

**10th World Telecommunication/ICT
Indicators Meeting (WTIM-12)**
Bangkok, Thailand, 25-27 September 2012



Contribution to WTIM-12 session

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Opening remarks by Brahima Sanou, Director, ITU/BDT

Your Excellency Group Captain, Anudith Nakornthap, Minister of Information and Communication Technology
Thailand

Excellences, Ministers

Permanent Secretary of MIC TMs. Jarawan Boonperm

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of ITU, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 10th ITU World Telecommunication/ ICT Indicators Meeting. From the outset, I would like to sincerely thank the Thai Government for hosting this meeting and providing us with excellent facilities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we meet here today, the world is riding on a high ICT wave that has seen sustained growth in the sector and improved access across the globe. Our data show that there are now more than 6 billion mobile cellular subscriptions worldwide and by 2013 it is likely that there will be almost one mobile subscription per every inhabitant in the world.

More than 90% of the world's population now lives within range of a mobile cellular signal. Mobile-broadband uptake is also increasing as rapidly as 40% over the past year. I must however note that the prices for ICT services – especially broadband - remain relatively high in many low-income countries.

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Looking at the programme of this year's WTIM, you might have all noticed that there is a new feature. I have taken the initiative to feature a **high-level segment** which brings together Ministers, Director-Generals of both the national Telecommunication Regulatory Agencies and Statistical Offices. The aim is to provide an opportunity to address policy issues for better coordination in data collection and processing between the

telecommunication authorities and statistical offices to avoid duplication of effort and resources. Today's high-level panel has an impressive and diverse number of experts.

I am pleased to note that this year's WTIM will also focus on a range of important infrastructure measurement issues such as those related to broadband, digital broadcasting, data traffic and network capacity. Our Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators has already been working for the last two days here in Bangkok, to prepare some of the substantive discussions and I would like to thank all of you who have participated and actively contributed to the Expert Group.

This year's meeting will include discussions on measuring Internet usage in addition to measuring ICT infrastructure. The rationale behind this is that if people cannot use and benefit from ICTs, there will be no positive impact on their wellbeing and economic growth.

One topic that is close to my heart concerns gender and ICT. There is a vast unused potential of girls and boys as well as young women and men throughout the world. We need to ensure that they can tap into the potential of ICT for their future careers and life. We need more and better data particularly on women and girls in ICT and the discussion scheduled for Thursday on this issue will be critical to improving future data availability in this regard.

Excellency,

Ladies and gentlemen,

ICT indicators are a core element of the review process of the World Summit on the Information Society. ITU was requested to lead in the preparation for the review the implementation of the WSIS outcomes in 2014 together with other partners. I would like to take this opportunity to thank other international organizations with whom we closely cooperate under the framework of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development. The joint session with the Partnership tomorrow on WSIS+10 will yet be another step forward towards accomplishing this goal successfully.

Given the increasing importance of WTIM particularly with the introduction of the High –Level-Segment, time has come to change the name of the vent from meeting to Symposium. I hereby formally propose to you to call it from now on **World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium**.

Sound indicators are the basis for shaping the world of tomorrow. I am pleased to inform you that ITU will be launching the “Measurement of the Information Society” Report on 11 October 2012 in all the regions. This authoritative report contains a wealth of information. Please do not miss it.

Inclosing I would like to reiterate our deepest appreciation to Your Excellency and through you to the Government and the people of Thailand for the warm welcome and congratulate you all who have been participating and contributing to this great event.

I thank you