COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)

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Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on their efforts in 2016 to implement the outcome of the WSIS

Submission by

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (to the 20th session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

The Director
DIRECTORATE FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Ms. Shamika Sirimanne
Director of the UNCTAD Division on Technology
and Logistics and Head of the CSTD Secretariat
United Nations Conference on
Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10, SWITZERLAND

E-mail: stdev@unctad.org

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STI/D/2016.84

Dear Ms. Sirimanne,

I write in response to the letter dated 26 October 2016 from Secretary-General Kituyi addressed to the OECD Secretary-General.

Although the OECD was not specifically part of the Tunis Agenda and the Tunis Commitment, and therefore has no follow-up commitments, we have always been willing to co-operate with other international organisations. We are pleased to continue to provide information on our work to enhance co-operation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet. We would like to direct your attention to a few relevant OECD initiatives.

In particular, the Cancun Ministerial Meeting on the Digital Economy of June 2016 firmly placed digital economy issues once again on the global agenda. Discussions centered on foundational issues for the digital economy and implications of the ongoing digital transformation on jobs and skills. Ministers discussed in particular policy options to increase global connectivity and foster the development of the Internet of Things, to improve consumer protection, preserve an open Internet, improve trust in security and privacy, and develop new jobs in and skills for the digital economy.[1] Forty-two OECD Member and Partner countries signed the June 2016 Declaration on the Digital Economy (The Cancún Declaration) which underlines that the initiatives called for in the Declaration "support the digital economy also help attain the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and its ten year review" as well as the "need to promote gender equality and be inclusive of vulnerable or disadvantaged groups." The link to the Ministerial conference and the Cancun Declaration is: http://www.oecd.org/internet/ministerial/.

I would also like to highlight the OECD's revised Recommendation on Consumer Protection in the Context of Electronic Commerce, which was adopted by the OECD Council in March 2016 ("the E-commerce Recommendation") and now addresses new and emerging trends and challenges faced by consumers in today's dynamic e-commerce marketplace.[2] The review of the Recommendation benefited from co-ordination with the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which led to the development of a new chapter on e-commerce in the revised UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection of December 2015.

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[1] http://www.oecd.org/internet/ministerial/
[2] OECD (2016), Consumer Protection in E-commerce: OECD Recommendation, OECD Publishing, Paris, http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264255258-e

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the OECD/IDB project on "Broadband Policies for Latin America and the Caribbean: A Digital Economy Toolkit".[3] The English version of this publication was launched in June 2016 and the Spanish version in November 2016. This joint initiative by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the OECD seeks to encourage the expansion of broadband networks and services in the region, supporting a coherent and cross-sectorial approach, to maximise their benefits for economic and social development. Drawing on a wealth of experience from LAC and OECD countries, the Toolkit outlines the main policy objectives in this area and provides guidance for their measurement, an overview of developments in the region, and a compilation of good practices in several areas related to broadband policy making.

I hope this information is useful in the preparation of the annual report. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the materials referred to above or our work on digital economy policy.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Wyckoff

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[3] OECD/IDB (2016), Broadband Policies for Latin America and the Caribbean: A Digital Economy Toolkit, OECD Publishing, Paris. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264251823-en