



12th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (Tbilisi, 2014)

Speeches

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**12th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium
(WTIS-14)**

Tbilisi, Georgia, 24-26 November 2014



Speech

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25 November 2014**

English

SOURCE: ITU

TITLE: Opening speech by Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General Elect

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT INDICATORS SYMPOSIUM 2014

OPENING CEREMONY

MONDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2014
TBILISI, GEORGIA

OPENING SPEECH

HOULIN ZHAO

SECRETARY-GENERAL ELECT,
INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

Your Excellency, Irakli Garibashvili, Prime Minister, Georgia

Excellency, Mr. George Kivikashvili, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia

Excellency, Mr. Dimitry Mumsishvili, First Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia and Chair of WTIS 2014

Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues
Ladies and gentlemen,

- It is a real pleasure and a great honour to be with you here today at the Opening Ceremony of the World *Telecommunication and ICT Indicators Symposium-2014*.
- On behalf of the ITU Secretary-General, we are very grateful to the Government of Georgia for hosting this Symposium, and for the tremendous hospitality you have provided, including yesterday's excursion to the UNESCO-heritage site of Mtskheta, one of the oldest continually-inhabited cities in the world. I know that you made a lot of effort to make this World Telecommunication Indicators Symposium very special.

- Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I have been following ICT trends for many years. Many countries have been making great strides towards the information and knowledge society. I want to congratulate you and hope that when we unveil this year's ICT Development Index, this will also be evident.

I will now reveal a secret: Georgia has made great progress in this year's Index! Congratulations!

Having said that let me stop and pose two questions. Do we really know the population that remains unconnected despite statistics showing that there are 7 billion mobile-cellular subscriptions? Do we know who are the unconnected despite that 3 billion people have access to the Internet or that 2.3 billion people have access to mobile broadband?

- I want to call upon the Member States to help us identify the really unconnected people so we may know who to target as we continue to invest in infrastructure. It is also important for governments as they formulate public policy aimed at stimulating investment and competition in the sector.

Distinguished colleagues,

- Since 1889 to date when we are about to commemorate ITU's 150th Anniversary, ITU has been collecting and processing telecommunication statistics and indicators thanks to the support and contribution by the countries. Our work in ICT measurement has grown from strength to strength. Today, ITU maintains ICT statistics for 200 economies and over 100 indicators. I have no doubt that this cooperation with countries will continue in the future. I can give you my word, ITU is committed to ensure that very high standard is maintained as we help countries monitor their progress towards attaining universal access which in turn could drive economies, education, health and everything that we do.
- At this point, let me congratulate Brahima Sanou, the newly re-elected Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, and his team, for successfully re-engineering what used to be a very small technical meeting to the big Symposium that it has become today. I see Ministers, Director Generals of both National Statistical Offices and

Telecommunication Regulatory Authorities and I also see many experts and very senior Government officials in the room. This diversity is crucial as we need political will and expertise to drive the important process of data collection, processing and reporting. Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

Excellencies,

As the ITU Secretary-General Elect, I want to assure you here and now, that I continue to provide unflinching support for the work related to Measuring the Information Society. This is all the more important as the international community has now set the Sustainable Development Goals that recognize that ICTs play a pivotal role for their attainment.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to engaging with you personally and to listen to the many interesting sessions over the next two days.

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English

SOURCE: ITU

TITLE: Opening speech by Brahim Sanou, Director of ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT INDICATORS SYMPOSIUM 2014

OPENING CEREMONY

MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2014
TBILISI, GEORGIA

OPENING SPEECH

BRAHIMA SANOU

DIRECTOR,
ITU TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

Your Excellency, Mr Irakli Garibashvili, Prime Minister of Georgia,

Mr Dimitry Kumsishvili, First Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development,

Mr Vakhtang Abashidze, Chair of the Georgian Communications Commission,

Mr Houlin Zhao, Deputy Secretary-General, and Secretary General elect of ITU

Honourable Ministers,
Director-Generals,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

- It is an honour for me to welcome you to the 2014 edition of the *World Telecommunication and ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS)* here in Tbilisi, with its unique and ancient cultural heritage.
- I would like to thank the Government of Georgia for hosting the event and for the kind and warm hospitality extended to all of us.

- This year, WTIS is bringing you some very positive changes.
- For the first time, we are launching the Measuring the Information Society report during WTIS.
- The availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data and a robust international measurement framework is of paramount importance. For that reason, I recently commissioned a study aimed at evaluating our current data collection and processing. The expert will present to us his final report at this Symposium.
- Further, one of the key topics this year is big data. ICTs are part of the debate on the data revolution because data revolution or data capital, as some call it, is mainly driven and dependent on ICTs. This is why I commissioned a report on big data that will be presented this afternoon to trigger discussions.
- As you know, ITU's mandate and work in data, statistics and measuring the Information Society has been reinforced by resolution 8 of the sixth World Telecommunication Development Conference, and resolution 131 of the just-concluded ITU Plenipotentiary Conference.
- We count on your support in order for us to continue providing reliable data and statistics to all the stakeholders of the ICT ecosystem.
- I take this opportunity to thank all the Member States, International Organizations, industry, and experts that support our work in this area.
- Our two statistical expert groups – the Expert Group on Telecommunication and ICT indicators (EGTI) with around 500 members and the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) with around 300 members – work continuously to improve methodologies, define new indicators and review existing ones. I thank all the experts who work hard by contributing to the work of the two groups.

Your Excellency the Prime Minister of Georgia and our Gest of Honor

- I would like to take this opportunity to you and your Cabinet Members here present.

- Your Excellency, You have demonstrated political will by your government to embrace ICTs for socio-economic development. Your country has also set the bar high for the next hosts of this Symposium.
- **Thank you so much for gracing this Symposium by your presence here today.**
- To all the Ministers, Director Generals and other VIPs who are here with us and who will share their vision, expertise and ideas, I thank you and hope that you will also participate in future WTIS to continue this strategic dialogue.
- I also recognize and welcome the presence of our very high-level speakers and look forward to each session.

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen

- Let me now conclude by saying this: It is in fact, **Our** ideas and our actions that can help shape the 21st century agenda and make a real difference in people's lives. When I look at the work we do, beyond the figures, I see people.
- I see the very young boys and girls, I see women and men, I see people with disabilities, and I see the elderly who all rely on ICT to change their lives.
- ICT impacts each one of us, let us be the change agents driven by a shared vision - a vision to make the fruits of the Information Society accessible to all.
- I thank you for your attention.

Didi Madlava