Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear WSIS Stakeholders,

- It is a great pleasure for me to be here with you this afternoon in the final phase of the Open Consultation Process on the Thematic Aspects and new innovative format for WSIS Forum 2011. As the host and on behalf of the co-organizers, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP, I welcome all the participants onsite as well as those participating remotely. I thank you for your contributions and enthusiasm towards the open consultation process.

- I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Governments, like Bangladesh, India, and Poland, who are joining us remotely today, we look forward to their intervention during the meeting. I would also like to take thank our WSIS Action Line facilitating organizations, UNDESA, and FAO for joining us in a remote manner.

- In order to ensure the participatory and inclusive spirit of the WSIS Forum the Open Consultation Process was structured in 4 phases that began on the 15th of October 2010. This Review Meeting today marks the 4th Phase of these Consultations.

- The submissions display renewed energy and enthusiasm towards the WSIS Forum. We received around 200 contributions from WSIS Stakeholders all over the world during the online discussions, face-to-face meeting and direct official submissions. It is encouraging to note that nearly 50% of the submissions were from Civil Society Organizations. The submissions made during these consultations at the preparatory stages will provide the framework for the agenda, speakers and format of the forum. This will of course have a direct impact on the outcome and success of the Forum 2011. We can proudly say that WSIS Forum is evolving
to a stakeholder driven platform that displays our common desire and commitment to build a people centric, inclusive and development oriented Information Society.

Distinguished friends and colleagues,

- I would like to take this opportunity to update you on a few components of the WSIS Implementation process.

- The purpose of the WSIS Stocktaking Process is to provide a register of activities carried out by WSIS Stakeholders. ITU has been maintaining the WSIS Stocktaking database as a publicly accessible system providing information on ICT-related initiatives and projects covering the 11 WSIS Action Lines of Geneva Plan of Action.

- We are proud to inform you that as of today, 5012 entries have been registered in the database from 1605 different stakeholders. Moreover more than 2100 stakeholders from more than 160 countries are already active members of the WSIS Stocktaking platform, serving as collaborative tool for WSIS implementation.

- I would also like to update you on UNGIS, UNGIS chairs and co-chairs plan to organize a joint side event during LDC conference which will be held in Turkey in May 2011. A paper on the progress made in the implementation of WSIS outcomes in LDC’s will also be presented by the UNGIS members at the conference. Our colleagues form UNESCO, will address this issue later during this meeting.

- ITU is also holding an ITU preparatory event for the LDC conference on the 8th and 9th of March titled Digital Inclusion for LDCs with the prime focus on Innovation, Growth and Sustainability. WSIS stakeholders are invited to join.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentleman

- We would like to inform you that this year we have added several new elements to the WSIS Forum, to ensure the vibrant and result
oriented aspects of the WSIS Forum. We welcome all the new partners into the WSIS Forum family and hope that this the beginning of long and successful partnerships.

- The “I write for WSIS” Campaign gives each one of us the power to report, learn and share on and about the WSIS Process, turning each one of into WSIS Reporters

- The “I meet you at WSIS” feature enables social matchmaking during the event –this will allow you to track colleagues and professionals you intent meeting at WSIS Forum with ease. Hence ensuring that you return from the forum with new friends, partners and ideas.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentleman

- Concluding my speech, let me also take the opportunity to share with you that at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in 2010 member states passed a new resolution on ITU’s role in implementing the WSIS outcomes and requesting further action.

- In this resolution, the member states also instructed the ITU Secretary-General to initiate consultations with the United Nations Chief Executive Board (CEB) in order to elaborate the framework for overall review of implementation of WSIS outcomes in 2015, including the possibility of holding a high-level event in 2014 or 2015.

- Necessary preparations based on the multi-stakeholder approach will need to take place, and it is important that they pursue efficient and effective coordination with all stakeholders in preparing the overall review. The ITU Secretary General has initiated bilateral communication with UN agencies on this issue.

Dear WSIS Stakeholders,

- I would like to again thank you for your participation and I look forward to welcoming you at the WSIS Forum 2011 in Geneva. I
would like to encourage you to start planning and questioning, how can we use the WSIS Forum in order to generate necessary impact and to accelerate achievement of the WSIS targets by due date?

- I am confident that together we can form the questions and find the solutions.