

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

Opening remarks by Mr Brahima Sanou, BDT Director, ITU

Mr Secretary-General,
Mr Chairman,
Advisory Board Members,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the third Advisory Board Meeting of the m-Powering Development Initiative.

I am pleased to see you all and would like to thank you for your continuous efforts and presence despite your busy agendas. This is a confirmation of your commitment and enthusiasm to improving people's lives through mobile technology.

Since the launch of this Advisory Board, we made great progress and achieved tangible results.

As a follow-up to the first m-Powering Development report, we have decided to move forward to focus on particular strategic areas such as Innovation, Advocacy and Resource mobilization.

Today we will review the reports that each Working Group has prepared and we will agree on the way forward.

We have also highlighted that the success of the m-Powering initiative is highly dependent on its scalability.

Scalability, particularly in developing countries, relies heavily on affordability.

May be it is time for us to build on our success and facilitate the development of a low-cost platform that we could call "m-Powering Platform" that would be composed of smart devices (smart phones, tablets, etc.) bundled with affordable broadband connectivity and pre-loaded with basic Apps and services for specific target groups to integrate ICTs in daily life aspects, with an emphasis on strategic areas related to "sustainable development goals"?

On the advocacy side we have been working with some of Members of the Advisory Group and our colleagues of WHO and UNESCO will report to us on possible joint activities in 2016.

Let us take advantage of TELECOM World and play our m-Powering Initiative Ambassadorial role and share the good work we are doing.

On the wise recommendation of the Chairman I have invited Mr. Mung Ki Woo Executive Vice-President of MasterCard and Mr. Kevin Martin, Vice-President of Facebook to join us today as observers.

Let me take this opportunity to thank Mr. Houlin Zhao the Secretary General of ITU for his unwavering support to m-Powering Development Initiative.

I thank you again for your dedication and for your attention and I look forward to a fruitful discussion.

I wish us very successful deliberations.