

FORUM ON “GREEN ICT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”**22 OCTOBER 2014****AMSTERDAM*****OPENING ADDRESS*****PAOLO GEMMA ON BEHALF OF MALCOLM JOHNSON**

Distinguished colleagues,

On behalf of Malcolm Johnson, director of the Telecommunication Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to our Forum on “Energy Efficiency and Future Network Infrastructure”. This Forum has been organized by ITU and is kindly hosted by Huawei as part of the Broadband World Forum.

ICTs have redefined the world as we know it and with the capability to transcend time and space, have shaped the way we communicate, create, disseminate, store, and manage information, creating an even more connected world.

However our world though redefined still experiences many challenges. Population growth, resource depletion, energy consumption, greenhouse gas emission and the ever impending climate change have led to the push for more resilient and sustainable development.

Stephen Hawking noted that, “Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change.” I nevertheless would like to say that intelligence in the form of ICTs is our answer to adapt sustainably to change. Improving energy efficiency and re-shaping current networks to make them more effective and efficient has the potential to address many of our global challenges and leads to a more sustainable future.

Green ICTs, ICTs with low environmental burdens facilitates various improvements in environmental performance such as lowering energy consumption and greenhouse emissions. Its use improves efficiency in all sectors, in accuracy and speed, as well as enhancing communication and the acquisition of skills towards increased productivity across the economy

and society. Green networks will undoubtedly create that sustainable future which is no longer a requirement as it is a necessity.

ITU naturally as part of its mandate to secure a sustainable future has been raising awareness on the importance and opportunities of improving energy efficiency and developing Greener networks to build a more sustainable economy. Hence the reason why are all here today. I have no doubt this forum will be an effective platform for the sharing and inspiration of Green networks on reducing ICT costs and enhancing energy and operating efficiency as well as highlighting the untapped benefits of green ICTs in contributing to the economy and reducing of greenhouse gas emissions.

This Forum will also provide a platform for business representatives to share views on challenges and opportunities related to environmental impact, the energy efficiency in the deployment of Green Data Centers and network infrastructure.

In this regard, ITU has also entrusted Study Group 5 “Environment and Climate Change” to shape this global agenda and create a framework through greener perspective. I will provide you with a brief overview of SG5’s major achievements in this area in a separate presentation.

Due to ever increasing data demand, data centers will soon become a key part of the digital economy and will require a systemic approach to planning and deployment.

Let’s therefore turn from spectators into participants. Seize this opportunity, debate these issues, share your respective views and commit your energies to the realization of a sustainable future with Green networks.

Without any further hesitation, I wish you all a fruitful forum.

Thank you