

SECOND PHASE OF WSIS, 16-18 NOVEMBER, TUNIS

STATEMENT BY MR. LIRONG SHI, DIRECTOR AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, ZTE CORPORATION

Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Evening! On behalf of ZTE Corporation, I am highly honoured to speak at this important event, and to discuss with you the bridging of the digital divide around the world.

Bridging the digital divide is the joint responsibility of government and business - in partnership.

ZTE strives to achieve this in six key ways - of course by supplying products, but also by establishing partnerships - in operations, in financing, in local manufacturing, in training centres, and by cooperating with local governments to improve remote education.

In Nigeria, we built the country's biggest rural area telecom network and established a handset manufacturing operation

In Pakistan we set up local manufacturing and R&D facilities

In Indonesia, we cooperated with the biggest telecom operator, PT Telkom, to build a training centre to expand the country's pool of skilled telecoms technicians

In Zambia we provided financing to build telecoms infrastructure

In Egypt we set up the country's largest remote education centre

ZTE's long-term commitment to partnerships which provide affordable advanced technology is also demonstrated right here in Tunisia.

The first ever 3G phone call on the African continent was made right here in Tunis in September 2004. This country's first WCDMA 3G network built by ZTE has been deployed by the Tunisian Ministry of Communication Technologies. And yesterday we announced a further development in Tunisia's leap into the future of wireless communications - trials of the country's first 3G GoTa digital trunking communications system. These 3G systems represent a major step forward for Tunisia's communications, and place the country at the very front of African communications, with a standard of telecommunications service equal to any in the world.

Partnerships like these, linking technology and communities, can make a real difference. They are helping us build a seamless information society and not just to bridge, but to remove the digital divide around the world.

Thank you!