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 2018 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 22nd 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 N. Sirimanne
Director of the UNCTAD Division on Technology
and Logistics and Head of the CSTD Secretariat
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Genève 10
Switzerland
stdev@unctad.org

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Dear Ms. Sirimanne,

I write in response to the letter dated 4 October 2018 from Secretary-General Kituyi addressed to the OECD Secretary-General. In Secretary-General Kituyi's letter, he requests a contribution from the OECD towards the report to be submitted to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD).

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

First, I would note an ongoing OECD project that aims to examine barriers related to the access and use of communication services by Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Southeast Asia, to identify good practices and to provide sound policy analysis to foster an enabling environment for digital transformations to flourish in Southeast Asia. The final report "SEA Going Digital: Connecting SMEs" will be published in the first quarter of 2019.

Second, the recent report on "*Bridging the rural digital divide*" is highly relevant to implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and to good practice development. The report examines recent policy and technology approaches to bridging the digital divide in rural and remote areas in OECD countries. This report reviews some of the common challenges and good practices to bring improved communication services to individuals and communities in under served areas.

Finally, a recent report on "*The evolving role of satellite networks in rural and remote broadband access*" provides information and discussion on the emerging technologies in the satellite industry and considers the potential of these innovations and the role of satellites in delivering broadband to residential customers.

Direct line
Tel.: +33 (0) 1 45 24 93 55
Fax. : +33 (0) 1 44 30 62 56
andrew.wyckoff@oecd.org

http://web.oec.orgd/sti
ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

2, rue André-Pascal
75775 Paris CEDEX 16
France

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