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First Plenary Meeting

>> HAMADOUN TOURÉ: Good morning. I would like to announce that according to the rules of procedures of conferences systems, and meetings of ITU, the United Arab Emirates appointed Mr. Mohamed Al Ghanim, Director‑General of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the United Arab Emirates, to open the Assembly. Mr. Mohamed Al Ghanim, you have the floor.

>> MOHAMED AL GHANIM: Thank you, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, and good morning everybody again. I have the pleasure to declare the opening of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2012 in Dubai. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

I want also to present Document ADM/01, the Agenda of the First and Second Plenary Meetings. Give you a few seconds to locate the document. In the document, there's three corrections I want to make. On Agenda Item 6, the election of Vice‑Chairman of the Assembly, you will find it in DT/7. And under Agenda Item 8, the election of the Committee on Working Group Chairmen and Vice‑Chairmen, also in document DT/7.

And on Agenda Item 10, the draft Time Management Plan which has not changed from the Formal Heads of Delegation meeting but the document only changed to DT/3, Rev 2. So these are the small changes to the draft agenda of the first and second Plenary, and it's presented to you for approval.

And if anybody, if any administration wants to have any comments or clarification.

[ Applause ]

So with that, the agenda is approved. We'll go to agenda number 3, which is the election of the Chairman of the Assembly. The UAE proposes Mr. Mohamed Gheyath as the Chairman of the Assembly. May I have your agreement, please?

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIR: Your Excellency Hamadoun Touré, Secretary‑General of the ITU, Your Excellency Mohamed Al Ghanim, the Chair of the Board of Directors of TRA, Mr. Malcolm Johnson, and Mr. Brahima Sanou, head of the ITU‑D, ladies and gentlemen, the participants, may God's blessings be upon you. Please allow me to welcome you, and thank you for the confidence you have given me in choosing me head of the WTSA of 2012, which is held in the UAE four years after its holding in South Africa.

I would also like to warmly thank His Excellency Dr. Hamadoun Touré for the great efforts he's undertaken in order to develop the work of the ITU and ensure that it is playing a major role in the global telecommunications community. I welcome you all, colleagues, Heads of Delegations and Study Groups and commend ourselves on the important work we take on which is increasing in its standardization and complexities. In the greater pace of technologies, our world is more dependent on the ICTs. The ITU has defended since its Foundation on the importance of setting unified Global Standards for communications that are compatible with the principles of connectivity, openness, the ability to afford the charges and reliability interoperability and security and has understood the importance of ICTs and including private sectors and the stakeholders in setting standards and having ‑‑ being able to give their opinions and proposals so as to come up with more transparent standards that have greater credibility and are accepted in the world.

And as was already stated in the opening statement, coordination with regard to ICTs has become more important especially with the increased number of organisations and the differences in their agendas and working methods, and those circumstances it is more difficult day after day to come up with unified Global Standards and we are here to overcome these challenges. In order to achieve this goal we have to work together and carry out sincere efforts to achieve our goal.

And our meetings will concentrate in its current session on putting a road map for the aspects that require more study in order to set up new standards that look into the broadband and the next generation services, and during the coming days, we will take decisions to support Study Groups, and we will assign them to look into certain matters that they have to study, and they will have to review the working methods including the adoption procedures.

And these will determine in turn the future standards concerning communications.

Dear participants, what we require here during the coming days is a spirit which is the same spirit that prevails in the UAE. We live on this good land despite the differences in our cultures and our races. Every one of us has his specific needs, his ambitions and dreams, but we have learned that the best way and fastest way to achieve dreams is to work together hand in hand in a climate where we have tolerance and friendliness, and where we accept the opinion of others.

Success and development achieved by the Emirates in a record period of time is due after depending on God the almighty on such a spirit, the spirit of the Emirates and the Union that we have taken as a slogan for the celebration of our National holiday on the 2nd of December in the UAE and we hope that such a spirit will prevail in our coming meetings.

As part of the ITU, our work is based on consensus and all the results that we will come up with so let us work together to achieve such consensus. Let us listen to each other and try as far as possible to come up with Resolutions that are agreeable to all even if that requires we make concessions here and there because it is the common interests that we are trying to achieve.

I'd like to seize this opportunity and recall some of the major principles that we have agreed upon in the next 10 days which will move by swiftly, let us make full use of our time whether in presenting papers or in the discussions we carry out and let us work together to discuss and finish looking into all matters at the level of Study Groups so that we can adopt the final conclusions that will be agreeable to all.

I will be mindful to be with you to follow up the discussions and I will also attend the Study Group meetings and we in the Steering Committee will be discussing matters continuously in order to overcome difficulties and giving you the best support. And I'm sure the ITU‑T and Mr. Malcolm Johnson and his team will ensure the success of the Assembly's work.

Ladies and gentlemen, please allow me to thank the interpreters for their efforts. They are those who make our communications possible and they are carrying a burden and they are participating with us and are going to suffer with us and they will also be sharing our successes when we finish our work. So we in turn thank them and we are confident that they will be with us to give us all the support we need as we have been accustomed to their help.

I will not be lengthy in my speech, and I wish success to all, and I am very sure that our common cooperation will lead us to enable all peoples of the earth especially developing countries to make full use of the ICTs in building their economies so as to provide prosperity to their peoples. Thank you and may God's blessings be upon you.

[ Applause ]

I would like to invite the Director of the TSB to address the Assembly. Mr. Malcolm, thank you.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Excellencies, Ministers, Chairman of the Board of TRA, Secretary‑General, Deputy Secretary‑General, Director BDT, Ambassadors, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. And let me add my welcome to you to this the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2012. Very pleased to see that we have such good participation. We have around 1,000 registered for this Assembly, and over 100 countries represented. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the United Arab Emirates for offering us such wonderful facilities here in this spectacular city of Dubai.

Very nice to see this wonderful sky line behind us here, and it's really a pleasure to be in such a wonderful city. I would also like to thank our friends in the TRA for excellent cooperation with the ITU Secretariat in preparing for this event. And I'd especially like to thank our Chairman, Mohamed Gheyath, for agreeing to take on the Chairmanship of this Assembly.

I believe the Chairman's advice in his opening address shows that we're in very good hands. The Secretary‑General has mentioned Dubai as a great symbol of the progress made in the Middle East. And a further example of that is in the city of Masdar. This is a real smart city, a world where we can see the future, and somewhere where UAE is really taking the lead. I would like to congratulate all those involved in the development of Masdar for their foresight in taking advantage of the Information and Communications Technology and in creating a sustainable city.

At WTSA 2008 in Johannesburg, many new initiatives were agreed for the ITU‑T Sector, especially in the area of sustainability. And a lot of work has been done on environmental issues in the Study Groups. Over the last four years, ITU‑T has produced many new standards and reports that will aid countries and industry to harness the great power of ICTs especially to become more sustainable and to mitigate and adapt to Climate Change.

Yesterday at the Global Standards Symposium, we saw yet again the importance of international standards underlined by many of the leaders in this Sector. Again, in 2008, the WTSA took advantage of the conclusions of the Global Standards Symposium, and I'm sure we will do the same again this year. The report of the Global Standards Symposium will be presented this afternoon by the Chairman of the GSS.

As the world becomes more and more connected, it is clear that all sectors rely more and more on ICTs to maintain and streamline their operations. The coordinated development of international standards to ensure global interoperability cannot be conducted in isolation, and the GSS highlighted the need to create mechanisms and to engage better with the other vertical sectors that the ICT is dealing with, but also the other international standards bodies. It's clear that with convergence, this will be a key challenge in the coming years.

Ladies and gentlemen, I can reflect with some satisfaction the significant achievements made by ITU‑T over the last four years, thanks to the many initiatives that were taken at the WTSA in Johannesburg. These regular WTSAs provide an opportunity for the full membership of ITU to review and further improve ITU‑T's role as the only truly global ICT standardization body, and I'm confidence that WTSA‑12 will consolidate the gains that were made over the last four years in the ITU‑T Sector.

WTSA is a chance to further streamline the structure of our standards work, and make sure that it meets the demands of today's fast‑paced Information Society. ITU as the only U.N. Agency involved in ICT standardization has a strong and a unique position to play in shaping the new period of ICT development. As a consequence of the decisions taken in Johannesburg, we have seen our membership and our participation substantially increase. This is the strongest endorsement of what we're doing in the ITU‑T Sector, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our new members of the Sector and our existing members for their positive contribution to the work in ITU‑T, and that contribution to ITU's objective of connecting the world.

ITU‑T offers a friendly environment where newcomers are welcomed, and all countries have equal rights, all companies have equal rights, no matter how large or how small. It's the place to come to to develop Global Standards quickly in response to the needs of our membership, whether it's developed countries or developing countries.

The decisions taken at WTSA‑08 initiated a lot of new work in many areas, such as optical transport, smart grids, cloud computing, machine to machine communications, e‑health, intelligent transport systems, accessibility, IPTV, emergency communications, Climate Change, and cybersecurity. It also initiated the new membership category for academia, and this is the first world event of the ITU where our new academia members are able to participate in. It also initiated the new substantially reduced membership fee for Sector Members in the ITU‑T Sector, which I'm pleased to say has been taken advantage of by many companies and new members.

We will look more at some of these achievements this afternoon, but one achievement I'd particularly like to mention is that we've seen a great increase in the active participation of developing countries, and this is in no small part thanks to the contributions to the Bridging the Standardization Gap voluntary fund by the four contributors to that fund: Nokia Siemens Networks, Microsoft, Cisco and the Korean Communications Commission. I'd like to thank them most sincerely for their contributions to that fund which has helped us a great deal, and I'd like to encourage others to also contribute to this fund.

WTSA‑12, as well as defining the next period of study for ITU‑T, will also provide us a chance to give guidance to the work and facilitate an even greater level of involvement of all countries, including developing countries in the coming years. It will determine the most important areas to focus on, and assign that work to the relevant Study Groups. And the resulting workplan will give us a guidance for the next four years for the Study Groups and the new leadership team which the Assembly will appoint on Tuesday next week.

As Director of ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, I can assure you that all the staff of the TSB are ready and keenly awaiting the challenge of the new study period. And my staff is here to serve your interests, and I can assure you that we will do everything we can to make WTSA‑12 a successful and also an enjoyable event.

Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. Before we move on the rest of the agenda items, we'd like to highlight with regards to the floor taking motions we've got here, software installed on the laptop in front of me on the sodium. I've been advised if any delegate wants to take the floor, they might press the speak button on the mic in front of them. I would have the name of the administration presented in the software in front of us on the laptop.

However, as we've been advised that this is still under test, we might ‑‑ if we face any problems, we might make some adjustments, so please use the speak button on the mic in front of you if you need to take the floor. And do not change seats during the meeting, because the system would be confused if you change seats. Thank you.

We'll start using the software, and if we have any problems we'll try to fix them as we go. If you cannot use the system, please raise the flag. Thank you.

Now we're ready to move on Agenda Item Number 6 of the document ADM/1 which is the election of the vice Chairperson of the Assembly. You can find document DT/7 in front of you. Modification has been made accordingly. If you don't have any further clarification or comments, I would like to seek the floor for the approval of the document, please. Thank you. Document is approved.

We'll move on to Item Number 7, the establishment of the Committees and the structure of the Assembly, and you can find that in document DT/4 in front of you. This as has been discussed and approved by the Formal Heads of Delegation meeting so I seek your formal approval of the document, please.

I see no comments, so thank you very much. The document is approved.

Next I would like to take Agenda Item Number ‑‑ can we move on now please to Agenda Item Number 8, the approval of the Chairman and the Vice‑Chairmen of the Committees. That can be found in document number DT/7, as well. Do we have any comments on that? I see none, thank you very much. That's been approved.

Next Agenda Item is the Secretariat of the WTSA‑12. You can find this in document number DT/5. You see the list of distinguished persons of the ITU who will be helping us on the Secretariat of the Plenary, the Committees and the Working Groups. This document is for information and you could find the list.

If we have no further comment we'd like to move on Agenda Item Number 10, the draft Time Management Plan. This plan is provided in document DT/3, revision 2. We have discussed the plan in the Formal Heads of Delegation meeting. I would like to see the formal approval of the document. If you have any comments or observations, please.

We see none. Thank you. The document is approved, then.

Our next Agenda Item is the list of contributions proposals and allocation of documents to relevant Committees and Working Groups. You can find that in document DT/1. The document is presented for you for any comments. I see no comments. The document is approved. Thank you very much.

The next document is DT ‑‑ excuse me, the next document is document 67, under Agenda Item 12. This is a tribute to the deceased Delegates between the two Assemblies. And we've got the list in front of us. If any Delegation would like to add any members on the list, we would welcome any names after the Plenary, and we would like to take one minute of silence as a tribute to the deceased Delegates. So would you please stand up and give your respect for one minute. Thank you.

Thank you. The next item is the expression of appreciation to the retired Delegates, and that can be found in document 68. Again, we welcome any additional names that any Delegates would like to add. Please forward it to us, and we'll update the list.

With regards to Agenda Item Number 14, there is no information to be provided yet, so if there is anything to be addressed at a later stage probably in different Plenaries.

So let's move on Agenda Item Number 15, the reports from the Director of the TSB, and documents number 27 and 28. Mr. Johnson? The floor is yours. We have a PowerPoint presentation to be uploaded. It seems it's not ready yet so we'd like to move to Item Number 16, if it's okay with everyone. That would be the report from the GSS Chairman. Is your report ready to be presented to the Assembly? Yes, UAE, please?

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Yes, if you need me to present it verbally, I can do that.

>> CHAIR: Just checking if the document is available so we can present it.

You may proceed. The document is available, I think.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday was the day of the GSS. After good preparation by the Secretariat and the esteemed moderators and speakers, it was in my opinion a successful outcome.

The report or the event in general and the report in specific addresses the main concern that are facing the Telecom and the ICT Sector. Mainly it is about, the report talks about bridging the gaps in the developing countries regarding standardization.

The second thing is about the challenges that the ICT bodies as well as verticals are facing. The third one is the collaboration between these standardization bodies to make sure that the number of SDOs work closely together. The report in summary goes in its first Section summarizing the Opening Ceremonies and who attended and it was Chaired or there was an opening from the Chairman of the UAE TRA. Then we started the sessions of the first one, Bridging the Gap. It was headed by Mr. Gift, who was helped by the Minister of Communication from South Africa. There was a great outcome of that meeting. It mainly concluded with the three items, one addressing the educational needs in the developing countries where professional and vocational training and education has to be included to make the capabilities available for standards. The second one was the collaboration between the standards body in regard to the developing countries. The second session was talking about the challenges that are facing the verticals as well as the standards body. It was talking about the main point that the IP based network is recommended to solve those gaps and those challenges.

Then the collaboration and the understanding of the needs of the verticals especially the e‑health demands and needs from legal framework, security of information, as well as privacy. There has been many discussions and recommendations on this. Smart grids, how we can make sure we benefit from the smart grids and leading into efficiency and reducing costs as well as using the smartness of those grids into the green ICT and the third one is about the challenges. We said the e‑health, the ICT and the intelligent transportation systems.

And the last session was about collaboration between standards body. The main point of the conclusion there was the availability as far as possible of free of charge or reasonable way the availability of those standards to everybody to make sure it is available.

Then as far as possible, to have MOUs and collaboration between these standard bodies and the good example was the ITU and its joint MOUs between different standards bodies which reduces the cost, increases the efficiency, and reduces the confusion between the end users and lastly, is the early adoption or establishment of standards, because as early as possible, to start standards whenever needed. Otherwise when standards, these services will be obsolete with this fast paced, changing environment. This is in conclusion or summarizing the report, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

[ No English available to captioner ]

The interpreters, do we have a problem in terms of the translation? Yes, UAE, please?

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: I'm sorry, yesterday I did not really thank the interpreters for the great job which they did. Really, you made it today and it was on my agenda. Really it was as you said they're the reason for our success. They will be here with us four weeks making sure that we communicate effectively. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. There is an overlap between two languages on one channel. So can we confirm that all the channels are working fine?

It seems that the English channel was overlapped with the Arabic. Interpreters, are we fine on the channels?

>> Everything is working properly.

>> Yes, sir, we are now.

>> CHAIR: So we'll move on now to the next Agenda Item. And that's the presentation of the TSAG reports by the TSAG Chairman, Mr. Bruce Gracie. May I ask the Chairman of the Study Groups to be ready because they will be next on the Agenda Item. As we had the discussion in the formal Delegation meeting, the approval of the recommendations of the ITU will be discussed later today so I would appreciate if the Chairmen of the Study Groups are ready to be next on the Agenda Item.

So Mr. Gracie, could you please start with the TSAG report?

>> BRUCE GRACIE: Yes, thank you very much, Chairman. And good morning, everyone. Chairman, I won't review these documents in detail. They have been posted for some time now. But I will provide an overview of the information that's available in basically four documents. The first document provides a general overview of activities undertaken within TSAG. A second document provides an overview of the draft revised Resolutions.

A third, the draft revised recommendations of the A series recommendations. And finally, the TSAG report in respect to WTSA Resolution 22. So Chairman, the first document, that is document number 22, reviews various issues associated with working methods, and you'll find this in Section 2 of the document. Section 3 deals with various aspects of the work programme undertaken in the T Sector, which includes the review of the Study Group structure for WTSA‑12, various issues associated with the work of the Study Groups including Climate Change, NGN, future networks, security, interoperability and conformance testing, IPTV, the network aspects of identification systems, which have evolved into the Internet of things and M2M, or machine to machine. Identity management, cloud computing, home networking and smart grid, disaster relief, accessibility, network management, driver distraction, intelligent transportation systems, education relating to standardization, and innovation.

The 4th Section, Chairman, deals with various strategic considerations, including the ITU‑T strategic plan for the period 2012 to 2015. The WTSA action plan and operational plan which are reviewed at every TSAG meeting. 4.3, reviews the outcomes of the Chief Technical Officer meetings, one of which took place at the beginning of this event on Sunday afternoon. And which was very successful.

There is a Section referring to the upcoming WCIT, the World Conference on International Telecommunications matters relating to the technology watch function of ITU‑T.

Matters relating to Bridging the Standardization Gap, and as we heard yesterday, this is during the GSS, this is a very important issue that is being addressed in the T Sector. Information concerning membership, the workshop and seminar coordination group, collaboration and cooperation within ITU with the radio Sector and the development Sector, as well as with other bodies.

And the reference here is to A‑series recommendations A.4, A.5 and A.6 which will be addressed in the course of this Assembly.

As we heard yesterday at the Global Standards Symposium, the relationship between ITU‑T and ISO/IEC Joint Technical Committee Number 1 is certainly an important aspect of the collaboration between the Sector and the other international body which forms the basis of the World Standards cooperation.

The Internet Engineering Task Force, this also is an important organisation which has established a relationship with ITU‑T. I mentioned the WSC, and finally as you can see, the acronym GRIFS which stands for the Global RFID Interoperability Forum for standards.

So, Chairman, there's more information in this document, but I'll now move to document number 23. Now, this provides a report concerning work that has been undertaken on a number of Resolutions. As you can see, there are five. Resolution 1 is certainly a key Resolution concerning the working methods of the Sector, and has been addressed in various meetings of TSAG. This will be subject for further discussion at this Assembly in the work of Committee 3.

Resolution 18 deals with the collaboration and coordination with ITU‑R, and there is a review and update of the Resolution number 18 for the consideration of the Assembly concerning the matters of intersector Rapporteur groups. There is a new Section that has been added concerning this particular matter. In addition, Chairman, there is the updates to Resolution 31 concerning the admission of entities or associations to participate as associates in ITU‑T and there are a number of updates that need to be considered for review by this Assembly.

Resolution 35 has attracted a number of proposals shifted to this Assembly concerning the appointment and maximum term of office for Chairman and Vice‑Chairman of the ITU‑T Study Groups and TSAG and this will be again discussed in the course of the proceedings of this Assembly.

And finally, Chairman, there is an update to Resolution 68 concerning the implementation of Resolution 122 on the evolving role of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly.

The main amendment in relation to this Resolution concerns a specific reference to the CTO meetings which I've referred to earlier, so in order to ensure that the proper reference is given in this Resolution, that particular amendment is found in the resolves part of the Resolution.

The next document, Chairman is document number 24. And this document deals with the outline of the draft A‑series recommendations, and the work that has been undertaken in TSAG with respect to those recommendations. We see A.1, A.2, A.4, A.6 and A.7 and again the work associated with these A series recommendations will be addressed in the course of the work of Committee 3.

Now, we do have an addendum to the document 24, which provides a tabular synopsis of recommendation ITU‑T A.7 with proposed changes. This particular issue concerning focus groups was discussed extensively in TSAG and there have been proposals submitted to this Assembly to deal with this particular issue. So again, we anticipate that there will be extensive discussions concerning the amendments, proposed amendments, for A‑series recommendation A.7, so the addendum to document 24 provides a base for those discussions, along with the various proposals that have been put forward.

So finally, Chairman, we have document number 25, which is submitted in relation to Resolution thumb 22. Now, this deals with the assignment to TSAG of a number of matters within its competence between the Assembly and the next Assembly to act in a number of areas. These include for example to maintain up to date and efficient and flexible working guidelines. There is also a Section in this document which outlines in number 1b the responsibility of TSAG including the development and submission for approval under the appropriate procedures for the A‑series recommendations, which concerns the organisation of the work of ITU‑T.

We also have in this Section the issue of creating, terminating and maintaining other groups, while recognizing the primacy of the Study Groups in carrying out the activities of ITU‑T. These other groups include focus groups, including the appointment of their Chairman and Vice‑Chairmen and the establishment of the terms of reference with a defined duration in order to enhance and improve the effectiveness of the work of ITU‑T and promoting flexibility to respond to high priority areas. The establishment of focus groups certainly was a key activity of TSAG during the previous period and as you can see there are a number of groups that have been established over the last four years.

TSAG is also responsible pursuant to Resolution 22 to review reports and consider appropriate proposals made by coordination groups and other groups, and to implement those that are agreed.

So we have, for example, TSAG agreed on a process regarding consultations arising out of Plenipotentiary Conference Resolution 178 concerning the ITU role in organising the work on the technical aspects of telecommunication networks to support the Internet. The TSAG agreed at its last meeting to advise the TSB Director to report to the WTSA on this matter, and to send a liaison to the Assembly with respect to actions that are contemplated under this Resolution.

We also have proposals that have been submitted to the Assembly with regard to this particular issue. So another issue of great importance was that TSAG proposed to the ITU Council that academia be admitted to this Assembly, and as a result, Council agreed to the proposal on a trial basis. This took place at the recent Council meeting in July of this year.

TSAG is also responsible to establish the appropriate mechanism and encourage the utilization for example of coordination groups or other groups, to address key topics of work which span several Study Groups, with a view of ensuring effective coordination of standardization topics in order to achieve suitable global solutions. Now, these would include the work of joint coordination activities, and you'll see in the document a number have been established, some terminated, and of course, this also includes the designation of Lead Study Groups for various topics.

The TSAG is also responsible for advising the Director on financial and other matters, and to approve a work programme arising from the review of existing and new questions, and determine their priority and urgency and estimated time scale for their completion, as well as financial implications.

The TSAG is also responsible to group as far as practicable questions of interest to developing countries including the least developed countries, small island developing states and countries with con his in transition in order to facilitate their participation in these studies. Now, in addition, Chairman, TSAG is also responsible for the revising the relevant procedures for adoption of questions and recommendations by Study Groups. In addition, TSAG provides liaison on its activities to organisations outside of the ITU in consultation with the Director of the TSB, and as I've mentioned, recommendations A.4, A.5, and A.6 are certainly pertinent in relation to this function.

TSAG also considers the implications for ITU‑T of market needs and new emerging technologies that have not yet been considered for standardization by ITU‑T, and to establish appropriate mechanisms to facilitate the examination of their consideration by, for example, assigning questions, coordinating the work of Study Groups or establishing coordination groups or other groups, and nominate their Chairmen and Vice‑Chairmen.

So in addition, TSAG considers the results of the Assembly concerning the GSS and take follow‑up actions. This will be an important part of its activities in its first meeting next year.

And of course, the final action will be to prepare the appropriate reports of TSAG activities submitted to the next WTSA in 2016. So, Chairman, those are the various actions associated with the work of TSAG over the past four years. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of those involved in the work of TSAG, including the Vice‑Chairmen, the various convenors of correspondence groups who have undertaken important tasks that will enable us or at least facilitate hopefully the work of this Assembly on various issues, and of course, the participants who have been actively engaged in the work over the past four years.

So with that, Chairman, I submit these four documents for your consideration, and I'd be very happy to try to answer any questions. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Bruce, with your very informative presentation. The Assembly notes down the reports that you've submitted and thanks you in person and the participants to the TSAG for all the great work they have done for the past period. I have the privilege of being your Vice‑Chair in the past period and I bear witness to the excellent work that you have done throughout the period enormous effort and commitment to all the partners of TSAG. We really appreciate their work, what anyway have done is excellent and the reports are presented of their excellent job for the past period. So thank you very much for you and the entire team who has worked with you. Thank you.

Now, if you allow me ladies and gentlemen, I would like to shift Item Number 15, which we have postponed, along with Item Number 18, 19, and 20 to the next Plenary Meeting and start at 2:30, the Second Plenary, which leaves us with no more agenda items to discuss on this Plenary. If you allow we'd like to finish the work of the Plenary with a few announcements from the Director of TSB. If it's okay with you to shift the items, I think the time is already ‑‑ we've reached our time now, so we'd like to move these items. I repeat 15, 18, 19 and 20, to the next Plenary Meeting, which starts at 2:30.

As we see a request of the floor from Ghana. Ghana, please.

>> GHANA: Thank you very much, very distinguished Chairman. Let me use this opportunity to congratulate you and to wish you very well and in particular to recognize the very good work that Excellency Hamadoun Touré together with his Director of the Bureaus are doing. And as many of you may recall at the last WTSA meeting in 2008 which was held in Johannesburg. Four major issues were highlighted: ICTs and climate change, deployment of IPv6, accessibility to ICTs for persons with disabilities, and the urgent issue of conformance and interoperability testing and also encouraging participation of academia in ITU activities. Let me also use this opportunity to commend Bruce Gracie for the tremendous work he's done but to remind participants we have an obligation to promote Bridging the Standardization Gap between the developed and underdeveloped countries, and in particular to take a major decision in finalizing work on Resolution 76 which deals with conformance and interoperability testing.

We also want to commend the ITU for their study on ICTs and Climate Change and the particular use of Ghana as an example. I thank you for this opportunity. May I once again congratulate you, and commend the Director of the TSB, Malcolm Johnson. God bless.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Ghana. I've got a request from France. France, please.

>> FRANCE: Thank you, Chairman. I should like to congratulate you on your nomination to the Chair of this conference, and wish every success to the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly. I should like to make an announcement to tell my colleagues that the CEPT meeting will be held at 1:30, 13:00 hours, room H. 13 clown 00 hours in room H.

>> CHAIR: Canada, you have the floor, please.

>> CANADA: Yes, thank you, Chairman. Chairman, when I was expressing my appreciation to my Vice‑Chairmen and everyone else involved in TSAG I had omitted probably the most obvious area where I should have expressed my appreciation, and that's was to the TSB itself for all their tremendous support during the meetings of TSAG. I'd like to thank the Director in particular, Mr. Malcolm Johnson, and Mr. Reinhard Scholl, who acted as Secretary during the TSAG meetings.

So please accept my apologies for omitting that most obvious choice of thanks, but I would like to recognize the TSB for their tremendous support. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Gracie. I give the floor to the TSB Director, Mr. Malcolm Johnson, please.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to say that sentiment is sincerely reciprocated. We appreciate very much the support, guidance, and advice that has been given by TSAG since the last WTSA. It completes a tremendous amount of work within the time available for TSAG and we think that has greatly helped the ITU‑T Sector to move forward over the last four years.

So I'd also like to thank you, Bruce, and all the TSAG for helping us move forward. Thank you.

While I have the floor, Mr. Chairman, and before we finish for this morning, I'd just like to mention and draw your attention to a very interesting showcasing event which is taking place between Room B and the Registration area, which shows just how valuable our IPTV standards can be especially in the area of e‑health. We have an application for providing e‑health services using our IPTV suite of standards, so invite you to have a look at that showcasing event.

Also, we will be piloting a mobile app during this Assembly where you'll be able to find the latest information on documentation release and information on meeting rooms. And we'll be providing an information document on how to make use of that application.

Also, as was mentioned, we had the Chief technology officers meeting on Sunday. That was a very productive meeting, and the communique that was agreed by the CTOs will also be provided to the WTSA in an information document which should be on the website today.

Thank you, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Malcolm. This will conclude the work of our first Plenary, and if you note down again the agenda items that will be discussed in the second Plenary, in no particular order. We will look at the readiness of the documents to be presented.

So we have Agenda Item 15, 18, 19, and 20, and depending on the readiness of the documents for presentations with regards to the reports of the Study Groups or the Director of TSB report, we'll start with whatever is ready.

If there are no further comments, or requests from the floor, I would like to declare the first Plenary is over. Thank you very much for your patience and support. The meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

[ End of First Plenary Meeting ]

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