**Policy Statement**

**of**

**Dr. Tayfun ACARER, Chairman of the Board, President of Information and Communications Technologies Authority of Turkey**

**at**

 **WSIS+10 High Level Meeting,**

**11 June 2014, Geneva, Switzerland**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great privilege for me to address in WSIS+10 High Level Event. We all know that WSIS process provides excellent platform by engaging governments, the UN family, civil society and the private sector. It is very important gathering to review the progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and to take stock of achievements in the last 10 years.

WSIS Action Lines define clearly the roles and responsibility of governments and all stakeholders for development of ICTs and draw concrete guidelines for enhancing accessibility. I am very confident that this high level event will be successful one for achieving the goals of enhancing ICTs worldwide. It will also be important milestone in achieving the WSIS Goals and Millennium Development Goals.

As we all know ICTs play increasing roles for the social and economic progress of countries. Being the main instruments for reaching information society, ICTs provide an enabling platform for delivery of various public services. In bringing the new services to people’s life, broadband access networks are crucial part of the ICT ecosystem.

WSIS Action Line C2 draws the attention to the increasing demand for broadband and the necessity of infrastructure for meeting the uprising demand in ICT services. In this respect, governments play important role in developing forward-looking ICT strategies and promotion of information society. In Turkey, utmost importance is given for development of broadband. Turkey enjoys new information and communication technologies and services within her strong and sustainable economic growth. This growth creates opportunities to make use of new technologies and services.

Today, wireless technologies provide an enabling platform for emergence of new services and applications. Given the rising trend of mobile services, development of mobile broadband is the priority for governments in developing their ICT strategies. To this end, we implement various projects in Turkey which can demonstrate how ICT and mobile broadband in particular can contribute to human capacity and change our daily life in many ways. With the nationwide projects and initiatives encouraging public-private partnership, policy goals towards expanding mobile broadband can be achieved more easily and everyone can have access to broadband facilities and associated services.

Turkey gives utmost importance to equal access for all. In this respect, in order to have broadband access in rural areas; wireless infrastructure is established for the settlement areas which have no internet and telephone access. Improvement of GSM coverage is initiated for rural settlement areas with population less than 500 inhabitants.

As indicated in WSIS Action Line C4, there is an urgent need for the development of ICT infrastructure and technologies in parallel with e-skilling and human capacity building. In this respect, to enable equal opportunities in education and improve technology in schools for learning-teaching processes, Turkey initiated a project named “FATİH”. It stands for “Movement of Enhancing Opportunities and Improving Technology”. The project proposes developing the lecture rooms with technical infrastructure as well as products which enable having lectures in electronic format.

Given the utmost importance for capacity building efforts, I am very pleased to say that my Authority have launched training seminars since 2011 to support the capacity-building in developing countries as well as to exchange experience and views on various topics in ICT. These seminars include telecommunication regulations, spectrum regulations and information technologies regulations. Up to now, we have organized 6 training seminars with the participation of countries in various regions of the world. Next week, starting from June 16, we organize Seminar on Telecommunication Regulations in İstanbul. For one week, about 47 regulatory expert and manager from 26 different countries will be together to discuss key topics such as privacy, authorization, interconnection issues. These activities provides excellent platform for sharing expertise and knowledge between counties from various regions of the world.

Today, ICTs are in the heart of people’s daily life. We have witnessed tragic disasters in all around the world this year which shows the vital role of communication in rescue operations. As Turkey has experienced some earthquakes in recent years, for providing communication during emergencies, in vehicle mobile base stations are used for GSM coverage. We noticed that the rescue teams have been very successful by using this system. We consider that priority should be given to emergency communication and international cooperation and coordination have vital importance for timely rescue operations.

Today, in reaching the information society, internet is the ultimate tool having great potential to access people all around the world. Therefore, open, inclusive, safe and enabling environment are critical issues for internet where all need to pay close attention. International cooperation and capacity building are very important aspects of building confidence and security in the use of ICT. Action Line 5 provides excellent platform for consideration of this important issue and make further improvements for trust and confidence to cyberspace. Turkey considers this issue with high importance. To increase the awareness and be prepared for the cyber threat, Turkey recently conducted cyber shield exercises with the cooperation of ITU and IMPACT along with the participation of 20 countries.

Herein this important event, we have very important agenda for building the new vision of future. Following the extensive preparatory works conducted through six phases with all stakeholders, we are on the important milestone for reviewing WSIS outcomes along with the achievements of Action Lines. I am sure that we will also have great chance to explore new targets for a vision beyond 2015.

I am very confident that this event will be the succesful one in achieving planned purposes. I wish you all fruitful meeting.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.