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Statement

by

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at the

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day
Panel: "Digital Transformation Enabled by Inclusive International Standards"

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[5 minutes]

ITU Secretary General Zhao,

Distinguished colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. I am very pleased to be part of this celebration of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, under the theme "Bridging the Standards Gap."

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has been working very closely with the ITU for many years on several different levels. We have coordinated our work through Memoranda of Understanding to pool our resources and ensure that our standards are mutually compatible.

This is well demonstrated with our initiatives on Smart and Sustainable Cities.

UNECE is grateful to ITU for the excellent collaboration within the United for Smart Sustainable Cities initiative (U4SSC). UNECE and ITU established this initiative in 2016, and invited other UN agencies

to join. Currently, U4SSC involves 16 UN bodies. In 2017, a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for smart sustainable cities was elaborated within the U4SSC. It includes 92 indicators divided into the three dimensions of sustainable development: economy, environment, and society and culture.

The indicators are fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and serve as a tool for evidence-based decision making, progress monitoring, and achieving the SDGs at the local level. Over 100 cities of different sizes and levels of development are implementing the KPIs worldwide, including Dubai, Singapore, Montevideo, Valencia, Rome, Nur-Sultan, Manizales, Goris, Voznesensk, Bizerte, Pully and many others.

UNECE and ITU not only jointly support the KPI evaluation, but also provide technical assistance to cities to implement the recommendations via thematic studies, guidance documents and pilot projects on smart city financing, technologies to combat climate change, and others. One good example is the initiative "Netherlands as the First Smart Nation". This will include a KPI evaluation for 40 cities in the Netherlands and development of smart sustainable cities projects to implement the evaluation recommendations. UNECE is proud to be a partner in this initiative.

UNECE has also developed a Toolkit for Smart, Sustainable Cities. Many of the IT solutions proposed therein are coordinated with the Electronic Business MoU, which we share with ITU, ISO and the IEC since two decades.

Another area that has many applications for Smart Cities is Blockchain. Relevant work by UNECE is aligned with the work of the ITU Distributed Ledger Technology Focus Group, as well as with the ISO Technical Committee 307. Ensuring a secure data exchange and a collaborative environment is key for municipal governments and healthcare services – and blockchain can help achieve this.

Internet of Things is also a potential enabler for Smart Cities, notably for vehicle identifications and automatic tolls on carbon emissions. Here too, our organizations have been coordinating our efforts and organized a successful webinar in September 2018 which outlined the synergies between our working parties.

Other IT solutions are also brought about in a collaborative manner for comprehensive solutions for Smart Sustainable Cities: for example electronic messages based on clear semantic standards for invoicing of procurement, or the management of waste in compliance with

international conventions.

We wish you a very good celebration of your 153 years of establishment. From the outset of the establishment of our organization, we have sought to work in partnership with the ITU and other key international standards development bodies. We look forward to continuing this collaboration for our next 150 years of existence.

Thank you.