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CLOSING REMARKS

By

MR. BRAHIMA SANOU

DIRECTOR, TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (BDT)

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE ARAB REGION FOR
WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (WTDC-14)

MANAMA, BAHRAIN, 29-31 OCTOBER 2013

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Heads of delegations representing Member State and Sector Members

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let it be my happy duty, to reiterate our thanks the Government, the Telecommunication Regulatory Authority and the people of Bahrain on behalf of all the delegates.

The Regional Development Forum was a great success, and this RPM is another greater success.

The credit goes to the Membership. You submitted contributions rich in content and you participated actively. 21 countries of the Region out of 22 participated to the RPM.

This is a great turn out. I am grateful to you for your commitment, determination and resolve.

To our very abled Chairman, Dr. Mohamed Al Amr, I thank you for your wise leadership. Your wisdom and spirit of consensus building allowed us to complete the substance discuss earlier yesterday. We are all grateful to you.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

We have just adopted the final report of this RPM. As I read it again and again, I am very pleased that it incorporates your contributions and your comments during discussions.

This is the beginning of the process and I am sure that you will fine-tune the outputs of this meeting and come up with Arab common

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proposals under the leadership of the League of Arab States.

I would like to thank the League of Arab States for its leadership that has contributed to the success of the RPM.

As we are getting towards the end the working period, let me use this opportunity to thank you all for your contribution to the work of ITU-D and Egypt and UAE for their contribution as Vice-Chairs of TDAG.

I would to pay a special tribute to Algeria and Mr. Mokrane Akli for chairing brilliantly the Stud Group II and to all other countries for their role in the study groups.

As you continue your preparation I recommend you to read documents **INF/4** entitled "Report on the BDT Brainstorming Retreat 2012" and **INF/5** entitled "Ideas for Innovation in ITU Study Groups". They contain valuable information and ideas coming from two brain storming meetings I took the initiative of organizing.

Let me thank all the delegates who took their precious time to be with us all along, the Staff of TRA, the Member States and the Sector Members of other regions, the interpreters and all the people who worked behind the scene for the smooth running of our two meetings and making our stay so pleasant.

Let me also thank the ITU staff for its dedication and its hard work, particularly those who have been directly working tirelessly for the success of

these meetings under the coordination of Ebrahim Al Haddad, our Regional Director for Arab States.

I would like to seize the occasion of this RPM to pay special tribute to my elder brother Karim Boussaid, who cherished and served ITU and BDT with dedication for more than a decade and who will retire at the end of November 2013.

We will all certainly miss you, but you have planted the seed of loyalty, honesty, friendship and dedication to the membership that will continue to grow in our hearts.

Distinguished delegates ladies and Gentlemen

You can count on my support and that of all BDT staff in the preparatory process, because good

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preparation and coordination at regional level can only facilitate the proceedings of the WDTC.

My final word to you, Distinguished Representatives of Member States and Sector Members: Please do not assume that I am too busy to receive your phone call, respond to your e-mail or to welcome you in my office when you are visiting Geneva. I am in this office to serve, and serve at all times. No issue is too small to receive my attention because I would like to serve you each day better than the day before.

I wish you nice a trip back home and I look forward to meeting you during the TDAG and related meetings from 9 to 13 December 2103.

I thank you.

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