

ITU Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Arab States

Speech by

H.E Eng. Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid, Assistant of the President of Sudan

Khartoum, Sudan, 30 January 2017

All praise be to God and peace and blessings upon His prophet.....

Mr Brahim Sanou,

Heads of participating delegations from fraternal Arab States,

Distinguished participants and guests of all ranks,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Information and communication technology (ICT) has become a fundamental part of people's lives, on which we have come to rely in the economic, social, cultural, political and academic fields, as well as in education, health, defence and security. All sections of society depend directly or indirectly upon ICT.

With its policy of openness to the world, Sudan has contributed to the creation of an information society for all, based upon shared knowledge and key principles that include a role for government and stakeholders in promoting ICT for development, boosting ICT infrastructure as an essential foundation for building the information society, providing access to knowledge and information, developing capacities, confidence and security in the use of ICT and creating an enabling environment.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sudan is a leader in the Arab world and surrounding region in the use of ICT and, from the first, has devoted considerable attention to this issue. It was one of the first countries to liberalize the communication sector, and this had the effect of encouraging investment in the sector. Multinational companies came to the country, helping to build and develop society and creating major new opportunities for technical advancement, capacity-building and development.

One of the Sudanese Government's main aims has been to keep pace with continuing developments by encouraging openness to the world in the field of technology and participating in international and regional gatherings on the information society. A significant number of Sudanese experts and specialists make a dynamic and effective contribution in global technology firms and international ICT bodies and Sudanese play an effective role in the regional and international offices of the International Telecommunication Union. The Sudanese Government continues to encourage this vitally important sector to participate in and contribute to specialized international organizations.

Brothers and sisters, distinguished guests,

We welcome the high-level delegation from ITU, led by Mr Brahim Sanou, and we welcome all our brother Arabs. You have come from fraternal Arab lands to attend this major forum on the development of the ICT sector which, we hope, will bring benefits to the region. Once again, I extend a warm welcome to you and hope that your regional forum addressing an area of such vital importance will be a productive one.

This unity of purpose is a reflection of the development, growth and well-being of the entire Arab people and the Arab region. You will offer them solutions and new ideas on how to use modern technology to serve Arab societies.