

m-Powering Development Initiative
Third Advisory Board Meeting, 11 October 2015
Budapest, Hungary

Statement by Dr Sam Pitroda

Chairman, m-Powering Advisory Board

Dear Advisory Board Members, Dear Colleagues,

Good afternoon to you all.

Welcome to our Third m-Powering Development Initiative Advisory Board Meeting. This time we are meeting in Budapest, again on the occasion of Telecom.

Despite being away from Geneva, we are pleased with the ITU's hospitality; therefore I thank the Secretary General, Mr Houlin Zhao for joining us today and the BDT Director, my dear friend Mr Brahim Sanou.

It is my pleasure as Chairman to see you all back in this room to finalize the outcomes of our work in the recent months.

Let me start firstly by expressing my thanks and appreciation to the Working Groups and their leaders for the content they have provided in the preparation of the reports we will discuss shortly. I also thank our Secretariat for their coordination work in facilitating our work. I think everybody has done a great job so that as each group working, we managed remotely to come up with an outcome within a short period of time. I believe that this is a strong indicator of your commitment to this Initiative, and as the Chairman of this Board, I thank you for that."

I am also very much honored to have chaired this Initiative through its first complete cycle of work. We have laid a very worthy foundation and I look forward to the work that will be achieved in the second cycle.

The Board has taken note of the reports of each of the three Working Groups. I thank again to all and especially to the Chairs for their contributions and leadership. Your valuable input in this report certainly captures different elements of your professional know-how and experience. Since we are a group of people from diverse backgrounds, with these reports, we were to provide a blend of expertise that was expected from us. These new Working Group reports are an important achievement for our Board. I strongly believe that it will be an important reference to guide all interested stakeholders.

I would like to give all Members additional time to review these reports. Please send your comments to the m-Powering Secretariat by mid-November. We will then compile all observations and come up with one final version of each report. This will be shared with the Director.

Thank you very much for your active participation today. Our discussions today proved how important this initiative is for the well-being of human life globally. I am confident that the steps we have agreed on in this session would bring us closer to the objectives that we intend to achieve.

As Ambassadors of the m-Powering Development Initiative, please take the opportunity to share and promote our work.

Thank You.