**Video message for World Summit
on the Information Society**

Greetings from the World Health Organization in Geneva.

Ten years ago, the connected world was already beginning to expand our options for improving health.

Today, we see the promise of a true revolution in approaches to health care made possible by information and communication technologies, or ICTs.

Mobile health has ushered in a new era of services, with many other opportunities on the horizon as technologies continue to evolve.

ICTs have already given the health sector new ways to provide care for individuals, but also new ways to address critical health needs on a global scale. Improving systems for civil registration and vital statistics is one high-profile example.

But there are many others. Like communicating faster in outbreaks and emergencies.

Reaching health workers with the essential clinical information they need to save lives. Tracking inventories of essential medicines to prevent stock-outs.

And making sure that the public will find valid, evidence-based health advice on the Internet.

Many countries have made impressive advances in eHealth, These advances are making health services and systems more efficient, safe, and effective.

But much work remains to be done. Bridging the digital divide in health still presents enormous challenges.

At the same time, new opportunities for tackling these challenges continue to emerge as technologies evolve.

This is evident from the agenda for this Summit, with its strong emphasis on digital equality and the empowerment of people, especially in the developing world.

The benefits for health can be immense.

Thank you.

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