**High level statement for WTDC 2014**

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Ministers, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor and pleasure for me to speak to you at this important event. So much has been achieved to bridge the global digital divide and all of the stakeholders who contributed in the WSIS process should be thanked for their efforts and tenacity.

At Alcatel-Lucent, our vision is to develop and deploy affordable communication solutions for citizens — expanding social and economic opportunities to change the way billions of people live and work and extending digital inclusion to communities around the world.

The past few years have witnessed an increase in awareness about broadband and its impact on development and economic growth. While great progress has been achieved in increased connectivity in developing nations, there is still urgency to address coverage as well as affordability. For millions of people broadband is still unaffordable in many countries, costing sometimes more than their monthly income, whereas accessing the internet costs on average less than 2% of monthly income in the developed world.

Globally, there are 4 billion people not yet using the Internet and more than 90% of them are from the developing world.

The combination of the rapid increase of connected devices, video and cloud has led to an explosion of data traffic, driving the need for a huge increase of investments in efficient and large bandwidth networks. Alcatel-Lucent estimates that mobile data traffic will increase 25 times between 2011 and 2016. Developing countries will follow a similar pattern, as a wave of growth in digital and media content is expected as Smartphone ownership grows.

Massive investments are needed: The OECD estimates that **$10 trillion are needed by 2030 just in OECD countries, India, China and Brazil** (OECD estimate).

New investments sources and models need to be found to respond to this exploding bandwidth demand and the continued need for deployments in undeserved geographic zones. The industry needs to ensure a balanced return for all involved stakeholders as well as creating favorable environments for competition.

Some recommendations in brief:

* Promoting innovative investment and financing models between the private and the public sector in particular for broadband coverage and affordability in developing countries. LT private investment funds need to be attracted.
* Accelerating the adoption of more spectrum for mobile broadband and ensuring countries achieve their digital switchover deadlines in a harmonized way, as well as ensuring the right allocations
* More efforts need to focus on unleashing the smart use of broadband to help people use services in ways that will significantly improve their lives.
	+ encourage e-government strategies, and the development of policies and technology choices such as cloud enablement platforms.
	+ More cross-sector engagements are needed to unleash internet and mobile enabled services in health, education, finance, agriculture etc

Broadband and ICTs have a fundamental role to play in the **UN Sustainable development Goals** currently being shaped to set the development agenda between 2015 and 2030. It is concerning that ICT and broadband targets have not yet been included and we truly hope that WSIS and WSIS stakeholders can help in making a strong push in the coming weeks for this to happen.