

His Excellency Mr Houlin Zhao,
Distinguished Ministers,
Representatives of international and regional organizations,
Representatives of civil society,
Representatives of private sector,
Stakeholders of WSIS Process,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to be here today as an active participant to the WSIS Forum.

I would like to thank International Telecommunication Union and other organizers for establishing this platform and keeping the WSIS spirit alive for ten years.

Last December, United Nations General Assembly held a special session for ten year review of WSIS. With this session, we had the chance to evaluate and discuss legacy of WSIS and how to move forward. It is very significant that this session was held along with special meeting of Counter-Terrorism Committee on preventing terrorists from exploiting internet and social media. I hope that WSIS Forum will continue to contribute to these beneficial discussions.

A safe and secure ICT environment is not only desirable but also a necessity. In this context, building trust and confidence comes forth among WSIS action lines. Without a safe internet, ICT industry would not make its potential contribution to economic and social welfare of the world. In the online world, we do not have one identity. We are professionals, parents, users and gamers at the same time. We should feel safe and secure online with all these identities. To achieve this, I invite all stakeholders to be active in their respective roles and responsibilities. In October, Turkey will host a workshop on empowering the future citizens in

cooperation with ITU. We hope that such activities should enable closer dialogue between all stakeholders in order to reach a common understanding.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

United Nations recently set new targets for the world. This time we are not trying to eradicate hunger by giving food. We are trying to change the world. We are not only aiming to help the poor. We are working to change conditions that create poverty. We are working to change the education, healthcare for better. We are working to protect the environment for future generations. We are working to live in sustainable cities. We are working to create decent jobs. And for all of these, we need ICTs more than ever.

In this context, it is very pleasant that WSIS action lines are quiet in conjunction with the sustainable development goals.

After ten years of implementing WSIS action lines, it is now time to increase the speed of development efforts in terms of ICT. We urgently need better information societies for solving problems of the world. An information society is a society where healthcare is modernized, transportation is efficient, energy is renewable and affordable. An information society is a society where no one is left behind. I believe that these are the goals that all stakeholders would certainly feel proud to contribute.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are all descendants of migrants. Refugees, asylum-seekers, displaced people, immigrants, whatever is their name legally, people are trying to avoid catastrophes everywhere and make their lives count. We have to prevent atrocities and we have to heal their wounds. Effective usage of information and communication technologies will keep their ties with their origin countries, help them preserve their identities. And at the same time, ICTs will help these people to fit in to their new communities. Inclusive societies could only be established when we know

how to get benefit from ICTs. Barriers to reach information should be lessened everywhere, but it is much more critical when it comes to the refugees. With this vision, for refugees hosted by Turkey, we make it easier to reach ICTs by facilitating bureaucratic processes.

In spite of the big steps taken in the field of ICT recently, digital divide still remains as a significant obstacle. It is a broadly accepted fact that a sound legal and regulatory framework helps bridging the digital divide. In this regard, I firmly believe that cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experience between regulators will improve regulatory capacity and thus contribute development of ICT sector.

Mobile technologies are the main driver of digitalization trend all over the world. In Turkey, 5G is one of the hot topics in our agenda. We want to become one of the first countries to use 5G technology. We are willing to participate in global platforms and to contribute to national and international studies to get the new generation technologies into our country. In this regard, we have successfully concluded IMT-Advanced Authorization Tender in a very open and transparent way in Turkey at the end of August last year. This tender has been the biggest tender in the sector for the last ten years. Total cost is more than Euro 3.9 billion for the sale of total frequencies of 365.4 MHz. The operators have already started to provide service at the beginning of April this year enhancing further the value added mobile services and applications in Turkey.

One of the most significant investments in Turkey is FATİH project. “Movement of Enhancing Opportunities and Improving Technology”: The aim of this project is to enable equal opportunities in education and improve technology in schools for the efficient use of ICT tools in the learning-teaching processes. The project proposes developing the lecture rooms with technical infrastructure. FATİH project has five main components. These are providing equipment and software, educational e-content, effective use of the ICT in teaching programmes and in-

service training of the teachers. In the big picture, FATIH connects all national education network with its 1 million teachers, 42.000 school management, 16 million students and their parents. With this project, I believe that a significant part of the Tunis Agenda will be accomplished in Turkey, and we will be not one but many steps closer to an information society.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Data usage increases exponentially in both mobile and fixed networks thanks to the new applications, products and services. Especially, Over-the-Top (OTT) services revolutionize the way of delivering ICT services. OTT services create added value, but on the other hand they affect the whole broadband ecosystem, in particular the network operators' revenues and their ability to finance network deployment. So, regulators should discuss Net Neutrality and evaluate pros and cons in this regard.

Before concluding, I would like to emphasize that World Summit on Information Society has created a very important platform for multistakeholder dialogue and we are proud to be the host of 2014 for Internet Governance Forum. WSIS also gave us another very important term which is “enhanced cooperation”. To this date, we have not found a way to move forward on that path. There is still confusion on what “enhanced cooperation” is. Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation under the Commission on Science and Technology for Development could not reach a consensus on 2013. As a result of WSIS+10 outcome, now a new working group is being established under CSTD. We wish success to this group and call all the parties to be open to new ideas. We wish that this time finding a common ground would not be that difficult.

I would like to wish you the best in the WSIS Forum 2016. Thank you very much.