



GROUP OF FIFTEEN
The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

Distribution: General

G-15 Joint Statement
WSIS Forum

Geneva, 2-6 May 2016

Mr. President,

I wish to take this opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Fifteen, a Group of developing countries that is dedicated to fostering South-South cooperation for the mutual benefit of the membership and working towards commonality of positions on issues of shared interest. Our Group is deeply pleased to be part of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the world's largest annual gathering of the 'ICT for the development community.'

At the very outset the Group of Fifteen wishes to acknowledge the co-organizers of this Forum, the ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD which have worked in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line Facilitators/Co-Facilitators to enable this event and congratulate **Ambassador Daniel A. Sepulveda** for being nominated to Chair this Session. The Group also welcomes the UN General Assembly Resolution 70/125 of 16th December, 2015 which recognized the necessity of holding this Forum on an annual basis and called for a close alignment between WSIS and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) processes.

This year holds great significance as humanity moves towards the implementation of the ambitious action oriented framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as endorsed by world leaders at their Summit in New York in September, 2015. After years of negotiation and planning 'the time for action has now come.' The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has once again highlighted the great potential of ICT to accelerate human progress, to bridge digital divides and to develop knowledge societies. In this regard it is important to identify emerging trends in ICT, fresh priorities and innovations for advancing the 'ICT for development' agenda, while strengthening the impact of ICTs as an enabler of sustainable development. It is also clear that ICTs have become an integral part of socio-economic development, especially in the developing countries.

Mr. President,

The G-15 also wishes to acknowledge the concerted efforts made by the ITU to highlight the role that ICTs will play in achieving the SDGs. Our Group has identified the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a key priority for developing nations and attaches great value to the WSIS Forum as the largest multi-stakeholder annual gathering of the 'ICT for development' community.' The G-15 values the principles of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the WSIS process since its inception, recognizing that effective participation, partnership and cooperation of Governments, the private sector,

civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders, especially with balanced representation from developing countries, that continues to be vital in developing the information society.

On behalf of the G-15, I would like to wish every success to the WSIS Forum.
