



## Opening Remarks

Roberto Blois  
Deputy Secretary General  
International Telecommunication Union  
Geneva, Switzerland

### **WSIS Action Line Facilitation Meeting: Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs (C5)**

#### **“Partnerships for Global Cybersecurity”**

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Good morning,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all here to Geneva to this WSIS Action Line C5 Facilitation Meeting on the theme of “Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs”. I would also like to welcome those who are joining us via cyberspace, as this meeting is being audiocast live over the internet. The ITU looks forward to working closely with all of you in building partnerships to promote global cybersecurity.

At the start of the 21st century, our societies are increasingly dependent on what we call ICTs - information and communications technologies -- that today span the globe. Increasingly, communication networks are the lifeblood of modern societies.

They are responsible for a growing share of national wealth, as well as providing hopes for greater prosperity.

However, this dependency also brings new risks. We have growing concern that we are also making ourselves increasingly vulnerable. This is one of the reasons that ITU Council last year chose to highlight the serious challenges we face in ensuring the safety and security of networked information and communication systems by adopting the theme “Promoting Global Cybersecurity” for this year’s World Telecommunication Day, celebrated each year on May 17th. This year, the date carries added significance as it has now also been designated as “World Information Society Day” by the United Nations, following a request by WSIS. As you know, this event is one of a cluster of events around World Information Society Day, which we will be celebrating on Wednesday, with the first ever Information Society Day awards.

I believe the future shape of cyberspace is something we have the power to create and shape. How do we create and promote a global culture of cybersecurity? Our strategy must be forged through foresight, vision and specific action. And most importantly, strengthened cooperation among the many actors involved in this endeavour.

And this brings us to why we are here. Since cyberspace does not respect national borders, and because no country alone can solve the world’s cybersecurity problems, we must find methods for national, regional and international cooperation.

So let's get to work which means this is an opportune moment to introduce you to the Chairman we have selected for this event, Mr. Stein Schjolberg. Mr. Schjolberg is the Chief Judge at Moss Tingrett, a District Court in Norway, and the Editor of [Cybercrimelaw.net](http://Cybercrimelaw.net). He has published widely on computer crime legislation and is well known to many of you as an expert in the cybersecurity domain as he has given speeches on this topic at many conferences.

Mr. Schjolberg, colleagues, thank you for your kind attention and my best wishes for a very successful event.

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