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|  | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION**TELECOMMUNICATIONSTANDARDIZATION SECTOR**STUDY PERIOD 2025-2028 | TSAG-TD12 |
| TSAG |
| Original: English |
|  |  | Geneva, 26-30 May 2025 |
| **TD** |
| **Source:** | Director, TSB |
| **Title:** | Opening address at TSAG Meeting, 26 May 2025 |
| **Contact:** | TSB Director | Email: tsbdir@itu.int  |

**Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group**

**Geneva**

**26 May 20245**

***Welcome Remarks***

**Seizo Onoe**

**Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau
International Telecommunication Union**

TSAG Chair,

ITU Secretary-General,

Colleagues and friends,

Good morning and welcome to Geneva.

Good morning, and welcome to this first session of the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) in the current study period.

It is both a privilege and a profound responsibility to address you today as we embark on another critical phase of our collective journey in shaping the future of global telecommunications.

Since my election as Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau in January 2023, I have been deeply inspired by the dedication and expertise that each of you brings to our shared mission. Together, we are not merely developing technical standards; we are laying the foundation for a connected, inclusive, and sustainable digital future.

The role of TSAG is pivotal in steering the strategic direction of ITU-T, ensuring that our work aligns with the evolving needs of societies and economies worldwide. As we convene today, we are acutely aware of the rapid technological advancements and the pressing challenges that accompany them. From the proliferation of artificial intelligence to the complexities of cybersecurity, from the imperative of bridging the digital divide to the urgency of addressing climate change, our work has never been more consequential.

In this context, standardization serves as a cornerstone. It provides the interoperability, security, and scalability necessary to harness the full potential of emerging technologies. However, standards alone are not sufficient. Their true value is realized only when they are widely adopted and effectively implemented. This requires active collaboration among all stakeholders—governments, industry, academia, and civil society.

At ITU, we are committed to fostering an environment of open and inclusive standardization processes. We recognize that innovation thrives in diverse ecosystems, and it is through the convergence of varied perspectives that we can develop solutions that are both technically robust and socially relevant.

One of the most promising areas where our collective efforts are making a significant impact is in the realm of artificial intelligence. Through initiatives like "AI for Good," we are collaborating with UN agencies and other partners to develop standards that ensure AI technologies are used ethically and responsibly. These standards are not just technical specifications; they are instruments for safeguarding human rights, promoting transparency, and ensuring that AI serves the common good.

Moreover, our work extends to other critical domains such as quantum technologies, the metaverse, and climate resilience. Each of these areas presents unique challenges and opportunities, and it is through our collaborative efforts that we can develop standards that address these complexities and pave the way for sustainable innovation.

In the coming days, we will appoint Working Party Chairs, Rapporteurs and other roles. We will also be looking at the structure of TSAG and working methods.

As we proceed with today's discussions, let us be guided by the principles of inclusivity, transparency, and shared responsibility. Let us remember that the standards we develop today will shape the digital landscape of tomorrow. And let us commit to working together, with a sense of purpose and urgency, to ensure that our work serves the broader goal of connecting the world and improving the lives of all people.

Thank you for your dedication and your contributions to this vital endeavour. I look forward to our collaborative efforts in the sessions ahead.

Thank you.

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