

Intervention of
Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Director of Standardization
Telecommunication Bureau (ITU)

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(Extract from the transcript of the proceedings)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning. Good morning, everybody. We believe that it's important that the structure stimulates international cooperation, and enhanced cooperation, and the proposed structure we believe does that. There are emerging issues, and we are actually proposing one ourselves, but we believe that the current structure can cope with emerging issues and we can incorporate them.

We're concerned about the number of workshops that have been proposed, and clearly we need to amalgamate these as much as possible. This is going to be difficult, perhaps, but we believe that that's key, really, to ensuring the success of the next forum.

So encouraging partnerships we believe is the message that we would like to bring, and as an example of that, since our last meeting, I'm pleased to inform you that ITU and UNESCO have agreed to work together on several WSIS-related activities, and just to outline three, we are promoting the multilingual Internet, we will develop together an internationalized Country Code Top Level Domain reference table to facilitate the development of internationalized Internet domain names.

Secondly, we are working together in the dynamic coalition on accessibility and disability, which we initiated at our previous meeting. And I'm pleased to say that this dynamic coalition is living up to its name of being "dynamic" because it already has successfully organized a workshop addressing the U.N. convention on the rights of persons with disabilities which was held at ITU a few weeks ago.

And thirdly, we are going to work together to organize and solicit participation in two workshops, one on multilingualism and the other on accessibility in Hyderabad.

ITU has also initiated a dynamic coalition on Internet and climate change, and I'm pleased to say that we've been joined in that as founding partners by the ministry of internal affairs and communications of Japan, the global e-sustainability initiative, BT from the U.K., and Deutsche Telekom.

And this will build on the very successful symposium that was held in Kyoto last month, and a follow-up symposium which we are organizing with BT in London on the 17th and 18th of June. This is open to anyone to participate free of charge.

So we have, at the back of the room, a joint statement from ITU and UNESCO to illustrate how closely we're working together. We're even sitting together in this meeting. And also in the back of the room is the text on the dynamic coalition on Internet and climate change.

To promote -- I might just inform you that to promote implementation of IPv6, ITU is organizing a workshop on this in Geneva, provisionally for the 4th and 5th of September, and I'd just like to finish by inviting and encouraging additional partners in these activities.

As I said, this is really key to the success of the next forum, so we invite intergovernmental, nongovernmental, and private sector to join with us, especially ITU and UNESCO, and look forward to developing these ideas and trying to merge some of the proposals during this meeting.

Thank you, Chairman.