

Welcoming remark by Heung Youl Youm, Chairman of ITU-T SG17

TSB director, Mr Seizo ONOE and sc27 Charman, Dr Andreas Wolf,

Distinguished colleagues and participants,

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening,

My name is Heung Youl Youm, SG17 chair.

I sincerely thank Mr Seizo ONOE, TSB Director, for giving us his insightful opening remarks and kind words for the workshop. In addition, I am also grateful for Dr Andreas Wolf, Chair, ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 27 Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection for giving us his wonderful and helpful remarks for the workshop. As you may know, I know his presence is first in the relationship between ITU-T SG17 and ISO/OEC JTC 1/SC 27 and SC27 has been the great partner of the SG17 for developing security and privacy standards. In addition, I welcome all participants to the workshop in-person or online across the world.

It is my pleasure and honor to add my welcoming remark to this ITU workshop on "Generative AI: Challenges and Opportunities for Security and Privacy".

As you may know, ITU-T SG17 is responsible for building confidence and security in the use of ICTs by producing a set of high-quality technical standards in the area of security and data protection. Providing security by ICTs and ensuring security for ICTs are both major study areas for ITU-T Study Group 17.

Generative AI produces content across various formats, including text, images, sounds, animation, 3D models, and more, in response to user prompts. Such versatility presents a dual impact to security by offering promising opportunities while also introducing unique challenges that require careful attention. On one hand, a generative AI has the potential to enhance security capabilities; however, it also empowers attackers by enhancing their scalability and sophistication as well as lowering the entry barrier for hackers. Key security risks include hallucination, deep fake and copyright infringement. Additionally, generative AI poses threats to data privacy, including data breaches, inadequate anonymization, unauthorized data sharing, biases, lack of consent and transparency, and inadequate data retention. Comprehensive security and privacy measures are essential to address these concerns effectively.

The objectives of this workshop, as developed by the steering committee, include:

- Identifying and providing a comprehensive overview of the benefits as well as the security and privacy concerns associated with generative AI-based applications;
- Identifying technical and organizational security and privacy controls to mitigate the identified threats;
- Facilitating the exchange of current activities within relevant SDOs and other organizations on addressing security and privacy for generative AI-based applications; and
- Identifying potential ways forward for future work in ITU-T Study Group 17 in this area.

Currently SG17 has one work item under development, X.sr-ai, Security requirements for AI systems in the AP security area. Moreover, SG17 has been preparing since the August/September 2023 SG17 meeting for the upcoming World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly in 2024 (known as WTSA-24) to establish new SG17 mandate and structure for the next study period (2025-2028). I am pleased to inform that this preparation activities conducted over the last five months agreed on “consequence of generative AI” as emerging standardization topics that need to be studied in the next Study period (2025 – 2028).

I believe this is a very right time for ITU to hold this workshop for SG17 to better understand the consequence of generative AI and to identify the way forward from standardization’s perspective to address these important topics.

I would like to conclude my remarks with the SG17 motto which I have presented at every SG17 meeting since 2017: SAFE, “security is absolutely first everywhere”. That means that “security by design and usage” principles should be applied to all ICT services and products from the beginning and through their lifecycle.

On behalf of SG17, as Chair, I thank ITU for giving an opportunity for hosting this workshop and I also express my special thanks to a sponsor, Quantum Resistant cryptography, for sponsoring the reception that will take place after this workshop from 18:00 in the Cafeteria in the Montbrillant building today. I invite all physical participants to this reception.

I thank in advance our two masters of ceremony, Ms Xiaoya Yang (SG17 counsellor), four session moderators, 17 excellent and prominent speakers for 3 sessions, and 5 panelists from across the world for the insights they bring to the workshop.

I thank 18 Steering Committee members for developing the workshop programme through multiple online meetings during past three months, and TSB event teams for their excellent

support, especially to Ms Gillian Makamara, TSB project officer and Dr Gifty Amoah Associate Events Coordinator, TSB.

I also thank 326 pre-registered participants in person and online from 68 countries, and I hope you will find the workshop insightful and useful.

This concludes my remarks. Thank you very much.