

Mme Chairman,
Secretary-General
Mr Deputy Secretary-General
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- After ten days of hard work and intense deliberation, WTSA-08 is finally at an end.
- I wish to express not just my own personal appreciation but also the appreciation of the entire ITU management for the huge amount of effort that all of you have put into setting into stone the Resolutions and study group structure that will guide us through the next four years and beyond.
- The restructure that we have achieved here will serve to streamline our work and give more efficient focus to key areas. I believe we have been given a very solid foundation to take us into the future.
- This was my first WTSA as Director. It was a first for Africa, the first preceded by a global standards symposium, the first chaired by a woman and the first in which special accommodation was made for academia.
- WTSA-08 saw the highest level of participation ever with 768 participants from 99 countries in attendance. That compares to 484 participants from 72 countries at the last Assembly... We have been honoured by the presence of 13 ministers or deputy ministers compared to just one in 2004... and VIPs spanning the world and the entire telecommunication and ICT industry. This is a sure sign of the growing interest in the work of the ITU-T Sector.
- We were reminded of the importance and impact of our work on the new generation with the charming speech of Zia Maharaj, and Tabisa showed us how ICTs can completely change a person's life during the wonderful gala dinner. I am sure we will enjoy looking back at the photos of that event, which we have uploaded onto our website.
- During WTSA-08 eighty groups were established - committees, working groups, ad hoc groups etc. They have worked through over 350 documents, often into the night and over the weekend - many more documents than were expected.
- Madame Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to you. With so many people from so many countries and with so many different opinions, yours was a truly formidable task. We were confident we were in good hands, and I know that all of us appreciate very much your excellent guidance, ensuring with your calm and your wonderful charm and good humour the smooth running and success of this Assembly.
- I would also like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Vice Chairmen of the Assembly, the Chairmen and the Vice-Chairmen of the Committees and Working Groups, and to the Chairmen of the ad hoc groups and the informal groups that helped develop draft texts for adoption by this Assembly.
- Please let me also take this opportunity to express my appreciation and thanks to my colleagues, especially the Secretary-General for solving some key issues, the other elected

officials, and the staff in TSB, BR, BDT and the regional offices, as well as in the General Secretariat, who have worked very hard for this Assembly.

- I would also like to thank the interpreters and translators both here in Johannesburg and in Geneva, and all those local staff who have worked so hard towards the smooth running of this Assembly. We have had a wonderful welcome, and always smiling faces when we arrive here in the mornings, which helped to put us in the right frame of mind.
- Last but not least, it gives me great pleasure to express my thanks to our South African hosts for the magnificent job they have done for us.
- You may not know but it was only in September last year that I asked my friend Ingrid Poni during last year's Council if there was any chance of South Africa hosting this Assembly. This was at the time that our prospective host had informed us that it was unfortunately not able to accommodate WTSA-08.
- We know just how complicated organizing an event of this size can be. It is incredible that such an excellent facility and perfect organization, and attention to detail can have been achieved in such a short time.
- We have enjoyed a wonderful level of hospitality and support and I know that everyone here will join me in expressing great gratitude for this. It is obvious that the organizers of the World Cup in 2010 have nothing to worry about. I am sure many of us look forward to returning for that spectacle as fans, assuming our teams qualify.
- Maybe it was with the World Cup in mind that we decided to establish a team of eleven: 10 study groups and TSAG. I am sure it will be a good team, and I look forward to acting as the coach.
- Ladies and Gentlemen, this fifth Assembly or Conference of the ITU-T Sector, has, I believe, achieved a remarkable set of results that will guide us well into the future. Some have already described it as historic.
- We have received a strong message from our members that ITU is, and will remain the world's pre-eminent global telecommunication and ICT standards body. And we hear also, and very clearly, that ITU should continue on its mission to connect the world, and that bridging the standardization gap, by increasing developing country participation in our work, is an essential prerequisite to achieve this goal.
- The reorganization of the Study Groups was not a simple task. It has been attempted before but this time we have established a streamlined and efficient structure, avoiding duplication and focusing on our key objectives.
- We have excellent new chairmen and vice-chairmen, with 33 new countries represented, compared to 24 in the last study period. I congratulate all of them on taking on their respective responsibilities and my staff and I look forward to working with them, and providing them with all the support they need.
- We have adopted the first ever ITU Resolutions on ICTs and climate change, accessibility to ICTs for persons with disabilities, conformance and interoperability testing, and encouraging

academic participation and sector members from developing countries – amongst many other significant Resolutions. We have plenty of new and exciting work and I am sure we are all eagerly looking forward to the new study period.

- Ladies and gentlemen... Thank you all for your participation and contribution to WTSA-08, I wish you all a good trip home.