WSIS Forum 2013: Statement on the WSIS+10 Visioning
17 May 2013, Geneva

The WSIS Forum 2013 was held from the 13-17 May 2013 at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva. More than 1800 WSIS stakeholders, including representatives of governments, private sector, civil society and International Organizations, from over 140 countries, assembled at the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in Geneva. This annual gathering of WSIS Stakeholders, co-organised by ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP, provided the perfect opportunity for multistakeholder visioning and discussion on the WSIS process including the Overall Review of the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes (WSIS+10). The presence of so many leaders here in Geneva, including over 50 ministers, was a sign, both of stakeholders’ commitment to the WSIS Process and of the important role ICTs will continue to play in tomorrow’s development agenda.

WSIS+10 related sessions formed the WSIS+10 Visioning Track that was organized in accordance to the Plan of Action developed within the framework of the United Nations on the Information Society (UNGIS) Open Consultation Process on WSIS+10 (2011-2012, www.ungis.org).

The WSIS+10 Visioning Track at WSIS Forum 2013 included the following:

- **WSIS+10 Plenary One (15 May 2013) and Two (17 May 2013)**
  Series of official statements evaluating the WSIS process, putting forward strategic guidance on the Overall Review WSIS+10 were made by WSIS Stakeholders. The plenary benefitted from the views provided by the former UN Secretary General, Mr Kofi Annan, and from inputs by countries that hosted regional meetings related to the WSIS+10. All stakeholders were invited to submit written statements at the end of the Plenary.

- **WSIS+10 Visioning Challenge**
  - Focus on Geneva Phase -2003 (15 May 2013)
  - Focus on Tunis Phase -2005 (16 May 2013)

  Two WSIS +10 Visioning Challenge sessions were held in World Café format. This proved to be a participative process methodology that enabled active involvement of each and every stakeholder in a generative discussion around key questions on the WSIS outcomes in context of the emerging trends and new challenges. The shared dialogue facilitated intensive peer exchanges and was an excellent means to express innovative ideas, reveal emergent trends and consolidate an open network of world-class experts.

- **Ministerial Round Table (14 May 2013)**
  Participants at the Ministerial Round Table shared their vision about the WSIS Review Process and the WSIS Beyond 2015. They reaffirmed their support for the WSIS Process as a multi-stakeholder platform pursuing a common vision for a people centric, inclusive Information
Society. They encouraged the WSIS Process to continue beyond 2015, while taking note on the importance of the overall review process as requested by Tunis Agenda.

- High level Opening Session: Identifying Emerging Trends in the ICT Ecosystem (13 May 2013) High level speakers representing all the different type of stakeholders presented the recent developments in the ICT ecosystem and their efforts directed towards implementation of the WSIS outcomes. Several emerging trends have been indicated and possible challenges and opportunities for the future were identified.

In addition, civil society, the private sector and the academia held thematic workshops to gather insights on the WSIS Review Process. The different Action Line workshops focused on integrating their main outcomes with the vision for the process beyond 2015 and several country workshops addressed the challenges of the overall review at the national level.

Moreover, in context of the post 2015 development agenda and the WSIS+10 two substantive sessions, i.e UNGIS Substantive Session (13 May 2013) and the High Level Substantive Session on ICTs and Post 2015 Goals (16 May 2013) addressed the role of ICTs for sustainable development beyond 2015.

The WSIS +10 Visioning Track included the input from the UNESCO hosted, Multistakeholder Event for the WSIS+10 Review on Towards Knowledge Societies for Peace and Sustainable Development and coorganized by UNESCO, ITU, UNCTAD and UNDP.

The outcomes of the WSIS+10 Visioning Track will constitute the WSIS+10 Visioning Challenge document that will serve as possible input into further discussions during the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), the UN General Assembly as well as the ITU Council.