Note from the Chairman of WTIS-2016:

Based on the discussions and presentations made during the Symposium, I have prepared this short summary report highlighting the main outcomes, conclusions and recommendations of the Symposium. The draft of the final report will be available on the ITU website next week. Participants will be invited to provide comments by 15 December 2016 to the ITU Secretariat, for incorporation into the final report

CHAIRMAN'S OUTCOMES, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We, the participants, have met here at Gabarone International Convention Center, from 21-23 November 2016, as delegates to the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) 2016.

Led by the Ministers present, we had very fruitful discussions on a wide range of topics including:

- the role of ICTs for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the related new data needs;
- the social and economic changes caused by the spread of ICTs;
- the results of the Measuring the Information Society Report 2016;
- the work of the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and the Expert Group on Household Indicators (EGH)
- the measurement of bundled telecommunication services and 5G networks;
- big data for monitoring the information society;

- new ICT indicators for disaster risk reduction; and
- how to improve ICT data for improved ICT policy making.

The following are the highlights of the outcomes and recommendations drawn from the Symposium:

1. The Ministerial Roundtable emphasized that an inclusive information society is an important prerequisite for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which pledges to leave no one behind in creating a more peaceful, prosperous planet. Ministers recognized that only a fully connected world will allow all people equally to benefit from the rights and opportunities that the SDGs voice.

2. Ministers emphasized that the most vulnerable population groups – including the illiterate, the unbanked, and those living in disaster-prone and rural areas – could benefit most from ICTs but were most at risk of being left behind.

3. Ministers recognized the need to produce more data to understand broader socio-economic inequalities and specific barriers that keep different population groups from using, or fully benefitting from the Internet.

4. The Leaders' Dialogue recognized that ICTs are having profound changes on society, the environment and the economy. These lead to often entirely new digital ecosystems and present both opportunities and challenges for people and societies. In order to create knowledge economies and benefit from the extensive availability and use of ICTs, a solid backbone infrastructure is required. This will lead to greater innovation and technical advances, greater efficiency and more, better and more sustainable services.

5. At the same time, the consequences of the digitalisation of the economy and trends such as automation, artificial intelligence, and the sharing economy, impact labour markets, including employment contracts and job security, and change skills requirements.

6. Data are required to understand these changes, to monitor a growing ICT sector and shifts in employment, and to adapt educational systems and address unemployment caused by technological changes and rising inequalities.

7. Participants welcomed the presentation of the Measuring the Information Society Report, which was regarded as a key publication in the field of ICT for development, including its ICT Development Index (IDI). By highlighting not only the top performers but also the most dynamic countries that have made great achievements in terms of ICTs, the IDI helps identify best practices, and provides critical evidence for policy makers and the private sector.

8. The Symposium agreed that the data presented in the Report provided useful insights on progress in ICT access, use and skills, the development of the global digital divide, and barriers to Internet uptake, including the cost of ICT services. Policy makers need to address broader socio-economic inequalities and help people acquire the skills they need to take full advantage of the Internet.

9. The Symposium acknowledged the work carried out by the EGH in 2016, and endorsed the outcomes of the 4th EGH meeting, including proposals for future work and the creation of a joint EGTI/EGH sub-group to review the indicators included in the ICT Development Index (IDI).

10. The Symposium highlighted the importance of improving the collection and disaggregation of ICT statistics, including by disability, and urged countries to improve data availability for the monitoring of the SDGs and to ensure ''no one is left behind'' in accessing and using ICTs.

11. The Symposium emphasized the importance of national collaboration in the collection of ICT household statistics, in order to identify priority areas for ICT measurement and pooling resources.

12. The Symposium acknowledged the work carried out by EGTI in 2016 and endorsed the outcomes of the 7th EGTI meeting and its proposals for

future work, in particular the newly created sub-group to review the indicators included in the ICT Development Index (IDI).

13. The Symposium highlighted the future importance of developing indicators to monitor the spread and uptake of 5G mobile technologies, and of bundled services in view of the changing ICT consumption patterns.

14. The Symposium recognized the importance of exploring the use of big data for official statistics and welcomed the ITU pilot project on 'Big Data for Measuring the Information Society' which aims to explore ways on how data from the ICT industry could be used to produce new or complement existing ICT indicators.

15. The session highlighted that access to data, lack of resources and lack of skills in the use of big data remain to be the major challenges for countries. Different modalities of data access could be used depending on the location of data processing, the level of data aggregation and anonymization, and the national data protection, privacy and statistical legislation in the country.

16. The Symposium emphasized the need to build statistical capacity in the use of big data and encouraged governments and agencies to provide more support and resources.

17. The Symposium recognized the devastating effects of disasters on human beings and on economic development, and in particular on the world's most vulnerable population groups. ICTs provide unprecedented opportunities to provide critical tools for disaster monitoring, early warning, and emergency response efforts and to effectively address the issue of climate change.

18. Panelists highlighted the need to identify specific ICT-related indicators to track progress towards achieving the global targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the role of ITU in contributing to their development and promotion. The meeting pointed to the opportunities of new data sources, including data from

Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and mobile telecommunication providers.

19. The importance of national collaboration among public and private stakeholders is seen crucial in the use of big data. The Symposium encouraged countries, experts and national stakeholders to engage actively in the discussions and to work together to take advantage of the potential of big data for official statistics and for policy-making.

20. The Symposium highlighted that challenges related to improved ICT data cover different dimensions, such as quality, availability, resources and capacities, coordination among different stakeholders, data dissemination, analysis and usage.

21. Good models for national coordination are required to improve the availability and quality of ICT data. Key stakeholders involved in the national ICT data ecosystem include National Statistical Offices, ICT Ministries, regulatory authorities, ICT sector companies including service providers, universities and research institutions and other ICT entities. Data quality remains an important issue and needs to be addressed by all stakeholders. In this regard, building ICT statistical capacities is essential.

The participants expressed profound appreciation for the hospitality and facilities provided by the host country, the Ministry of Transport and Communication and the Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority, which made this event a resounding success.

Delegates also congratulated the ITU management on the organization of the event and urged ITU to continue collecting, disseminating and analyzing ICT statistics based on internationally agreed standards and methodologies, for improved ICT policy making across the ITU membership.