**U N I T E D N A T I O N S**  **N A T I O N S U N I E S**

 **Draft Statement by**

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**WSIS+10 High-Level Event**

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Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

It is my pleasure to join you at this WSIS+10 High-Level Event.

I extend the **appreciation** of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs to the International Telecommunication Union for hosting this significant event.

The world has changed significantly since the **Millennium Declaration** in 2000 and the **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)** in 2003 and 2005.

People around the world are more connected than ever. Governments have embraced information and communication technology (ICT) for innovation and change, empowering people through increased availability of information and e-services. Opportunities for **economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection** have expanded exponentially with ICTs.

Technologies have long been recognised as **enablers of development**. At the 2012 **Rio+20** Conference, the UN Member States recommitted to a sustainable development agenda for present and future generations and recognized that ICT facilitates the flow of information between governments and the public.

They also recognized the **power and impact of ICT** to promote knowledge exchange, technical cooperation and capacity building for sustainable development.

Furthermore, they reaffirmed the **key role of all levels of government and legislative bodies** in promoting sustainable development. They invited governments to create enabling frameworks in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Today, let us underscore that ICT is much more than tools, enablers or catalysts. Such terms imply that they could be non-essential.

ICT is something more; it is an **essential driver for development change** that we now weave into government processes and development programmes.

How can we fully realise that potential?

First, the **mere presence of ICT is not enough**. Presence itself does not mean effectiveness and efficiency of leveraging ICT for development impact. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of policy coherence, integration and governance.

Second, **ICT is not only the business of “techies**” **but also of policy makers.**

Third, ICT or digital policy should **not only focus on infrastructure** but also, tangentially, on developing online content and services for all sectors.

Fourth, **ICT is rapidly and radically transforming our society** **and the character of our daily life**. No one should be left behind or excluded due to age, gender, language, nationality or any limitation.

At a **global level**, we should continue our partnership with all stakeholders – governments, civil society, private sector and international organizations – in leveraging ICT for sustainable development; We should extend the North-South, South-South and triangular development cooperation that has proven to be highly successful.

At the **regional level,** I encourage more collaboration and cooperation to draw on synergies.

At the **national and local levels**, we should continue to strategically focus on e-government, e-participation, e-education, e-health, e-business, among other public sector activities. Citizens should be given the right of access to public information and services, including open government data and the opportunity to exercise that right. There should be increased transparency and accountability in the public sector, including through greater public participation.

Since 2005, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has advanced the global ICT development effort by facilitating the **three Action Lines** – C1on the role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development, C7 e-government and C11 on international and regional cooperation. DESA also supports the **Internet Governance Forum** through the IGF Secretariat. It is a facilitator of the multistakeholder platform for policy dialogue on Internet governance, which has proven to be -- and widely acknowledged so – successful and productive.

DESA’s work spans over **policy advocacy and capacity building** efforts in e-government and e-participation development, the use of ICT in parliaments, Internet governance and knowledge management in advancing the development agenda.

I invite you to join DESA to jointly support the transformations that ICT can **advance** towards a sustainable development path.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is opportune that the overall review of the implementation of the **WSIS Outcomes** is due in 2015. This is at the same time as the review of the Millennium Development Goals.

Deliberations by Member States are gaining momentum to set a **new global framework for the post-2015 agenda.** Through experience, we know that any new global framework will require a global consensus on the means of implementation of these commitments .

One of the focus areas identified by the **Open Working Group** of the Member States on the Sustainable Development Goals is exactly the means of implementation. Currently, they include technologies, among other factor.

As a multi-stakeholder group, let us raise the level of discourse on the roles of ICT in development. We can emphasize its **defining role** in helping the international community to forge a transformative and inclusive global sustainable development agenda.

Member States need to have a **practical** strategy and **implementation framework** for incorporating ICT more into sustainable development goals. **ICT resources** should be **commensurate** with others such as finance, trade and capacity building.

Allow me to conclude by reiteratingthe following:

Let us **strive for a global agenda** that places ICT as an essential driver of sustainable development.

This will help us define a bold and ambitious **development vision**, at the global regional and national levels, through **public policy coherence, integration and governance.**

I look forward joining you in a productive and engaging session.

Thank you.

*[874 words]*