

22 August 2007
Original: English

PROGRAMME

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF COUNCIL 2007

Tuesday, 4 September 2007, at 0930 hours
(Room B, Tower Building, ITU)

Objective

With a view to strengthening the Council's interactivity and visibility, the opening of the Council will be followed by a High-Level Segment (HLS) designed to provide ministers from Member States of the Council and councillors with an opportunity to exchange views on issues of strategic importance to the Union and on emerging trends in the sector.

Key issues

This year's HLS will focus on two main topics: Cybersecurity and ICT Infrastructure. Under the outputs of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), ITU is asked to lead the multistakeholder efforts under Action Lines C2 (ICT Infrastructure) and C5 (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs). This facilitation process is well under way.

During the HLS, consideration will be given to new and ongoing developments in these two areas and to the main obstacles to progress. Speakers are invited to offer their perspectives on the scope of the problems, key measures undertaken by their governments, possible solutions and best practices.

09:30	Opening of the 2007 session of the Council Election of the Vice-Chairman of Council 2007 Address by the Secretary-General on the state of the Union
10:00	Cybersecurity – Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs The transformation of societies into information societies, made possible by the integration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) within almost every sphere of human activity, makes individuals, organizations and countries increasingly dependent on globally networked infrastructures. Unfortunately, accompanying this greater dependency on information and communication infrastructure, there is also growing and more sophisticated misuse of ICTs for malicious and criminal purposes. Cybercrime takes many forms, from breaches in network security, financial fraud, identity theft and invasion of privacy to attacks on critical resources and infrastructures, spam or online child pornography. Due to the globally interconnected nature of the information society, countries cannot close their borders to cyberattacks and cyberthreats.

	<p>Speakers are invited to offer their perspectives, <i>inter alia</i>, on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ What are the greatest cyber-threats currently faced by your country? ⇒ What are the key elements to be considered in formulating a national strategy for cybersecurity and for preventing cybercrime? ⇒ What role should be played by governments in promoting a culture of cybersecurity at the national, regional and international levels? ⇒ What does your government consider to be the highest priority activities for addressing current and emerging cyber-threats at the national, regional and international levels? <p>Opening speakers: Three to five speakers for five minutes each (names to be confirmed).</p>
10:20	Discussion
11:00	<i>Break</i>
11:15	<p>ICT Infrastructure</p> <p>In its role under Action Line C2, ITU is organizing a series of multistakeholder efforts in different parts of the world with the key objective of significantly accelerating ICT investment in underserved areas as well as supporting broader social and economic development. The first of these efforts, the <i>Connect Africa Summit</i>, will be taking place in Kigali (Rwanda) on 29 and 30 October 2007.</p> <p>Investment in ICT infrastructure in Africa has improved dramatically in recent years, representing a total of USD 8 billion in 2005, up from USD 3.5 billion in 2000. While Africa has the fastest growing mobile market in the world, it lags behind in broadband access, a key element of national and regional infrastructure needed to support investment, economic growth and employment. Speakers are invited to offer their perspectives, <i>inter alia</i>, on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What are the key success factors necessary to advance overall ICT investment and growth in Africa and other regions? – What are the best policy principles to create a business-friendly, attractive policy and regulatory environment that fosters innovation, competition and investment? – How can the right balance be struck between private and public investment as well as ownership and management of networks? – What national success stories can be used for best practices in building out ICT infrastructure and literacy? <p>Opening Speakers: Three to five speakers for five minutes each (names to be confirmed).</p>
11:45-12:30	Discussion

Interpretation and broadcast

Interpretation will be provided in the six official languages of the Union. The event will be broadcast on the ITU website.