Mr. Chairman,

His Excellency Dr.Toure, Secretary General of ITU

Excellencies,

Honorable Ministries,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost I would like to express my appreciation to Dr. Toure, Secretary General of ITU, for extending invitation to our country to be part of this invaluable event. I also thank the co-organizers of this event.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor and privilege for me to be here today to briefly speak on this WSIS+10 High Level Event on behalf of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. This event is an opportunity for all of us to share our best experiences, to learn about latest progresses, and build powerful partnerships and networks towards the future.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The government of Ethiopia recognizes the importance of ICT for the overall development of the nation in general and to reduce poverty and achieving MDGs in particular. Ethiopia’s economy is undergoing a rapid growth and transformation and over the past 10 years, the country has recorded double-digit economic growth rate and is rated one of the fastest growing non-oil exporting economy in the world. On this development journey, Ethiopia has taken concrete steps in framing the global development agenda of WSIS and MDGs within the national context. As a result, Ethiopia has made significant progress towards achieving the MDGs. Six of the eight MDGs are already on track and strong efforts are being made to ensure that the remaining two will be on track. Furthermore, Ethiopia as a committed country to WSIS agendas has successfully developed ICT policy, strategies and ICT programs that has been operationalized and will continue to do so by the strong leadership of the government.

In respect to ICT infrastructure, Ethiopia has implemented the National Data Transmission and e-Government Infrastructure Project aimed at laying fiber optic cable to cover most of the entire country and through our neighboring countries to connect to the global sub-marine cables.

As a consequence, access and affordability of ICT has shown an impressive growth and in line with this a substantial increase in the percentage of people having fixed, mobile telephones, and the internet is recorded including in the rural villages. In addition, Ethiopia is experiencing a rapid expansion of the availability of new technologies like 3G (HSPA) and 4G (LTE).

In order to improve service delivery, the Government of Ethiopia came up with e-service road map to create an efficient Government and currently 290 services can be accessed via the national portal. Furthermore, the government has also taken various initiatives in the use of ICT in health, education, agriculture, and etc…

However, more remains to be done primarily to ensure a reliable access by each and every household of the country and adequate electronic services must be developed that can impact the life of our people.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to express Ethiopia’s full commitment to the post 2015 WSIS Agenda and my government will continue to work with ITU and other stake holders to show case the results attained by committed government and people. I wish and hope we will celebrate together the fruits of post 2015 WSIS agenda.

I Thank You!