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Note by the Secretary-General

CONTRIBUTION FROM INDONESIA

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT ON ICT INCLUSIVENESS AND DIGITAL INCLUSION FOR
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

I have the honour to transmit to the Member States of the Council a contribution received from **Indonesia**.

Dr Hamadoun I. TOURE
Secretary-General

Contribution from Indonesia

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT ON ICT INCLUSIVENESS AND DIGITAL INCLUSION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

1. Introduction

1.1 The rapidly changing telecommunication or information and communication technology environment requires regulators and decision-makers to develop policies and regulations in enabling the benefits of ICT technology to be easily and affordably accessed and supported by all groups of stakeholders, ranging from government, industry, civil society, and ICT users. The emerging mobile technology has created significant progress in terms of ICT penetration and services, especially for people in urban areas who currently are able to enjoy mobile broadband services to meet their daily needs and support their activities. For developing countries additional efforts have to be exerted in providing a widely distributed ICT Network.

1.2 Advances in telecommunication or ICT development should benefit all stakeholders of ICT development, inclusive of people with disabilities or people with special needs. Furthermore, equality and accessibility to ICTs that enables participation of people with disabilities in all dimensions of life should be encouraged and sought, pursuant to Plenipotentiary Conference Resolution 175 (Guadalajara, 2010), WTDC Resolutions 56, 58, and 70 (Hyderabad, 2010) and WTSa Resolution 70 (Johannesburg, 2008).

2. Challenge for Indonesia and other Developing Countries

2.1 Taking into account Resolution 175 (Guadalajara, 2010) on Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities, including age-related disabilities, the Secretary-General's report on ITU's activities in promoting accessibility to ICTs for persons with disabilities, the Union has made a significant achievement to provide ICT accessibility for people with special needs.

2.2 Inadequate resources and experiences prevent many developing countries in catching up with the necessary requirements for obtaining assistance to people with disabilities or people with special needs.

2.3 However, taking into account various developments in other more advanced member countries, Indonesia and many Developing Countries still require guidance and in-field assistance in catching up the required and suitable level for elevating people with disabilities or people with special needs on wide national basis.

2.4 Indonesia would like to thank and extend great appreciation to ITU which have developed several programmes dealing with ICT accessibility to people with disabilities. The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology of Indonesia in cooperation with the private sector introduced an ICT development programme targeted to empower people with disabilities, among others:

- The promotion of sign language interpreter in Television News programs, and introduction of text-to-speech technology.
- As part of Indonesia's commitment to establish digital inclusiveness and equality for the right to receive information and communicate for all members of the society, including

people with disabilities/people with special needs in all areas of the country (urban, rural and remote areas), the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology has also rolled out Community Access Points/CAPs (Tele-centre) programmes in rural and remote areas which are specifically tailor-made to meet easy accessibility needs for people with disabilities. Those CAPs equipped with laptops and/or PCs, and broadband internet access provided with text to speech applications, such as screen readers. As of 2012, seven CAPs for people with disabilities have been distributed to various rural areas in Indonesia, to be further developed and distributed.

- Provision of ICT equipment and broadband access alone without sufficient knowledge to utilize such technologies suited to the needs of people with disabilities will hinder new technologies uptake, and freedom to public information and communication. In achieving the goal of digital inclusion for all, our Ministry has also conducted various technical workshops, such as ICT Basics for people with disabilities, to educate and demonstrate the use of these technologies, guided by Braille books (for people with low vision disabilities). These technical workshops as pilot project are targeting women and girls groups, particularly in border and outer-most islands of Indonesia.
- Many applications for people with disabilities have been developed by other countries and in the English language, which poses another challenge for ICT inclusiveness for Indonesia's people with disabilities. However, Indonesia has been quick paced in developing applications for people with disabilities, particularly by timely developing software in the local language and containing local content, such as an application for media platform providing people with low vision disabilities to operate the computer tablet (by Damayanti, NVDA, and Sparkins for *Tunanetra*).

3. Proposal

3.1 The Council could consider adequate resources in providing the crucial assistance to ITU Member States, particularly the developing countries, in establishing the necessary, up-to-date, and flexible mechanism for coping in accelerating ICT accessibility and digital inclusion to people with disabilities and special needs.

3.2 In achieving an effective established mechanism it is very important that ITU consider and provide assistance pursuant to the individual needs of each country, depending on its development stages, aside from regional workshops.
