



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Private Bag 13344
WINDHOEK
NAMIBIA

Tel: (+264-61) 283 9111
Fax: (+264-61) 258 398

Ref:

Enquiries:

WSIS+10 HIGH LEVEL POLICY STATEMENT

BY HONOURABLE STANLEY SIMATAA (Mr.), DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY, NAMIBIA – JUNE 2014

Your Excellencies, Honourable Ministers, the Secretary-General of the UN, the Secretary-General of the ITU, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. I bring you warm greetings from the smile of Africa, the land of wide-open spaces, Namibia.

There is a Buddhist saying that goes:

*“If you want to know your past, look into your **present conditions**.
If you want to know your future, look into your **present actions**”*

I trust that we are gathered here this week as the Information Society holding that same ancient belief - the belief that we want to chart our future well beyond 2015, because the present state of achievements of the WSIS Action Lines, leaves major room for continuous and targeted action in order to make significant advances.

Namibia has made significant strides in 2011 by investing in the deployment of the 5.12 Terabit-per-second-capacity West Africa Cable System, as a means to invest in ICT infrastructure to specifically connect Government offices as part of ongoing efforts to implement our e-Government strategy.

This effort is further buttressed by the launch of the local IXP in 2013 and the fact that Namibia is DNSEC ready. WACS has provided our country with unparalleled broadband capacity which if properly harnessed, will accelerate our economic development and social transformation. However, for this to be realized, we have devised strategies to ensure equitable diffusion of broadband throughout the country. This will mitigate the inherent risk of further stretching the existing digital divide to unprecedented levels.

There is no doubt that when properly harnessed, broadband remains an appropriate conduit through which nations can with confidence accelerate their efforts in pursuit of the post 2015 development agenda.

While access to the internet has broken existing information and communication barriers and has equally unleashed unparalleled entrepreneurial opportunities, it remains critical for nations to address lingering security concerns. There is no doubt that sporadic cyber attacks, have potential to paralyse key operations of nation states. Moreover, experience has shown that developmental initiatives are severely impaired when the security of nation states, is compromised. Therefore, the development of a cyber security legislative framework which balances the rights of citizens with the security needs of nation states while at the same time providing agility to nations to respond to intermittent cyber attacks, is an absolute imperative.

As we examine our present conditions and note that opportunities are abound, and as we take stock of the current actions and appreciate the host of challenges encountered, we as the Information Society, must recommit ourselves to continue WSIS beyond 2015. Building a new information society, is not a sprint but is a marathon undertaking.

I THANK YOU