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My Vision Statement for ITU-T – Communication is everything for everyone –

We can see today how topics are becoming more and more overlapping in all kinds of international standardization organizations. Digitization and mobile communication networks influence our daily lives and have changed business and trade significantly. In particular, artificial intelligence and the resulting data flows, both on mobile and stationary devices, can be standardized in various ways. The same is true for upcoming 5 G and even 6 G standardization, or challenges such as machine-readable standards, shaping fintech services, and so on, to give just a few examples.

We will of course be seeing a lot of communication to identify the needs of the organization, the employees and the stakeholders, and I intend to listen and act as a team player. But I'd also like to draw attention to just three of many potential fields of action I have identified as my goals:

The ITU is and shall remain an organization of the highest importance with an extraordinary wealth of expertise, enormous capacities for dealing not only with a large number of issues but also with cutting-edge topics and for handling huge events. ITU has globally unique expertise on ICT matters due to the experts in the study groups from all over the world. In order to achieve goals and other efforts set by the General Assembly I have committed myself to three major efforts – in addition to others yet to be defined – for the benefit of the organization and its members:

First: To conduct a process on how ITU-T could focus on the right and most rewarding key issues in standardization for the business community and industries.

If elected I will aim to conduct, shape and speed up this process. This also means building new bridges between business, science, research, civil society and the ITU-T. I am confident my broad set of international operative management experience in standardization, diplomacy and communication in many different organizations and structures will help to push this process forward by acknowledging the needs of as many members as possible.

Second: To work hard to find more members and contributors who can do both: help to create standards accepted everywhere and thus support this organization at the same time.

This is because a significant part of standards worldwide come today from different sources, and it is important to utilize the organization's advantages by making it attractive for stakeholders to do standardization here and not elsewhere. This will require more members and more creativity from the corporate sector. In talks with companies from different countries I have learned that many companies have a lot of trust in ITU but hope that ITU could re-position standardization right in the middle between regulation and practical business.

Third: To build more solid bridges by fostering substantial cooperation with other international standardization organizations.

We need to anticipate future developments, and we need to find standard-related positions of overall common worldwide interest in a fast-changing world. And it is clear that an organization in the center, a United Nations Specialized Agency like the ITU, is truly predestined to initiate and conduct a dialogue on fundamental issues of standardization between major organizations, industrial nations and developing countries, large and small companies. Because standardization delivers order, reliability and safety in a world of today and tomorrow.