

WSIS+10 High-Level Event Opening Segment

Speaking notes for Jan Dusik, Director and Regional Representative, UNEP 10 June 2014, Geneva

H.E. Mr. Atef Helmy, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology,
Egypt,

Honorable Ministers and Senior Officials

Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary General, ITU

Distinguished colleagues from the United Nations System and International
organizations

Representatives of non-governmental organizations

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Mr. Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director and Chair of
High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief
Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).

Mr. Steiner would have wished to be present at this important event, however,
due to last stages of preparations of the First Session of the United Nations
Environment Assembly (UNEA) of UNEP that will take place in Nairobi from
23 to 27 June 2014, he could not be with us, but sends his greetings and wishes
for the success of the WSIS+10 .

We are very pleased to have contributed to the WSIS Action Line on
environment linked to climate monitoring systems, sustainable use and
management of natural resources, and sustainable consumption, production and
safe disposal of ICTs.

As you may be aware, this event is taking place, exactly five days after billions
of people across the planet celebrated the UN World Environment Day to
promote positive action on the most-pressing environmental challenges of our
time. This year we focused on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) who are
highly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. SIDS contribute little
to the problem of climate change- the combined annual carbon dioxide output of
these nations accounts for less than one per cent of global emissions.

While thinking about impact of climate change and natural disasters to SIDS
and the world at large, We have no illusions about the fundamental role ICTs

play in the assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of climate impacts and vulnerability on one hand, and the actions we take to set our planet on a sustainable path, on the other. In this context it is appropriate to mention the UNEP Live initiative launched recently by UNEP, aiming to provide universal access to environmental information and data for policy makers as well as citizens, for which the facility of ICTs will play an essential role.

As ICTs application and services continue to grow and become central part of all aspects of life, we should be mindful of the environmental impacts. Electronic waste is becoming fastest growing waste component and its unsafe disposal a challenge for both human health and the environment. More efforts should be placed on the implementation of legal and institutional framework and mechanisms put in place for the handling, collection, transportation, recycling and safe disposal of E-waste. Also further assisting governments and stakeholders from every stage of the electronic lifecycle in the development and implementation of e-waste management.

As you prepare to develop a New Vision beyond 2015, WSIS+10 is taking place at a time when the global community is rallying around accelerating the unfinished agenda of the MDGs and charting the new post-2015 development agenda - sustainable development goals to be attained by 2030.

The different Action Lines under WSIS are very much linked to what has been tackled and accomplished under the MDGs agenda, and will also have significant role in the post-2015 development agenda.

If we all agree on the contribution of ICTs in providing benefits in all aspects of lives, then the next agenda should focus on how best to integrate the different components of the Action Lines to make meaningful impact for the Future We Want - building more inclusive, sustainable and prosperous societies everywhere.

How do we make sure environment, health, employment, agriculture and science work, respond and deliver in an integrated manner and break out of traditional sectoral silos.

Finally ICTs application and services will play a major role in the future transformative development agenda we all are tirelessly working in order to eradicating poverty, promoting social inclusion and integrating sustainability into development.

Thank you.

