

**8<sup>th</sup> World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators  
Meeting (WTIM-10)**  
Geneva, Switzerland, 24 - 26 November 2010



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*Contribution to WTIM-10 opening*

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DRAFT Opening remarks by the BDT Director

Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 8th ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators meeting.
- I am extremely pleased that the Secretary of State, H.E. Ms Chaffai, has accepted to chair our meeting this year. Tunisia has been a key player when it comes to developing the information society. Not only was it host to the second phase of the WSIS, but since then it has organized the annual ICT4 All Forum, in partnership with ITU, to assess progress on ICT for development in the African region and beyond.
- I am also very pleased to see that we have more than 260 registered participants from over 90 member states, as well as international organizations, academic and private entities. We are very lucky to have a number of distinguished speakers from the academic and business community with us, in addition to our experts from the government sector, who will share their knowledge and insights and stimulate the debate.
- This year's WTIM coincides with an important date. The year 2010 marks the midpoint between 2005, the conclusion of the WSIS in Tunis and 2015, the target date for reaching the WSIS goals, set in line with the target date for achieving the MDGs. Therefore, this year much attention has been paid to assessing progress on reaching these internationally agreed development goals. Reliable data and indicators are critical in this process, not only to take stock but also to help policy makers and investors take the right decisions so that the goals can be achieved.
- 2010 was also the year in which the UN General Assembly designated 20 October (20-10-2010) as World Statistics Day. The worldwide celebration of World Statistics Day was a big success and acknowledged the importance of national and international official statistics and the shared values of service, integrity and professionalism. ITU actively participated in the celebration of World Statistics Day jointly with other Geneva-based international organizations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Based on ITU estimates, the number of Internet users worldwide doubled during the past five years and will surpass the two billion mark in 2010. The good news is that Internet user numbers are growing at a higher rate in developing countries compared to developed countries. Indeed, 162 million of the 226 million new Internet users in 2010 will be from developing countries.
- But a lot more people need to be brought online: while 71% of the population in developed countries will be online by the end of this year, only 21% of the population in developing countries will be using the Internet, and only few of them through a broadband connection. Therefore, urgent action is necessary to bridge the digital divide, especially the persisting broadband divide. The mobile boom has been successful in bringing communication to millions of previously unconnected people and we now need to upgrade the services to provide wireless access to Internet at broadband speeds.
- Indeed, broadband was one of the issues at the heart of the discussions of the Global Symposium for Regulators, which took place in Dakar, Senegal two weeks ago, bringing together regulators and policy makers from more than 80 countries. One of the key policy messages coming out of the GSR was to encourage regulatory frameworks that foster innovation, investment and affordable access to broadband.
- This year's WTIM will pay a lot of attention to the subject of broadband measurement. During the coming days, you will be addressing the definitions of broadband, new broadband-related indicators, and how to measure the economic and social impact of broadband.
- I am very pleased to see our cooperation with other international organizations in the preparation of this conference, such as the OECD, the EU, UNCTAD, and the UN Regional Commissions, under the framework of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development. The Partnership, which was created six years ago, has been highly successful in raising awareness of the importance of ICT measurement, enhancing the availability of ICT data, and developing international standards that serve as a guidance for countries and ensure comparability of indicators across countries. Tomorrow, a critical step forward will be made when core indicators for measuring e-government will be presented, and indicators for measuring the WSIS targets. I encourage all of you to share your experience and knowledge in this final consultation process.
- A topic that has raised a lot of concern among parents, educators, and policy makers, is the safety of our children in the online world. This is why ITU has embraced this topic and launched the Child Online Protection initiative in 2008. The COP initiative aims to promote global awareness on the importance of child safety in the online world and develop practical tools to assist governments, industry and educators in their efforts to ensure a safe and secure online experience for children everywhere.

- Monitoring the risks and threats associated with children’s use of the Internet is essential to these efforts. I am therefore very pleased that on the occasion of this year’s WTIM, we are launching a new report called “Child online protection: statistical framework and indicators”. For the first time, an attempt has been made to provide a comprehensive guide on the measurement of child online protection. It has been developed with the objective of enabling Member States to assess the status of child online safety in their country, and identify aspects of child online protection that may require further effort.
- Finally, one of the emerging issues that has received considerable attention recently is the question of how ICTs impact on climate change. Clearly, this requires a quantitative assessment and methodology for measurement and it is likely that many of you will be asked to address this in the near future. Therefore we decided to share with you the latest progress made on measuring ICTs and climate change. We have organized this discussion in close cooperation with our colleagues in the Standardization Sector, and we are taking advantage of the presence of experts who are attending the ITU-T Study Group 5 WP-3 meeting on ICTs and climate change this week in Geneva.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- You have a rich and diverse agenda in front of you. Let me close by thanking all of our members for your support for our work on ICT statistics, in particular through providing data and indicators. Your prompt and continuous collaboration is essential to enhancing the effective production, dissemination, and analysis of ICT statistics.
- I wish you interesting and fruitful debates over the next three days and I look forward to the outcomes of this important meeting.