

Geneva, 13 May 2013

**The United Nations Group on the Information Society Advocates a Central Role for Information Communication Technologies in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.**

Today, in Geneva, the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) endorsed a Joint Statement to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon and to the United Nations Task Group. UNGIS, which is made up of thirty UN agencies, including, amongst others, ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP, emphasized the importance of Information Communications Technology for development in the post-Millennium Goals era. Reflecting on recent evolutions in technology, as well as lessons learned over the past decade, the different agencies affirmed their common belief that ICTs can, and should, be the tools with which poverty and inequality are fought in the 21st century. UNGIS also presented the Secretary General and the United Nations Task Group with an offer of expert guidance and assistance to implement the statement's main recommendations.

UNGIS agreed on the Joint Statement at a substantive meeting, held at the International Telecommunications Union in Geneva, as part of this week's World Summit on the Information Society. The United Nations Group on the Information Society was founded in 2006 to coordinate the inclusion of ICTs in development plans throughout the UN system. The group's contribution will be reflected in the on-going WSIS review process.

Contribution is available here: [www.ungis.org](http://www.ungis.org)