

Secretary-General, Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

Secretary-General, thank you so very much. I am deeply grateful to the ITU, for awarding me this great honour.

First of all I thank the Secretary-General Dr. Hamadoun Toure for inviting me to chair the High Level Experts Group (HLEG). With his outstanding and excellent leadership of the ITU, he created the Cyber Security Agenda (GCA). His visions of cybersecurity and cyberpeace as the most critical concerns of our information age, and focusing on close international cooperation, have been inspiring to all of the HLEG Members.

I am proud and honoured of having served him and the ITU as the Chair of the HLEG. He is a very wise man, and I thank him also for giving me his personal advices.

I will also thank Alex Ntoko. His excellent leadership of the ITU staff, assisting us in the HLEG process, was of vital importance to our commission.

I thank all the HLEG Members, and especially the Work Area leaders for their excellent contribution.

A special thanks goes to Cristina Bueti. Her outstanding efficiency and assistance to the HLEG made it possible to finish our commission as scheduled.

A will also thank professor Jon Bing, University of Oslo. He has been my academic support and guidance all these years from the 1970ties.

But most of all I thank my wife Aasa, for all her support in good and bad times, with its ups and downs for me, over more than 30 years.

I have been involved with the developments of computer crime legislation since the very first beginning.

The current Vice-President Elect in USA, Senator Joe Biden, made a statement in a Senate hearing on the famous Ribikoff Bill in 1977:

”... for hearing those voices in the wilderness and focusing the Senate’s and this committee’s attention on the crime of the future – computer fraud.”

Cybersecurity and Cybercrime, including massive and coordinated cyber attacks against countries critical information infrastructure, and terrorist misuse of the Internet, are of critical concerns to the global society.

In order to reach for a common understanding of cybersecurity and cybercrime among countries at all stages of economic development, a global agreement or Protocol at the United Nations level should be established that includes developing and putting into action solutions aimed at addressing the global challenges. The most active United Nations Institution in reaching harmonization on global cybersecurity and cybercrime legislation is the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva.

A Geneva Protocol

With a reference to Senator Joe Bidens’ previous statement in the US Senate, I will give you the following proposal:

I am coming in from the wilderness of cyberspace and ask you to take action. A global non-binding statement of mutual intentions in a Geneva Protocol on Cybersecurity and Cybercrime should be agreed upon.

An international agreement under international law could be established. A treaty is normally a more binding agreement, where parties to the treaty may be held liable under international law for breaches of the agreement. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is normally a more loosely agreement. It usually indicates a common line of action between multilateral parties. A MoU is normally used in situations where parties either do not imply a legal commitment or in situations where the parties cannot create a legally enforcement agreement. It is a more formal alternative to a gentlemen’s agreement.

Even if a MoU is not binding under international law, it should be registered in the United Nations treaty database.

ITU in Geneva is uniquely positioned for developing a global agreement or protocol on Cybersecurity and Cybercrime. It may be then called the Geneva Protocol, since the importance to the global society is almost equally as important as the Kyoto Protocol. It may include all five pillars of the ITU Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA): Legal Measures, Technical and Procedural Measures, Organizational Structures, Capacity Building, and International Cooperation.

A Geneva Protocol may be a non-binding statement of mutual intentions.

Secretary-General, once again thank you so very much.