

**Address by the Director, National Telecommunications Corporation (NTC)  
To the Regional Development Forum for the Arab States (RDF-ARB)**

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

Ladies and gentlemen, guests from all fraternal Arab States,  
Distinguished guests of all ranks,

I greet you on this fine Khartoum morning with the eternal greeting of Islam: May the peace and blessings of God be upon you. God bless you.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests,

The rapid advances in information and communication technologies (ICTs) present us in the Arab region with a new reality, requiring close cooperation and coordination to keep abreast of developments. In this, we face great responsibilities, involving utilizing the potential of ICTs in all areas of life and employing these technologies to serve and develop Arab society and achieve our development goals. The failure to make use of the potential of ICTs to improve production and enhance quality of life is a serious issue for many developing countries, which face the risk of being left behind in the drive toward progress. New forms of solidarity and cooperation, new methods of social and economic organization and new ways of thinking are needed, especially in the Arab region.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests,

The principles and goals of sustainable development can be translated into concrete measures by encouraging the use of ICT-based products, networks, services and applications to produce a measurable impact on societal development and enable development goals to be achieved for future generations. In view of its involvement in all aspects of life and the growing reliance upon it in the development process, ICT needs to be put at the very heart of development. Its adoption by public and private sector institutions has resulted in improved operations and improved service to citizens. Furthermore, ICT is a key pillar of the knowledge economy, which currently holds sway in the developed countries. Application of such measures can help to foster and promote development in the following areas:

- vital State infrastructure (e.g. power stations, communication networks, water and electricity);
- e-government programmes and services;
- ICT-assisted learning (including e-education):
- e-health;
- e-commerce;
- ICT-based disaster forecasting;
- human resource development;
- other vital sectors (agriculture, housing, natural environment, etc.).

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests of the forum,

We in the Arab region face pressing needs and major issues that we will have to address together, as one united Arab regional bloc, in order to serve the cause of ICT in the Arab region, pursuant to Resolution 31 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on the need to encourage members to participate in preparations for WTDC-17, in order to

achieve regional coordination before the conference itself is held. Regional development forums offer the opportunity to conduct high-level dialogue and cooperation and to establish partnerships between ICT policymakers, regulators, industrialists, academic institutions and regional and international development agencies and organizations on specific regional ICT issues.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests of all ranks,

The National Telecommunications Corporation welcomes you to Sudan for this Regional Development Forum for the Arab States (RDF-ARB), which precedes the Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17 for the Arab States (RPM-ARB). NTC is honoured by your presence and wishes you a pleasant stay and successful working sessions. You will discuss working papers and project documents prepared by Arab experts and consultants, believing wholeheartedly that regional cooperation will help to build national capacities and develop feasible regional strategies, and hopeful that, through international cooperation between governments and partnership between stakeholders, a successful response will be made to the challenge of exploiting the potential of ICT as a tool to serve development and employing knowledge and information to achieve internationally-agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, while promoting social and economic development for all mankind by taking into account national and local development priorities.