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**High-level roundtable on "Progress made in the implementation of and
follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes
at the regional and international levels"**

Statement submitted by

H.E. Mr. Thomas Schneider
Ambassador, Director of International Relations
Federal Office of Communications
Switzerland

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Bundesamt für Kommunikation BAKOM
International Relations

High-Level Roundtable at the 20th Session of the CSTD, 8th May 2017

Speaking Points Amb. Thomas Schneider, Swiss Government

Excellencies, Mr. Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

- On **behalf of Madam Federal Councilor and President of the Swiss Confederation**, Ms. Doris Leuthard, which I am representing here today, I would like to thank Mr Secretary-General (of UNCTAD) Dr. Muikas Kituyi and the CSTD for the kind invitation to participate in today's High Level roundtable.

- **Switzerland considers the UN 2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development as an **important framework to mainstream sustainability** in all policies and practices. The 2030 Agenda calls for a **right mix of policies and effective mechanisms** to implement these policies.

- There is no doubt, and we can see it in the **report on the progress made** in the implementation of and follow-up of the WSIS, but also in the **report about the findings** of the discussions at the **Intersessional meeting** about **new innovation approaches** to support the implementation to SDGs, as well in a number of **publications and information published by UN Agencies** like the mapping done by ITU of **how ICT can contribute to the SDGs**:

- **ICTs play a crucial role** and can **greatly contribute to the realization** of the post 2015 development goals - **if we harness their full potential**. We need to **make sure that all stakeholders**, across all sectors, **are aware** of the vast possibilities (but also of the risks) of ICTs and dem**onstrate with concrete examples** how ICT can contribute to the realization of the SDGs. We think this requires **pragmatic and practice-oriented approaches**.

- And this brings me to the **issue that I would like to focus on** here:

- **Key** to meet the targets set out in the 2030 Agenda will be **a constructive cooperation and strong partnerships** between all stakeholders: governments, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, the technical and academic community.

- We need to **leverage** networks and research, **stimulate** innovation, **scale up** current initiatives and design new solutions in an **inclusive and participatory way**. We need to connect different actors and provide them with opportunities to exchange experiences, best practices, and to discuss the challenges at hand.

- And we need to **connect those people working** on implementing SDGs in the 2030 Agenda that serves as a kind of a "global overall strategy", **with those working on national and regional digital strategies** so that **all these and other strategies are aligned** and work hand in hand.

- **Enhancing cooperation on national and international levels** between governments and with all stakeholders is **not a new idea**. But it is **still not sufficiently done** and **often not with the right attitude**.

- Also **on national levels**, we are still **working too much in silos**, and **do not cooperate** and share information and experience enough and in the way we should

- Of course, calls for constructive cooperation are **easily made to difficult to implement**:

- As we all know from our daily lives, there are a **number of obstacles to overcome**:

- **Between different ministries** and government agencies, there is **often competition for resources, attention and recognition**

- There is **often mistrust and prejudices between stakeholders** on national level

- There are **too many voices of people** active on the ground that are **not heard**

- So we **do not just need new technologies**, but we also need **a new culture**, a **new spirit** of co-operation and sharing among all stakeholders

- **We governments have a key role in this** – both on national and international levels:

- We need to **understand and show by example** that it is a **win-win for all if ministries and gov-ernment agencies cooperate** and support each other in their work

- We also need to **listen and respond to the needs of our citizens and businesses**

- That includes also **listening to their constructive critizism,** because often businesses and civil society have experience that governments do not have.

- We need to **earn their trust and willingness** to cooperate **through being accountable** to them

- But we also need to **build capacities of businesses and citizens** that **they do understand** that it is also in their interest that **they act responsibly and accountably to society as well**.

- So we need to **foster such a new culture of cooperation** on national and international levels

- To give you one example of such a cooperation on national level:
  the Swiss government agencies **responsible for implementing the 2030 Agenda** have **invited all government agencies and interested stakholders** to bring in their views and experiences into our national 2030 assessment so that we all understand where we are and what needs to be done next.

- This has **allowed our office and other actors to come into the process** and share our experience about **where ICT and digitization will have an impact on the SDGs** and their implementation which has been a great learning experience for and better cooperation of many actors involved in this on national level.

- And for your information: **Switzerland** is one of the countries that **participates in the UN High Level Political Forum** in order to share its experiences in implementing the 2030 Agenda with other interested countries.

- On **international level**, there are number of useful Fora for multistakeholder dialogue and exchange of experience, **like the WSIS Forum** to take place in June here in Geneva.

- And **of course we attach great importance** to the **UN Internet Governance Forum**, as an **open and inclusive bottom-up platform**, which brings together engaged experts and decision-makers from all over the world and offers a **unique venue to identify and discuss** decisive and emerging issues related to internet governance and to the digitization of our societies and economies.

- Switzerland will be the **host of the 12th annual IGF**, which will be held from 18 to 21 December 2017 at this very location - the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The **overarching theme** for this year's annual meeting is **"Shape your Digital Future!"** The preparations are currently well underway and we invite you all to contribute to this inclusive and bottom-up process.

- With over 30 International Organizations and 250 NGOs, Think Tanks and other private institutions, **Geneva is one of the main hubs of the world where digital policies are being debated, evaluated and adopted.** We think that having the **IGF 2017 in Geneva** provides a **unique opportunity** to break the silos and bring together experts and decision-makers from all sectors to

discuss digital policy issues and their linkages to the SDGs and to embark on new constructive cooperation and partnerships.

- To conclude, we would like to **thank not only the CSTD**, **but also all other IGOs** and all **private actors** for your **attention** and would like to **invite you all and your colleagues** to **come to Geneva** and **use the IGF for embarking** on such a **new culture of cooperation** that we will need to develop jointly in order to achieve the SDGs so that **no-one will be left behind**.

- Thank you.