Information and knowledge societies are just at the beginning of their life cycles. Many things that international community dreamed about in 2003 have become reality. ICT infrastructure development has been impressive. Spread of the mobile technologies is unprecedented in the history of mankind. Number of Internet users has grown exponentially reaching close to 3 billion today. Such rapid development was not imagined ten years ago.

The past ten years have been a time of evolution of technology. It has been also a time of evolution of our understanding about the impact of technology on societies and individuals. The Geneva Declaration calls for building inclusive knowledge societies. Indeed individuals should be at the centre of our efforts. They should be the main beneficiaries of ICTs. At the same time we need to ensure that they remain humans. Life in the information society requires development of specific skills. Critical thinking is one of the most important skills. Individuals should be media and information literate. Education has an important role to play in this respect.

ICTs have facilitated a free flow of information across the borders. They have empowered people in all parts of the world. They have given voice to previously the voiceless. Therefore we need to ensure the Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Information are preserved and promoted. The Information Society is about the sharing of knowledge, application of the shared knowledge for the benefit of individuals and societies. WSIS was the first major UN conference addressing issues of technology and ICTs for development. The vision of ITU and the decision of its 1998 Plenipotentiary conference made this global dialogue and long-term engagement possible. Approaching the 2015 threshold when the international community will review progress towards attainment of the Millennium Goals, we need to ensure that technology, specifically ICTs, will find a proper place in the post – 2015 sustainable Development Agenda as a catalyst and even a driver of development. This was a spirit of the decision on the follow-up and review of WSIS that was taken at the Tunis Summit. The outcome of this multi-stakeholder review event as well as one that was organized by UNESCO in February 2013 will inform the final review that will be conducted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015.