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Scribe for Session 2 of the Strategic Dialogue: “Broadband Driving Development”
Remarks delivered during the First Plenary Meeting of the WTPF-13
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Thank you Mr. Chairman, excellencies, ladies and gentleman,

The second panel was entitled “Broadband Driving Development”. And it had a very distinguished panel of people offering their views:

H.E. Ms. Omobola Johnson, Honourable Minister of Communications and Technology, Government of Nigeria;

Dr. Amr Badawi, President of Egypt's National Telecom Regulatory Authority;

Mr. Yung Kim, Group President & Chief Strategic Officer, Korea Telecom (KT) Corporation;

Mr. Franco Bernabè, CEO, Telecom Italia;

Mr. Robert Pepper, Vice-President, Global Policy, Cisco;

Dr. Touré, Secretary-General of ITU.

The session considered the benefits of broadband for accelerating economic and social development. The conversation was both far-reaching and urgent.

What struck me as I listened to the conversation was the maturing of the conversation, was that this Forum has moved from that sense of early wonder about this new technology to a more sober systems approach. What infrastructure is needed to support the worldwide deployment and adoption of the Internet? Who will build it, how will we pay for it, and if we build it, will they come? What is the nature of the ecosystem that has grown up around the Internet? How does it all work and for whom? And how can it work to solve some of our most basic societal needs?

In her talk, H.E. Minister Johnson struck the themes that served as a framework for the conversation. She talked about relevance. She talked about evolution of solutions and infrastructure. And she talked about risk. These issues reflect a mature assessment of where we are today in the worldwide deployment of the Internet.

Relevant to whom? Communication technologies are now integrated in most sectors of the economy and they are highly relevant to growth, to productivity, to our individual and collective aspirations.

All participants agreed that if access to the Internet is not available, growth is stymied; people, communities and countries are left behind. But they also agreed that one size does not fit all; indeed, the nature of the open Internet platform and connected technologies is that they provide opportunity for individualized innovation, for the development of solutions that fit regional needs.

H.E. Minister Johnson described Nigeria as using simple technologies, like wireless SMS to monitor the health of pregnant women resulting in a reduction of the death rate of expectant mothers; and in using more advanced Internet applications to provide health education to health care workers in the most rural areas of her country.

Robert Pepper reviewed how the deployment of broadband is tied to the Millennium Development goals (MDGs) and is crucial to meeting those goals: the alleviation of poverty, improving education, achieving gender equality, and improving health care around the globe.

Dr. Badawi spoke movingly about how the youth of Egypt were empowered by mobile technology during the revolution and how Egypt is transforming how it educates its children with cloud solutions.

The conclusion: Relevance is personal, it is communal and it is regional.

With respect to **evolution**, I found it fascinating that our conversation had moved from fixed wireline technologies to mobile broadband technologies in what feels like the blink of an eye. We are, as the first panel described, living in a mobile world -- we have moved from a 2G world to a 3G world to now to a 4G world. We are now mobile connected to each other and to the world through the Internet.

Mr. Kim described how LTE technologies change everything one more time. LTE uses IP technology, heralding another phase of innovation. LTE technology allows mobile speeds not experienced before, reduces latency and for the first time allows for real time video streaming. It can transform health care delivery, for example, by allowing not only remote monitoring but actual virtual treatment.

And as Mr. Kim pointed out, the price of handheld devices are falling year over year. He reported that the first smart phone costing as little as \$55 is now on the market in his country. Larger smart pads are coming down in price as well.

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And as Mr. Kim pointed out, the price of handheld devices are falling year over year. He reported that the first smart phone costing as little as US\$ 55 is now on the market in his country. Larger smart pads are coming down in price as well between the increased computing power of these devices together with innovative apps and cloud capacity, the knowledge society will soon be in the hands of everyone everywhere. The evolution of these networks at this point in time create enormous opportunities for new relevance and for new applications everywhere.

But where there are opportunities, there are risks.

Mr. Bernabè reviewed the risks of the systemic changes resulting from wide spread integration of the internet in our society. There are security risks. There are privacy risks. There are risks around how we use the technology to hurt each other instead of help each other. He urged that discussion of these risks be part of the conversation.

The other risk we discussed was the challenge of finding successful business models to achieve SUSTAINABLE growth. There was some debate on the right business model for achieving universal deployment of advanced technologies. Is it a consortium? Is it competitive infrastructure? Is it resale? Mr. Kim proposed a consortium model using public /private partnerships and resale arrangements. Dr. Badawi expressed interest in spectrum sharing. Robert Pepper thought that these proposals create a disconnect with sentiment expressed on the earlier panel for infrastructure competition and urged careful consideration of any single carrier model.

The risk is that we get into old battles, that we slow investment by locking in on a single way to go forward. Capital will flow where there is a demand and it is likely that different models will compete and consumers will decide what works best for their needs.

Indeed, throughout the two panels yesterday, we heard that it is the customer who is in charge. The customer is demanding that connectivity be faster, that the content be richer, that it be relevant and affordable. Investors across the internet eco system have high incentive to meet these demands as millions of new customers come online and create new markets.

Dr. Touré reminded us as the last speaker on the panel that we have only just begun. He was as optimistic as always that we can achieve great things, solve big problems if we do it together.

We now look forward to this Forum doing just that.

Thank you.