Her Excellency Dr. Tahani Abdalla Attia, Sudan Minister of Communication and Information Technology

Dr. Ibrahim Alhadad Director of the ITU Arab Regional office

Ms. Meriam Sulimani, Representative of the African Telecommunication Union

Prof. Dr. Zuhair Alabjar Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Comm & Information Technology

Dr. Yahia Abdalla, Director General of the National Telecommunication Corporation

Eng. Mohamed Abdelraheem Director General of the National Information Center

Eng. Mohamed Abdelmagid Director General of the National Digital Authentication Authority

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Alsalamu alaykom and Good Morning every one –

Please accept worm wishes from the Chairman of African Group of SG17 Mr. Michael Katundu who wanted hardly to be here with us but unfortunately he couldn’t make it. So please let me say a few words on his behalf.

I would to start by thanking the co-organizers of this event, the International Telecomm. Union and the African Telecommunications Union, as well as our generous hosts, the National Telecommunication Corporation of Sudan. And I can see clearly it is already a successful event since we have more than 120 registered candidates from about 35 different countries.

Cybersecurity is a challenge that affects us all, governments, enterprises and citizens.

We are confronted with new cyber-threats every day, threats which ask us to contend with malicious cybercrime targeted against the ICT infrastructure that has become so critical to our social and economic activities.

Cyber attacks pay no respect to national borders. Those attacks can be launched from virtually anywhere in the world. Creating “Walled gardens” can no longer protect us from cyber attacks – our networks are too deeply interconnected. So Securing cyberspace cannot be achieved by any one entity or group of entities working in isolation.

Cybersecurity is a global challenge, in need of a global response.

Only in unity will we may be stronger than the attackers. A unified response to cyber threats will require the active participation and buy-in of all countries, developed and developing countries alike. We must work together to set international policies and standards, building an international framework of norms and principles that promote cybersecurity.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

ITU has a mandate to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs.

The development of international technical standards is an important part of ITU’s work to fulfill this mandate.

ITU-T Study Group 17 is ITU’s lead standardization expert group for security. The group provides a neutral, global platform to develop international security standards, and ITU’s consensus-driven standardization process ensures that these standards have the buy-in of all stakeholders.

Study Group 17 over years is developing reliable and usable standards in different ICT Security areas such as:

* security architectures and frameworks;
* countering spam;
* identity management;
* applications and services security. Etc.

In 2015, ITU established an African Regional Group within Study Group 17. This Regional Group will support ITU’s African members in their work to ensure that Africa’s priorities are addressed effectively by the work of Study Group 17.

This Regional Group was established in response to proposals from African countries.

Many African countries are already participating actively in this Regional Group, and I would like to take this opportunity to invite other African ITU Member States and ITU-T Sector Members to join our work. This group will hold its second meeting over the two days following this workshop, and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

The number of participants from African countries in ITU-T meetings are gradually increasing but the number and the quality of African contributions are yet to reflect our needs. So African Nations have to engage more and more in the development of international Standards.

ITU is the home of developing countries, it is an International Standardization body allowing every candidate from its 193 Member states and 700 sector members to participate and contribute to Development of International Standards.

I would like to conclude by once again expressing my appreciation to the National Telecommunication Corporation of Sudan for their great hospitality, and I also extend my thanks to the steering team for their hard work in preparing for this workshop.

Thank you very much. And I wish you all a most successful, informative event. Thank you.

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