Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,
as our discussions have been focusing on the process
towards the Tunis Phase of the WSIS, let me briefly share
with you some information on the regional initiative that
the Inter-American Development Bank, based on the
recommendations of the UN ICT Task Force, has decided
to launch in Latin America and the Caribbean, jointly with
other institutions, namely:

- The Government of Italy,
- The UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs,
- The Institute for the Connectivity of the Americas and
- The International Telecommunication Union.

This regional initiative, that remains open to other
partnerships, has the endorsement of the UN ICT Task
Force and the WSIS Executive Secretariat, and will be
implemented in close coordination with each country of
the region and other institutions such as the Organisation
of the American States and Industry Canada.

The main objective of the initiative is to facilitate the
dialogue in the LAC Region on the priorities in the sectors
of ICT and e-Government for development, through the
organisation of a series of sub-regional and regional
meetings, so as to enhance the sharing of knowledge,
capabilities and dialogue within and among the Latin
American and the Caribbean countries leading to a LAC road-map on ICT for development, to be presented in Tunis.

As a follow up of the Plan of Action of the Geneva Summit and in response to its challenging agenda, this program will be a multi-stakeholders exercise to move from vision to action in the Latin American and Caribbean countries, looking at the 2015 targets and the achievement of the MDGs.

We wish that this multi-partnership initiative will be a fruitful contribution to find responses and concrete solution in bridging the digital divide at a regional scale.

We are looking forward to working with the Latin American and the Caribbean countries and to reporting about concrete results during the Tunis phase.