Fourth meeting of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation

Remarks by Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne Director, Division on Technology and Logistics and Head of the CSTD Secretariat

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Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Dear colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen,

As Head of the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development I would like to welcome you to the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation.

This Working Group has an ambitious and challenging mandate. As you know, the Group is expected to submit a report to the twenty-first session of the Commission that will meet in a few months, for inclusion in the annual report of the CSTD to the Council. This report will also serve as an input to the regular reporting of the Secretary-General on implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS.

During our third meeting last May, the Chair of the Working Group invited proponents of recommendations to reflect on the discussions held during the meeting; to carry out intersessional work to refine their proposals; and to consolidate these in advance of the fourth meeting. The secretariat collected the contributions received and compiled them in a document. We have made the contributions as well as the compilation available online in the website of the 4th meeting. I hope you find this material useful to facilitate your deliberations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I look forward to your discussions and hope they will help you to find avenues of agreement that could lead to a successful completion of the mandate given to the Working Group by the General Assembly.

Since time is of the essence and you have three very busy days ahead, I would like to stop here. I wish you a very productive meeting and assure you that UNCTAD stands ready to assist you with your work.