



GROUP OF FIFTEEN
The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

G-15 Joint Statement

WSIS+10 High-Level Event hosted by ITU, Geneva 10-13 June 2014

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of 15, a Summit-level group of developing countries comprising 17 Member States¹. The Group is established on the firm belief that there lies a considerable potential for mutually beneficial cooperation and collaboration among developing countries for sustainable development and economic progress.

2. I would like to thank the Secretary General, ITU for the efforts of ITU Secretariat, in coordination with the other UN agencies with a WSIS mandate, in organization for this High- Level Event to present the progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes during the last 10 years, following the two phases of WSIS - Geneva phase in 2003 and Tunis phase in 2005.

3. I would also like to thank the Chairman of Open Consultation Process on WSIS+10 High-Level Event and the Vice Chairs for their efforts in finalizing the draft documents namely;
 - (i) Draft WSIS+10 Statement on Implementation of WSIS outcomes, and
 - (ii) Draft WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015 under mandates of participating agencies.

4. At the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), we established the Action Lines that touched upon majority of areas of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), with particular emphasis on enhancing their global socio-economic impact, especially on Developing and Least Developed Countries. ICTs have revolutionized the way we live in an interconnected world. ICT tools, skills and networks are being increasingly used for alleviating poverty, creating jobs and meeting the Millennium

¹ Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

Development Goals and beyond. Connectivity has empowered people and brought new opportunities for many.

5. Great advances in the capabilities of ICTs have fuelled rapid technology-enabled innovations in a wide range of economic and social sectors. We have taken note with appreciation various activities launched by countries, Action Line Facilitators in particular ITU and other UN agencies, as well as other stakeholders, to realize the objectives of the WSIS Action Lines.

6. Despite progress in spread of ICT worldwide, there remain significant challenges, particularly in ensuring the inclusiveness of the information society, the emergence of a new digital divide, especially in terms of quality of ICT infrastructure, broadband access, affordability and digital content, particularly in low-income countries.

7. With regard to achievements and challenges, it is extremely important that the overall review of WSIS processes gives the highest priority to the challenges in a balanced and equitable manner.

8. On behalf of the Group of 15, I would like to wish every success to the WSIS+10 High- Level Event.
