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| **World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) Geneva, 2-27 November 2015** |  |
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| **PLENARY MEETING** | **Document 513-E** |
| **18 December 2015** |
| **Original: English** |

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| MINUTES  OF THE  sixteenth and last PLENARY MEETING |
| Friday, 27 November 2015, at 1615 hours |
| **Chairman:** Mr F.Y.N. DAUDU (Nigeria) |

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|  | **Subjects discussed** | **Documents** |
| 1 | Additional declarations and reservations | 458 |
| 2 | Signing ceremony | – |
| 3 | Closure of the conference | – |

# 1 Additional declarations and reservations (Document 458)

1.1 The additional declarations and reservations in Document 458 were **noted**.

# 2 Signing ceremony

2.1 The **Secretary of the Plenary** explained the procedure for the signing ceremony and called the roll of those delegations whose credentials had been found to be in order.

2.2 Upon completion of the signing procedure, he announced that 150 Member States (list reproduced in Annex A) had signed the Final Acts.

# 3 Closure of the conference

3.1 The **Chairman** delivered the address reproduced in Annex B.

3.2 The **Director of BR** delivered the address reproduced in Annex C.

3.3 The **Secretary-General** delivered the address reproduced in Annex D and awarded the Chairman the ITU Silver Medal and certificate.

3.4 The **delegate of the United Arab Emirates**, speaking on behalf of the Arab States, the **delegate of New Zealand**, speaking on behalf of APT, the **delegate of Kenya**, speaking on behalf of the African States, the **delegate of Brazil**, speaking on behalf of CITEL, the **delegate of** **Germany**, speaking on behalf of CEPT, the **delegate of Belarus**, speaking on behalf of RCC, the **delegate of Liberia**, the **delegate of Senegal** and the **delegate of Malawi**, speaking on behalf of the South African Development Community (SADC), congratulated the Chairman – the first African to have ever chaired a world radio conference – on bringing the work of the conference to a successful conclusion despite the difficulty and sensitivity of the numerous issues addressed and the long hours required to achieve consensus; by helping the participants to reconcile their positions, he had enabled ITU to address the challenges posed by new technologies while protecting existing services. They also conveyed their appreciation to the Secretary-General, the Director of BR, the BR and secretariat staff, the chairmen of the committees and their subgroups, the regional groups and the host country. The **delegate of the United Arab Emirates**, speaking on behalf of the Arab States, also thanked the Secretary-General for facilitating agreement regarding matters relating to Israel and Palestine at WRC-15. The **delegate of Senegal** also expressed thanks to the Secretary-General of ATU and the delegations of the African States; the adoption of new Radio Regulations would help to create an enabling environment for the development of telecommunications in Africa. The **delegate of Malawi** said that the SADC countries were committed to implementing the resolutions adopted at WRC-15.

3.7 The **Minister of Communications of Nigeria** delivered the address which is reproduced in Annex E.

**A video of scenes from the conference was shown.**

3.8 The **Chairman** thanked all the speakers for their kind words and declared the World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 closed.

**The meeting rose at 1835 hours.**

The Secretary-General: The Chairman:  
H. ZHAO F.Y.N. DAUDU

**Annexes**: 5

Original: English

Annex A  
  
List of Member States having signed the Final Acts of the  
 World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2015)

Afghanistan, Albania (Republic of), Algeria (People’s Democratic Republic of), Germany (Federal Republic of), Angola (Republic of), Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), Argentine Republic, Armenia (Republic of), Australia, Austria, Azerbaijani Republic, Bahamas (Commonwealth of the), Bahrain (Kingdom of), Bangladesh (People’s Republic of), Barbados, Belarus (Republic of), Belgium, Belize, Benin (Republic of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana (Republic of), Brazil (Federative Republic of), Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria (Republic of), Burkina Faso, Burundi (Republic of), Cabo Verde (Republic of), Cambodia (Kingdom of), Cameroon (Republic of), Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China (People’s Republic of), Cyprus (Republic of), Vatican City State, Colombia (Republic of), Korea (Republic of), Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire (Republic of), Croatia (Republic of), Cuba, Denmark, Djibouti (Republic of), Dominican Republic, Egypt (Arab Republic of), El Salvador (Republic of), United Arab Emirates, Ecuador, Spain, Estonia (Republic of), United States of America, Russian Federation, Fiji (Republic of), Finland, France, Gabonese Republic, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala (Republic of), Guinea (Republic of), Guinea-Bissau (Republic of), Hungary, India (Republic of), Indonesia (Republic of), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq (Republic of), Ireland, Iceland, Israel (State of), Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan (Hashemite Kingdom of), Kazakhstan (Republic of), Kenya (Republic of), Kuwait (State of), Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho (Kingdom of), Latvia (Republic of), Lebanon, Liberia (Republic of), Liechtenstein (Principality of), Lithuania (Republic of), Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malawi, Mali (Republic of), Malta, Morocco (Kingdom of), Mauritania (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova (Republic of), Monaco (Principality of), Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique (Republic of), Namibia (Republic of), Nepal (Federal Democratic Republic of), Nicaragua, Niger (Republic of the), Nigeria (Federal Republic of), Norway, New Zealand, Oman (Sultanate of), Uganda (Republic of), Uzbekistan (Republic of), Pakistan (Islamic Republic of), Papua New Guinea, Paraguay (Republic of), Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Peru, Philippines (Republic of the), Poland (Republic of), Portugal, Qatar (State of), Syrian Arab Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kyrgyz Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Romania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Rwanda (Republic of), San Marino (Republic of), Senegal (Republic of), Serbia (Republic of), Singapore (Republic of), Slovenia (Republic of), Sudan (Republic of the), South Sudan (Republic of), Sri Lanka (Democratic Socialist Republic of), South Africa (Republic of), Sweden, Switzerland (Confederation of), Swaziland (Kingdom of), Tanzania (United Republic of), Chad (Republic of), Thailand, Togolese Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay (Eastern Republic of), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam (Socialist Republic of), Zambia (Republic of), Zimbabwe (Republic of).

Original: English

Annex B  
  
Closing address by the Chairman

Your Excellency, The ITU Secretary-General, Mr Houlin Zhao,

The ITU Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Malcolm Johnson,

The Director of the BR, Mr François Rancy,

The Director of the TSB, Mr Chaesub Lee,

The Director of the BDT, Mr Brahima Sanou,

Your Excellencies, Ministers and Ambassadors present here today,

Members of the UN bodies, Sector Members, invited guests and observers,

Distinguished Delegates,

Gentlemen of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Please permit me to first of all thank the Almighty God who made it possible for me to have been elected to chair the ITU 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) and the grace that He bestowed on me that enabled me to be able to pilot the affairs of the conference to its successful completion. I return all glory, honour and adoration to Him alone.

2. It is said that everything that has a beginning must have an end. Therefore, the ITU 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) that started on 2nd November is now coming to an end today, 27November 2015.

3. Over the past four weeks I was honoured to have been entrusted by you with the responsibility of chairing this great and important conference. When the conference started, there was apprehension on the part of many as to its possible outcome. To me, this was not surprising given the complexity of the various issues that were before the conference and the diverse interest of individual administrations coupled with the fact that this was the first time an African was going to chair a WRC in the 150 years’ existence of the Union. There is no doubt that, to chair a WRC such as this one has always been a challenging responsibility. This has been the experience of my predecessors since I started attending WRCs in 2003. This challenge is inherent in the system in view of the very diverse interests of participants and the competing and peculiar needs for the scarce radio frequency spectrum resource for the various services by all. WRC-15 like other WRCs was peculiar in view of the complex nature and interests generated by some of the agenda items. But as you all are aware and in the spirit of the conference, we overcame the complexities through compromises and consensus.

4. In spite of our differences, interests, the heated debates and initial positions that we had or came with and difficult as they were, we were able to reach compromises and consensus at the end. I thank you all for the spirit of dialogue, consultations, cooperation and understanding.

5. In my opening statement I stated that we were going to take decisions that will have direct impact on various sectors of human endeavour ranging from health to information, education, security and safety. I also stated that the conference was going to examine and decide on sensitive issues that are at the core of everybody’s life in this our present day ranging from mobile broadband communications and broadband satellite systems to emergency communications and disaster relief, including issues related to maritime and aeronautical communications, monitoring the environment and climate change, universal time and space research and many more. I hope all this has been achieved through the development of the various new resolutions as well as modification of the existing ones to conform to the present- day dynamic technological development and advancement, and also the suppression of those that were no longer needed in order to allow the Radio Regulations to stay tuned to the present-day realities.

6. One of the greatest achievements of this conference was the approval of spectrum allocation to global flight tracking in response to the directive of the ITU 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference, which came as a result of the disappearance of the Malaysia airline flight number MH370 that disappeared on 8 March 2014 without trace. The frequency allocation will allow real-time tracking via satellite of aircraft flying along regions where conventional tracking is not available, like those flying across desert, oceans and polar regions. The WRC-15 conclusion on this at the early stage of the conference has gone a long way in sending a strong signal to the global community that ITU is an organization that can respond to any emergency situation at any given opportunity and time.

7. I had also stated and promised that I took the responsibility of chairing the conference seriously and that I was going to do my utmost to meet your expectations and fulfil the mandate you had entrusted me with while ensuring that I provided a level playing field and manage the proceedings efficiently with complete fairness and impartiality. I therefore hope I have not disappointed you.

8. WRC-15 has adhered to the principle that has governed all previous WRCs: it was long, tiring, difficult, sometimes frustrating, but, at the end, your joint work and dedication resulted in a significant achievement. This conference will enter history as one that shows the membership’s determination to contribute to the development of the sector, while advancing the work of the ITU in general, and that of the ITU-R in particular, to better the world in which we all live.

9. I was not only honoured by your valuable confidence, but also blessed with your invaluable support in order to achieve the objectives of the conference. I would like to thank all those who contributed to this end, starting by the coordinators of the regional groups, the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the conference and its various committees, working groups, sub-groups and informal groups, for your support and expertise in the field of work of the conference, as well as that of the ITU officials that supported our work. Thanks for your support and your advice, which was key to advance the activities of the conference.

10. I would like to particularly appreciate the support I have received from H.E. Mr Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General, who has spared no efforts to support the conference and its chairman, and has highly contributed to eliminate obstacles that would endanger the success of WRC-15.

11. I recognize the continuous assistance and advice provided to me throughout the conference by Mr François Rancy, Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau. His vision, suggestions and advice have made a significant impact and contribution to the smooth work of the conference. I would like to applaud his active role in developing ITU-R and commend his longstanding contributions in the field of radiocommunications through his experience and significant expertise. I thank the Secretary of the Plenary, Mr Mario Maniewicz, who devoted all his energy to ensure that I had successful sessions. I salute the Legal Adviser, Mr Arnaud Guillot, who was always at hand with his legal opinion where I was in doubt.

12. I specially thank the ITU staff, the BR team and the members of the RRB for their unparalleled dedication, efficiency and professionalism, which have certainly contributed to the smooth running of the conference, facilitated my job and helped resolve many difficulties. I encourage you to please do justice to the outcome of the conference.

13. I recognize and thank the teams of interpreters, who contributed to the success of the Conference, as well as thank all those unknown to me who worked day and night to facilitate our task. I wish also to thank my secretary, Ms Monica Portocarrero, who assisted me throughout the conference.

14. A special thanks to the following vice-chairmen of the conference, who provided me with all the support and assistance. They are:

• Mr A. Jamieson from New Zealand

• Mr Y. Al-Bulushi from Oman

• Mr D. Obam from Kenya

• Mrs D. Tomimura from Brazil

• Mr A. Kühn from Germany; and

• Mr N. Nikiforov from the Russian Federation

15. I express high appreciation for the efforts made by the committee chairmen, whose suggestions and views helped me deal with all of the agenda items:

• Mr N. Meaney, Chairman of Committee 2;

• Mr A. Kadirov, Chairman of Committee 3;

• Mr M. Fenton, Chairman of Committee 4;

• Mr K. Al Awadhi, Chairman of Committee 5;

• Mrs A. Allison, Chairman of Committee 6; and

• Mr C. Rissone, Chairman of Committee 7,

Also, I thank the chairmen and vice-chairmen of all related working groups and sub-groups.

16. You were all supportive to me, however I wish to specifically recognize and thank Mr Kavouss Arasteh who was always ready to bail me out by providing solutions to some of the difficult challenges that I encountered. I also thank Mr Abdoulkarim Soumaila, Secretary-General of the ATU, and the entire staff members of ATU.

17. I thank all the African Administrations and ATU for collectively putting my name forward for this noble assignment and again I thank my country Nigeria for giving me this unique opportunity to serve the global community. I recognize the presence of my minister who just assumed his duties and yet because of the importance he attaches to the activities of ITU and his great support for my chairmanship, he is present here to further support and encourage me. Honourable minister sir, you are welcome and I appreciate your presence today which is a very great honour to me.

18. I wish you all a safe trip back home, while you can rest assured that you have accomplished a great collective result at WRC-15. Those staying for the CPM, I wish you useful deliberations and journey mercies back to your various countries when you might have concluded your work.

Original: English

Annex C  
  
Closing remarks by the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

Excellencies Ministers, Heads of Regulators and Ambassadors,  
Mr Secretary-General,  
Mr Director, TSB,  
Distinguished Delegates,   
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is a pleasure to be addressing you at the end of this memorable world radiocommunication conference.

A great deal has been achieved in these four weeks and the results of your work in bringing consensus to over 40 agenda items will certainly have a major impact on the future of the telecommunication sector in general and on radiocommunications in particular.

Your decisions will contribute to maintaining a stable, predictable and universally applied regulatory environment that will secure long-term investments for the multi-trillion dollar ICT industry without disrupting the services currently provided to the worldwide population universally. They will change the lives of people around the world.

These decisions are captured in WRC-15 Final Acts, that will soon be published. What a gift to reach this successful outcome as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of our Union! This publication will be followed, in the course of 2016, by the updated ITU Radio Regulations, as we’ll celebrate the 110th anniversary of the ITU Radio Regulations.

Let us look at some of your key achievements over the past four weeks:

• WRC-15 allocated and identified for IMT globally harmonized bands in the UHF, L‑ and C-bands for the development of mobile broadband on a worldwide scale, while fully protecting the other services currently operated in these bands. This decision paves the way for the offering of mobile broadband at an affordable price in currently underserved areas and for bringing significant additional resources in areas where demand is already very high.

• Agreement was reached on the allocation of radio-frequency spectrum for global flight tracking in civil aviation for improved safety. This was achieved in record time to meet the expectations of the global community.

• Also concerning the aeronautical sector, WRC-15 opened the way for the development by ICAO of worldwide standards for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), and identified the regulatory conditions that may be applied to such systems internationally. WRC-15 also agreed on spectrum for wireless avionics intra-communications.

• WRC-15 also took decisions that will improve the quality and safety of automotive and maritime transport and, through earth stations in motion, will pave the way to provide global broadband connectivity for the transportation community.

• WRC-15 also concluded on the future reference time-scale, including the modification of coordinated universal time (UTC), by seeking more widely the views of international organizations, industry and user groups on this issue.

• By identifying harmonized spectrum at 694-894 MHz, WRC-15 enables mobile broadband communications for robust and reliable mission-critical emergency services for public protection and disaster relief.

• New allocations have been made for Earth-exploration satellite services with higher resolution radar imagery for improved global monitoring of the environment and climate.

Whilst I could mention several other notable achievements, let me congratulate you all as you have once again, together, successfully reached by consensus all your decisions in the true tradition of this ‘marathon’!

I also would like to praise the remarkable skills of our chairman in bringing this event to such a successful conclusion. Mr Festus Daudu’s efficiency and masterly guidance of the proceedings of this conference have been outstanding and I can only express my admiration and gratitude for his untiring action throughout this event. We wish Mr Daudu continued success in the future. Thank you very much Mr Chairman.

I would like to conclude by also thanking the conference vice-chairs, the committees, chairs and vice-chairs, the working group, sub-working group and ad hoc groups chairs, the RRB members, the delegates, and the ITU staff who have shown excellence and dedication during these 25 days (and sometimes nights) of hard work.

Let me also thank the Swiss Administration for hosting this major event in this CICG building which is so remarkably optimized for our work.

The Radiocommunication Bureau will continue as always to assist all administrations in implementing the provisions of this international treaty which governs the use of radiocommunications throughout the world – the ITU Radio Regulations.

In concluding, excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank all of you again for your support in helping to bring the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference to a successful conclusion. I wish you a safe trip back home and very happy holiday season.

Original: English

Annex D  
  
Closing remarks by the Secretary-General

Mr Chairman,

Excellencies, Ministers, Ambassadors,

Mr Rancy, Director, BR,

Mr Lee, Director, TSB,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear colleagues,

You have just completed a most intense four-week marathon of debate and discussions leading to many agreements. I am delighted to see that your hard work has been well rewarded, and that you have achieved excellent results that you can well be proud of and have once again demonstrated the key role that the ITU Radiocommunication Sector plays in global telecommunications and information technology.

I know that your days have been long and difficult. I am also aware that you have achieved some outstanding results that will place ITU and the Radiocommunication Sector in managing the Radio Regulations – the international treaty governing the use of the radio-frequency spectrum for all radio services and the geostationary-satellite and non-geostationary-satellite orbits – on a sound footing for the next four years.

I salute the remarkable spirit of cooperation of the 164 Member State delegations participating in this conference.

Distinguished colleagues,

WRC-15 has been very important indeed in terms of its achievements. And while I cannot adequately sum up four weeks of intensive efforts in just a few minutes, the conference has reached significant achievements, having dealt with some 40 topics that were on the WRC-15 agenda. Global flight tracking for civil aviation, mobile broadband communications, enhanced maritime communication systems, road safety, and emergency communications and disaster relief, are certainly among them.

I was also very pleased that an Israeli-Palestinian agreement was reached to facilitate the establishment of a modern and reliable telecommunication network for the Palestinian people. The spirit of cooperation and compromise demonstrated by those involved in reaching this agreement is highly appreciated by the ITU. We commend their efforts in achieving this significant outcome. The revised version of Resolution 12 on Assistance and Support to Palestine was also adopted by WRC‑15 and I assure you that ITU will continue to provide assistance for the development of telecommunication networks and cellular services in Palestine and elsewhere in the region.

WRC-15 has defined new and better ways to regulate radio services and applications. In a world where radiocommunications are playing an increasingly important role in connecting people, I am convinced that the outcome of this conference will represent a major contribution in making the world a better – and safer – place for all.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the many women participants and look forward to greater gender balance in the future.

The US delegation can be congratulated for having the largest number of female delegates, with 39 women on the delegation, equating to almost a quarter of the whole US delegation.

I would especially like to congratulate those delegations that achieved or came close to gender parity at WRC. This includes Cabo Verde, Kazakhstan, Madagascar and South Sudan, which all achieved exactly 50 per cent female participation.

Special mention should also go to Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Dominican Republic, Hungary, Malaysia, Portugal and Thailand, all of which achieved one third or more female participation on their delegations.

At WRC-15, we have a total of 3 200 participants present, of which 17.2 per cent of female participants, up from 15.9 per cent at WRC-12 – but this is still well below the 30 per cent threshold, which is considered necessary for real change.

So this should be our target for the next WRC.

WRC-15 marks the great achievements of the last 150 years; by many considerations, WRC-15 will be recognized as a new milestone of ITU history.

Let me now move on to congratulate Mr Festus DAUDUfrom Nigeria, for his outstanding work as Chairman of WRC-15 and as the first African to chair a WRC in the 150 years’ history of ITU. He has delivered quite extraordinary leadership and we are all grateful for his tireless dedication to the task.

Let me also congratulate the six vice-chairs of the conference for their excellent work, as well as the committee chairs, vice-chairs, chairs of ad hoc groups, who have done a tremendous job. Congratulations!

I would like to highlight the excellent preparatory process carried out over the past few years, which helped ensure the success of this conference, including the effective coordination role played by the six regional groups.

I would also like to convey my special thanks to all the members of the Radio Regulations Board, who have done – and will continue to do – such important work here at ITU.

Let me also express appreciation on behalf of us all to François Rancy, Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, and of course to Mario Maniewicz, Secretary of the Conference. The staff of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the General Secretariat, including the interpreters, worked hand-in-hand to ensure that the conference was well prepared and that the necessary services and support was provided for its smooth running. I thank them all!

Let me also thank at this point the Dean of the Conference, Mr Habeeb Alshankiti from Saudi Arabia who opened our conference.

I also thank the Swiss and Geneva Authority for their great efforts to increase the security forces to protect the conference, especially during the last two weeks, with armed police force deployed in front of the CICG, under my request at short notice on a weekend.

I thank also the technicians, security staff and others who had served the conference in the past four weeks.

Last but not least, I would like to thank you, dear delegates, for your participation and your contributions to the success of WRC-15.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I will now come back to our chairman for the remarkable skills in bringing this event to such a successful conclusion. Mr Festus Daudu’s patient and able leadership has been outstanding and I can only express my admiration and thanks for his untiring support.

I now wish to present a certificate of merit and a medal to the WRC-15 Chairman, Mr Festus Daudu of Nigeria, who is also the first African to chair a WRC in the 150-year history of ITU.

Ladies and gentlemen – it has been an eventful month ….and I wish you a safe return home.

Original: English

Annex E  
  
Statement by Barr Adebayo Shittu, Honourable Minister of Communications, Federal Republic of Nigeria

The Chairman WRC-15,

The Secretary-General, ITU,

Deputy Secretary-General, ITU,

Directors of the ITU Bureaux,

Distinguished Delegates,

Gentlemen of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I bring you greetings from the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It is a great honour and privilege to be part of this closing ceremony for the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) here in Geneva, Switzerland.

2. My presence at this conference is historical and special because this happens to be my first international official engagement since I assumed office as the Minister of Communications in Nigeria four weeks ago. My sincere apologies for my inability to be here at the Opening Ceremony to see my Director, Engr. Festus Daudu, take up the responsibility of managing this highly technical conference; it is attributable to the fact that I had not yet taken up the responsibility as Minister of Communications.

3. At this juncture, on behalf of the Nigerian Administration, I would like to first of all express our sincere gratitude to all administrations of the ITU for having confidence in Engr. Daudu and his eventual endorsement by all of you for him to chair and direct the affairs of this very important conference. We are particularly pleased by this gesture because it is now on record that a Nigerian in the person of Engr. Festus Daudu is the first African to chair a world radiocommunication conference in the 150-year existence of the ITU.

4. Nigeria considers the WRC-15 chairmanship of Engr. Festus Daudu as a great honour done not only to Nigeria, but to the entire African community and African Telecommunications Union (ATU) in particular. I therefore on behalf of the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria thank all African Member States and ATU for putting forward the name of Engr. Festus Daudu as Africa’s only candidate nominated for chairmanship of WRC-15.

5. As I stated just a moment ago, this is a very important conference. It is very important because 14 years ago, Nigeria came to limelight in the telecommunications/ICT sector as a result of the transparent auction of frequency spectrum and licensing of the initial three digital mobile operators for provision of GSM services in the country. I believe the identification and decision to use the GSM spectrum was taken at a previous conference such as WRC-15. Since the GSM revolution, Nigeria has continued to witness tremendous progress and growth in the telecommunications and ICT sector of our economy. While Nigeria had less than 500 000 fixed telephone lines as at January 2001, the country now has an estimated mobile subscription of 150 million and teledensity of 107.61.

6. No doubt, the radio frequency spectrum serves as the backbone resource that underpins the wireless communications industry, hence the competing demand by various services.

7. As you are aware, Nigeria already has a National Broadband Plan, which is aimed at providing, in the minimum, ubiquitous and affordable 3G coverage of mobile broadband access to at least 80 per cent of the population by the year 2018. We believe that the decisions you have taken at this conference after four weeks of deliberations is a significant milestone to sustaining the future in all spheres of human endeavours. In addition, your achievement at this conference would go a long way to assist relevant stakeholders develop and use appropriate technologies that would help in the implementation of their respective countries’ broadband agenda and provision of other important services.

8. Nigeria believes that increased and affordable broadband penetration and access would promote innovations amongst its people. It will also enhance quality of education and health-care delivery, increase job and wealth creation and reduce poverty, just to mention a few of the benefits that could be derived from what you the experts, professionals and industry leaders have achieved at this conference.

9. Distinguished Secretary-General, I would like to assure you of Nigeria’s continued support and commitment to the ITU, so that together we shall contribute to building a knowledge-driven economy and a world information society for all.

10. No doubt, it has been four weeks of extensive deliberations by experts and professionals of administrations to allocate spectrum for use by various radiocommunication services and applications, complicated and contentious issues notwithstanding, I salute all of you for your hard work and spirit of consensus and compromises during your deliberations.

11. Distinguished delegates, at the beginning of this conference, the Nigerian Administration solicited your support and co-operation for Engr. Festus Daudu to succeed in his assignment as the chairman of this conference. My delegation informed me of your kind understanding and support, which resulted in the success and achievements that we all are celebrating today. Once again I salute you.

12. I would also like to use this opportunity to acknowledge with thanks the wonderful support of the Secretary-General of the ITU Mr Houlin Zhao and his team to Engr. Daudu towards the success of this conference. A special gratitude to the Secretary-General of the African Telecommunications Union, Mr Soumaila Abdulkarim and the entire African Group for your support and love.

13. Finally, I thank you all for giving me the opportunity to address this august meeting; I wish you a safe journey back to your respective destinations.

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