STATEMENT TO THE FIRST PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING FOR WSIS TUNIS
Ichiro Tambo (OECD)
Hammamet, 25 June 2004

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for granting the floor to the OECD.

Our input to the WSIS process will be made through two main ways: first, through the positions of our Member countries at the negotiating table; and secondly, through contributing to partnerships with international organisations within the UN family, and through co-operation with other stakeholders from the private and CSO sectors.

The OECD concentrates its messages to the Summit in three areas where it has expertise and core competence and where its government and private sector networks are particularly strong:

- The impact of ICT on economic growth and many aspects of social development.
- Security and trust.
- The place of ICTs in development assistance strategies.

We want to contribute to two “possible” thematic meetings: one on indicators which our UNCTAD colleague provided a brief just now and, the other, on the economic and social implications of ICTs. Co-organisers are ILO, ITC, OECD, UNCTAD, IDRC Canada and other partners. The objectives are:

- Address the impact of ICTs on economic performance and trade competitiveness;
- Explore policies and best practices to enable enterprises to raise their productivity and competitiveness;
- Review strategies to integrate SMEs into supply chains;
- Examine the impact on labour markets and identify strategies to ease the transition.

In addition to that, we will maintain our advisory role in the Internet Governance issue being addressed by the Task Force. Also, we are considering how we contribute to the discussions on financing ICT for Development. Unless asked, our contribution will mainly be to provide economic advice and analysis of alternative strategies.

Thank you very much for your attention.