

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mohammed El Ghanim

Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary General of the ITU,

Excellencies, Ministers, and Heads of Delegations

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am deeply honored to address your distinguished conference today responding to a most gracious initiative from Mr. Mohammed El Ghanim the Chairman of the Conference, and the ITU Secretary General Dr. Hamadoun Touré.

I sincerely thank both of them on behalf of myself and Dr. Steve Crocker, Chairman of the Board of ICANN, who is here with us today, for their invitation to this historic opening ceremony.

I am here because I believe in the power of engagement – engagement starts with listening. It's a New Season of engagement at ICANN, and for cooperation between ICANN and the ITU, which started recently at a meeting with Dr. Touré at the IGF. I recognize the ITU's deep impact on the development of the telecommunications industry and the broadband infrastructure, of which we all benefit every day especially in the developing world, the world I come from

The ITU and ICANN have complementary roles, and moving forward, we shall cooperate in good spirit, while clearly respecting our distinct roles. I therefore join my fellow Internet organizations, ISOC, IETF, and The Regional Internet Registries in our continued deep commitment to service the world's needs for Internet Governance.

Allow me to address you in my mother tongue;

سعدت بالأمس بلقاء الأخوة رؤساء الوفود العربية في المؤتمر

وكان لقاءً مثمراً للغاية واتفقنا على بدء صفحة جديدة من

التعاون بيننا وأشكركم جميعاً على هذه الروح الطيبة في

استقبالي.

وأنتهز هذه الفرصة لأسجل اعتزازي وسعادتي بانعقاد هذا

المؤتمر الموقر في دولة عربية رائدة هي دولة الإمارات
العربية المتحدة التي حققت خطوات كبيرة نفتخر بها
جميعاً في مجال تكنولوجيا الاتصالات والمعلومات عامة
وأقتصاد الإنترنت خاصة.

I want to finish by saying the following:

When I started at ICANN I said we could build
organizations either as fortresses or as oases. I invite you
to make our organization an open oasis. Oases are open
and vital; Let's remove the walls; open the windows;
build organizations that are welcoming and transparent.

I wish you the best with your conference.