

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF POSTS AND  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT OF  
SOMALI REPUBLIC**

**H. E. Mr. Abdi Mohamed Taarah**

Mr. Chairman Distinguish Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like at the very outset to express our deepest heartfelt thanks to the Government and the people of Turkey for hosting this historic conference at a time of great opportunity for ICT. We are, indeed, grateful for the wonderful hospitality that we have been accorded since our arrival in the beautiful city of Antalya.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to add my voice to the kind sentiments of the earlier speakers with regards to your election as the Chairman of this important Conference. We are indeed fortunate to have a Chairman of your caliber. I have no doubt that you will guide our deliberations with the utmost efficiency and wisdom which have marked your entire career.

Mr. Chairman,

This conference is taking place at time of great opportunity as Information and communication technology is making progress at a break-neck speed and telecommunication is able to deliver information for strategic decision-making in government, international trade, agriculture, manufacturing, social services and other sectors of the economy. The continuing development of telecommunications has therefore transformed the ways in which we live and work.

Therefore the need for ICT as a development tool assumed acceptance and has increasingly become an integral part of all socio-economic development efforts. The Geneva and Tunis set of Principles of WSIS and its implementation mechanism have laid the ground work for this rapid transformation in how we view and use technology as a tool for global and all-inclusive development.

Mr. Chairman,

Somalia has been in a state of civil conflict in over 15 years and its recent past history has been marked by tragedy and violence. The civil war has destroyed .The country's telecommunication system has been in the state of collapse and needs a complete reconstruction. The country has been brain drained ; the qualified people have left the country. This has created acute shortages of

skilled personnel.. Furthermore the country has hit by a severe drought and tsunami over the last four years.

The Somali Government was born after 2 years of reconciliation talks in Kenya under the auspices of African Union, Arab League, EU, International Partners to lay the foundation for a democratic government in the country and to embark upon reconciliation and reconstruction. I am happy to say that the new Somali Government has received wide acceptance both at home and internationally and the process of reconstruction and renewal has started with the support and the collaboration of the international community and the Somali people at large.

Mr. Chairman,

There is urgency to restore the national international telecommunication services in Somalia as they are essential for the humanitarian and relief operation, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities.

Mr. Chairman,

These challenges and many more are being tackled by Somalia's infant Government but we need the active support of the international community. It is my fervent hope that the Conference will come up with clear guidelines in which the ITU and the international community could provide this much needed assistance in this sector. In this respect I would like to request your support for the Somalia resolution which will go a long way towards this objective. I have no doubt that the Antalya Plenipotentiary Conference will provide this.

I wish to thank once again the Government of Turkey for their kind and generous welcome and for the Secretary General of the ITU for convening and organizing the conference very well. I wish the Conference all success.

Thank you