

m-Powering Development Initiative
Third Advisory Board Meeting, 11 October 2015
Budapest, Hungary
Remarks by Mr Houlin Zhao, Secretary General, ITU

Distinguished Board Members,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I offer you a very warm welcome to this Board Meeting of the m-Powering initiative, and would like to thank each and every one of you for joining us here today. I want to congratulate Brahim Sanou, Director of the BDT for putting together a group of great minds that I see around this room.

This is a very exciting time for us, and for the ITU, and ITU Members at large. This year, we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of ITU. We recently witnessed the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda at the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Last month, we also launched the new *Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development*.

I am particularly following your very good work. It is of utmost importance for me as I am a strong promoter of Small and Medium Enterprises. Mobile technology can truly give SMEs an opportunity to grow their business.

I take this opportunity to welcome you all here today. I have no doubt that your bright ideas on how we could take advantage of the rapid growth of wireless technologies particularly mobile, will guide us in our development work.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Promoting access to ICTs is ITU's core mandate, and we truly believe in the need to foster greater access for everybody, including through mobile. This Board can help us to do that and to help us forge partnerships.

Thanks to the support and commitment of our Partners, and with the help of their resources, invaluable expertise, and activities, ITU can really transform people's lives. Figures show that access to and use of mobile technologies does boost positive social and economic developments, including in the areas of education, health, government, and business, to name

but a few. Empowering people through ICT help them to deal with today's most pressing problems – including migration, social conflict, natural disasters and climate change.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I truly believe that with your help and through the m-Powering Development Initiative, you will help us use technology to make the world a better place – economically and socially.

As I conclude, I would like to invite you to enjoy very informative sessions at TELECOM and I urge you to please continue to support and promote this event.

I wish you fruitful discussions.

Thank you very much.