

Commission on Science and Technology for Development 17th Session, 12 - 16 May 2014

Ministerial round table on “Review of progress made in the implementation of WSIS outcomes”

12 May 2014

Statement by Mr. Louis Casambre, Undersecretary (Vice Minister), Department of Science and Technology, Republic of the Philippines

STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

delivered by

Louis Casambre, Undersecretary (Vice Minister)

(~~Hon. Mario G. Montejo, Secretary~~) of the Department of Science
and Technology, Republic of the Philippines

During the Ministerial Roundtable on the Progress made on the
Implementation of WSIS Outcomes

12 May 2014, 11:00-13:00

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Andrew Reynolds, esteemed Chair of the CSTD, Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, a pleasant day to all of you.

Our session today on the Progress made in the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes, with the presentation of the report by the Secretary-General of the CSTD Secretariat, is a very good way to start the discussion as it gives us a glimpse of what we are doing in our respective regions and respective countries considering the dynamism of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), the ICT sector and the impact of various ICTs towards building and nurturing the Information Society.

The Philippines ^{has} been developing and deploying ICTs according to the requirements of our people. Broadband connectivity has been prevalent mostly in urban areas so government has to be creative in developing strategies to cover rural and remote areas of our geographically-challenged country of more than 7,100 islands with a lot of volcanoes and mountain ranges. The use of emerging technologies such as those employing advanced wireless techniques like the Dynamic Spectrum Allocation (DSA) on unutilized Television Bands or the TV White Space (TVWS) is ideal to extend broadband and Internet services. As what we have done, partnership among National Government Agencies, Local Government Units, technology providers, telecommunications service providers, broadcasters and the civil society is the key towards creating an enabling environment to foster the impactful use of ICT for development. Our TV White Space pilot projects have connected schools, communities, hospitals and local government units.

Internet service as you all know have become pervasive primarily because of the benefits that it can bring to society such as access to knowledge and delivering various applications on e-Government, e-Business, e-Learning, e-Health, and e-Agriculture among others. On e-Environment, Mr. Chairman, we have witnessed that the climate is changing. Severe weather is more frequent and with increasingly greater

magnitude. Recalling our experiences during the super-typhoon Haiyan, wherein thousands of lives were lost, millions of people dislodged or affected and all communications facilities were damaged, we are thankful to the assistance given by the United Nations, its specialized bodies and to your people for your help and assistance.

Realizing that adapting to the changing climate and more severe weather events is an unavoidable necessity, the Philippines in 2012 began the Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards Project, or aptly called Project NOAH, with the aim of generating timely accurate detailed information using advanced meteorological forecasting systems and high resolution hydrological models, coupled to real-time direct and remotely sensed data. We've made good progress on this and can now generate flood early warnings at least 6-hours in advanced, and 48 hours early warnings for storm surges. Broadcasters and Filipinos can easily access this critical information through a government-run Internet portal.

Although we had successes in extending broadband and Internet services to several areas, which were also instrumental in developing the ICT-enabled services industry in the Philippines, there are still many areas to be covered and many of our people that need to be serviced. To promote a conducive policy and regulatory environment to extend further the reach of

Internet, it would require the continuation of the light-touch regulatory approach that many of us have been implementing in our respective countries and a sound Internet Governance Framework based on International and regional cooperation. We believe that as much as possible, we should allow Internet services to evolve mainly on its own and only regulate, whenever necessary such as on the preservation of our culture and protection of our people against cyber-threats.

Finally, I commend the framers of the report presented to us today and the CSTD for its continuing efforts to find ways to promote and enhance the multi-stakeholder process of cooperation and dialogue to pursue the action lines and recommendations as well as report on the progress made on the commitments and over-all status of the World Summit on Information Society.

Thank you again Mr. Chairman.