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Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

12 December 2022

Popov, ITU Headquarters, Geneva

*Welcome Remarks*

Chaesub Lee

Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau  
International Telecommunication Union

Secretary-General, BDT Director

TSAG Chairman

Distinguished colleagues and friends in person and remote,

Good morning and welcome to this meeting of TSAG.

I am pleased to join our Secretary-General in welcoming and congratulating our new TSAG Chairman, Abdurahman Al Hassan, as well as our 10 new Vice-Chairs. ITU-T has been benefitted more than 20 years over excellent leaderships from America region. I thank Bruce Gracie former TSAG chair join with us today.

Abdurahman is the first TSAG chairman from other regions with several new VCs presenting well all regions, so we are already excited about fresh air you and your team bring to the TSAG.

Your dedicated support to ITU-T is highly appreciated, and I wish you every success in guiding TSAG's work.

Among the key issues on our agenda this week are the structure of TSAG and how we could best support the innovation required to enable the metaverse.

The strategic importance of the issues brought to TSAG makes for challenging work. Finding practical ways for ITU-T to deliver on strategic priorities to meet industry and market movements is exactly the purpose of TSAG.

I was glad to hear our Secretary-General highlighting the importance of ITU standardization work to sustainable development.

Our CxO meeting last week in Dubai identified need for ITU define metrics and key performance indicators for ICT companies to measure their progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We see strong recognition that ITU is uniquely positioned to drive digital transformation for smart and sustainable development.

The upward trend in ITU-T membership is certain to continue. The strong participation in our Focus Groups, and the breadth of topics under study, are a clear indication of the expanding variety of stakeholders in ITU standardization.

We have achieved considerable success in bringing everyone together to clarify the contributions to digital transformation expected of all stakeholders, including the contributions expected of ITU.

Key to this success are our collaboration initiatives, such as AI for Good, the AI for Road Safety initiative, the Digital Currency Global Initiative, and United for Smart Sustainable Cities.

Looking ahead, we will host our digital currency conference in January and our Future Networked Car Symposium in March, both online. And in July, the AI for Good Global Summit will return to Geneva as a supplement to the all-year online format that has proven invaluable and will remain core to our work in this arena.

I am also proud to say that we continue to spearhead ITU's engagement with academia. Researchers are highly invested in ITU standardization work. We have further strengthened ITU-Academia collaboration with the success of the ITU Journal on Future and Evolving Technologies, as well as our long-running Kaleidoscope academic conferences, the most recent held in Ghana last week.

We have also taken great strides forward in our support to the growing synergy between industry and academia’s work in the development and application of ICTs, particularly in the field of AI and machine learning.

This synergy is highly evident in the overwhelming response that we have seen to ITU Challenges on AI and machine learning. These competitions have welcomed over 3,000 participants since their launch in 2020.

They are stimulating global access to AI expertise and capabilities. And they are enhancing the skillsets of the next generation of innovators, as well as their ability to contribute to ITU standardization work.

On Wednesday online, we will host the Grand Finale of the ITU Challenge on AI and machine learning in 5G.

I am very pleased to see my successor Mr Onoe Seizo, TSB Director Elect, join this TSAG meeting. Congratulations on his election and also regret to Mr Bilel Jamoussi. I am sure both of two will work together to ensure seamless operation of ITU-T and TSB. As a concluding word, I wish all the best for this TSAG meeting.

Thank you.

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