Cuba comments on the Financing Mechanism for information and Communications Technology for Development
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The financing for the development of ICT, as the issues paper recognized, is not an isolated issue and has to be necessarily considered within the context of the national policies for development and reduction of poverty, especially in current conditions, in which our peoples are victims of a structural global crisis with 40% of the world population living in conditions of extreme poverty that will lead up to an amount of 47 million children who won’t be attending primary school by 2015 yet.

Monterrey consensus recognized that the international capital flows, particularly those of foreign direct investment (FDI), can be a good supplement to the efforts of the economic development. The consensus shows that, although governments should take part in the generation of an atmosphere leading to investment, it was also the responsibility of investment companies to commit to the development process. To order to attain this, it was necessary that investors not only took purely financial aspects into account when making decisions, but also the financial development sustainability, the environment care and protection and other considerations linked to social equality.

It is necessary to collaborate with the least developed countries with a view to creating conditions that make them attractive for foreign direct investment (FDI) in the ICT sphere.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) should be given priority among the activities that contribute to the strengthening of economic capacities, to the national priorities and to the sustainable development of the country, on the basis of respect to the national sovereignty and independence and to the protection and rational use of natural resources.

As an expression of mutual respect in intergovernmental relations, sender countries should avoid the implementation of any kind of restrictive measure to attain political goals in receiver countries.

For many developing countries, Official Development Assistance (ODA) is the main source of foreign financing and therefore critical in the fulfillment of the MDGs. This assistance should be given with no condition and with respect for the national development priorities and strategies. However, the ITU should be interested for the implementation of part of those resources on the investment in the telecommunications’ infrastructures.

It is fostered to fight for a multilateral commercial system of telecommunications that be fair and equitable, implemented in a nondiscriminatory, nonexclusive and transparent way, and that benefits all countries, especially developing countries.
We fully support the democratization of multilateral mechanism of governability and standards bodies of the global networks that provide an effective participation of the developing countries.