took office in 2011, I made it very clear that the implementation of the Regional Initiatives is at the top of my priority. I double the seed money allocated to the Regional Initiatives from the regular

budget and put a lot of emphasis on resources mobilization.

I am happy to report that as of today, the BDT has 72 on-going projects valued at \$75 million US Dollars. The overall implementation of the Operational Plan was 96.5% in 2011 and 97.5% in 2012.

I initiated brain storm meetings and innovation challenges. The report of these brain storming are submitted to you for information in documents INF4 and INF5 and I invite you to read them as we prepare for the next cycle of development.

I took step to make BDT Result-Based Management compliant like the other sectors starting 2011. The report in document No 2 is presented in the Result-based management format. I took the initiative to publish a quarterly report on the implementation of Hyderabad Action Plan to allow the membership for follow our work as regularly as possible. These quarterly reports are available of BDT web site. Hard copies of the last release are available in this room.

I took steps to strengthen the ITU Regional presence by harmonizing the staff structure of the field offices with the support of the Secretary General and other elected officials.

The Regional Offices have got more delegation of power and will continue to be empowered. The connectivity of the field offices has been improved.

I gave instruction to the Regional Directors to cooperate very closely with the Regional Organization to avoid duplications and waste of scarce resources.

Let me seize this occasion to thank the Government of Egypt for hosting the Regional Office for Arab States and all the membership for their diverse contributions to the work of ITU-D in the Region.

We are working to create more synergy between ITU-D Study Groups and the programmes in order

to cross fertilize the expertise of BDT with that of our membership.

As part of capacity building for our members and to promote exchange of information and best practices, we have been releasing more authoritative publications that are available on our website. The two last reports focused on *Regulation and consumer protection in a converging environment* and *International roaming*. We launched yesterday the regulatory report for the Arab Region

We have also worked hard to attract new and keep existing ITU-D Sector Members. Currently, there are 367 Sector Members actively participating in the



work of the ITU-D, with 73 new companies that joined in 2012.

At this point, let me thank all the Member States from this region, and also our Sector Members for helping us to successfully implement our activities and projects.

It is perhaps befitting for me to share with you other new features that I recently introduced to ensure even better delivery to the Membership. In keeping with my firm belief in **continuous innovation for better quality**, I conceived and launched three key initiatives:

**First, the m-Powering Development** that aims at capitalizing on the fast-growing mobile subscriptions for sustainable development through the delivery of health services, education, banking and other businesses.

**Second, the Smart Sustainable Development (SSDM)** which seeks to link ICT for sustainable development and ICT for disaster management.

**And third, the ITU-Academy** that aims at creating a global platform for exchange of training materials and training opportunities.

**Distinguished representatives of Member States and Sector Members,**

I have shared with you some of the achievements that I considered important to bring to your attention in my opening remarks. However, you will have a detailed account of the work undertaken by the BDT since 2011 in the documents to be presented to you later on.

**I would like to humbly give all the credit of these successes and achievements to you.**

Let me now thank all those who submitted written contributions to this RPM. They are very rich in content. The discussions during the RPM will certainly help us identify priority areas, develop linkages between topics, study group questions and

regional initiatives to be considered by the upcoming WTDC-14.

In concluding, I would like to reassure you that I am committed to continue innovating, building partnerships, and implementing activities and projects in favor of all the Member States and particularly those of this region.

My ultimate goal is to lead a BDT that serves you each day better than the day before, using the **ICT** principles **I** for Inclusion and inclusiveness, **C** for Cooperation and Consultation and **T** for Transparency.

I thank you.