**WSIS+10 High-Level Event**

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*Excellencies, Distinguished Experts, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am honoured to have received an invitation to speak at this World Summit on the Information Society +10 High-Level Event.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) believes that the WSIS Forum serves as an essential mechanism for bringing together all stakeholders through an inclusive, global, and comprehensive approach – with a view to setting the foundation for an Information Society for all. As the world moves towards a sustainable development agenda for beyond 2015, this Event is especially timely, for reviewing progress to date as well as for developing proposals for future-oriented action.

As global connectivity grows, information and communications technologies (ICTs) play an increasingly instrumental role in the delivery of basic services to health and food security, e-Governance, as well as fostering citizen participation and peacebuilding, plus commerce and business. At the same time, the internet gives voice to cultural and linguistic diversity and identity, and to local content.

As WSIS Action Line C5 on cybersecurity recognizes, the continued contribution of ICTs to sustainable development is highly dependent upon building confidence and security in the use of ICTs. This entails not only continuity and reliability of ICT services, but also effective prevention and combating of online criminal threats. As is well known, ICTs – in addition to bringing many positive benefits – can also be misused. In many cases, ICTs facilitate existing forms of crime, such as fraud and identity theft. In other cases, ICTs provide opportunities for new forms of crime, such as online abuse of children, and holding computer data and systems to ransom.

In many countries, the explosion in global connectivity has come at a time of economic and demographic transformations, with rising income disparities and reduced financial liquidity. Cybercrime victimization rates for acts, such as: hacking, and online credit card fraud, are higher than for many conventional crimes such as burglary, and car theft, and are typically higher in develop*ing* countries than develop*ed* countries.[[1]](#footnote-1)

As countries promote ICT expansion and development, it is critical, at the same time, that they pay attention to promoting safe user practices, effective cybersecurity, and appropriate crime prevention and criminal justice approaches to cybercrime. Such actions are critical for enabling and empowering citizens, whilst ensuring the protection of their privacy, personal data, and human rights in the digital environment; as well as enhancing the safety of children and other vulnerable groups online.

UNODC works closely with Member States and other stakeholders through its Global Programme on Cybercrime to support holistic crime prevention and criminal justice responses to cybercrime. This entails promotion of awareness raising and user self-protective practices; strengthening of law enforcement and criminal justice capacities in digital forensics and electronic evidence; and fostering effective forms of international cooperation in criminal matters involving cybercrime and digital evidence. Such actions contribute to a global culture of cybersecurity and, in turn, strengthen user trust in the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of computer systems and data.

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As the most influential global forum discussing the Internet and ICTs as important global resources, WSIS is uniquely placed to play a leading role in ensuring that the benefits are accessible to all. In so doing, we would be wise to foster a multi-disciplinary approach, which includes ICT development, crime prevention, criminal justice, human rights, and information security, if - as we approach 100 per cent global internet access – we are to fully reap the rewards.

I conclude by thanking you all for your attention.

1. UNODC 2013 Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)