

## Opening

Secretary-General Taylor, fellow Ministers and colleagues, thank you for the very kind invitation to speak at this important Commonwealth event, it is a great pleasure to be here today with you in London.

I am thrilled to hear that DCMS received an award last night at the awards dinner for its work within the Commonwealth on Internet Governance. This is an important issue for us all, not just for developed countries. I am so grateful that our work has been recognised.

## Digital World

We know that the future of the global economy depends greatly on easy, cost effective and safe access to the Internet. So connecting the next billion people is as important to those without access to Internet technology as it is to those who have it.

The transformation of the global economy to a digital economy affects all industrial and service sectors.

## Digital Technologies

The impact of 5G communications, cloud computing, the Internet of Things, big data technologies – just to name a few key areas of rapid innovation - will be profound across all national economies

and the entire global economy. They will underpin key transformations such as eHealth, smart energy, intelligent transport systems and connected and automated vehicles, including trains, advanced manufacturing, smart homes and cities, and smart farming.

The Internet of Things is a technology that connects diverse objects and is expected to exceed 20 billion devices by 2020.

## UK Digital Policy

In the UK we will soon announce our new digital strategy, which will set out how we will encourage adoption of digital technology and tackle barriers to digital businesses entering and creating new markets.

Data is at the heart of the Digital Economy. Innovation in the use and effective sharing of data, as well as investment in skills and research, will unlock economic benefits and bring new and better services to citizens. Later this year, we will publish a National Innovation Plan, which will set out how we aim to put the UK at the forefront of using the power of data to drive innovation.

## Digital Challenge

Today and tomorrow will provide an important contribution to the aims and mission of the CTO and we will have to discuss difficult challenges. We need to recognise that safety, security and inclusivity must be maximised **all** our citizens in a fully accessible and connected digital world.

My fellow ministers and I recognise that Governments can't address these challenges by themselves: we need the help of experts like you from industry, civil society and academia.

### Internet Governance

We have just passed an important milestone at the WSIS+10 review at the UNGA in New York. That meeting reaffirmed the value and principles of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement.

And that includes the Internet Governance Forum – the IGF – now with an extended mandate of 10 years. We look forward to the eleventh annual IGF in Guadalajara, Mexico, in December. It is there that we must ensure the IGF continues to improve – in particular its outreach to communities in developing countries and small island states. We need to increase its tangible, concrete outcomes - connecting the next billion people and best practice compilations.

The way ahead is clear: the multi-stakeholder model has proven its value and is here to stay as the model that is the best for transforming all economies in our increasingly digitally connected world.

### Digital accessibility and development

‘Digital’ is now central to the global development agenda and this has been reflected in the recent World Bank’s flagship World Development Report that focuses on “digital dividends”.

The digital age has the potential to transform the provision of information, services and social mobility. Access to the Internet has been estimated to have the potential to generate over US\$2.2 trillion in additional GDP and more than 140 million new jobs in the developing world.

The rapid expansion of mobile phones and Internet access in developing countries offers huge opportunities for stimulating growth, enhancing people’s experience of services and as citizens, involve them in our work, cut fraud, help hold governments and other institutions to account and support them better in humanitarian emergencies.

My ministerial colleagues at DfID are ensuring that inclusion is part of its approach to lead the UK's effort to eliminate extreme poverty and deliver on Global Goals to leave no one behind.

The digital divide is still large. Nearly 60% of the world's people are still offline. The World Development Report notes whilst 4 billion Google searches are made each day, almost 4 billion people do not have any Internet access. Likewise, in Africa, the richest 60% are almost three times more likely to have Internet access than the bottom 40%, and the young and urban have more than twice the access of older and rural citizens.

A measurable gender gap exists in the ownership of smartphones, use of data plans, and frequency of e-commerce activities. In many contexts men limit women's access to phones and technology. Women's access is also compounded by existing disadvantages such as lower income and literacy rates.

To achieve inclusion we need to get the enabling environment right and work to include vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. The World Development Report draws attention to the importance of analogue complements – regulations that allow firms to connect and compete, skills that technology augments rather than replaces, and institutions that are capable and accountable.

It is important to consider how disadvantaged groups can be included and to understand emerging risks – from cybersecurity and concerns around surveillance in autocratic contexts.

### UK's Place in Global Digital Development.

Along with my ministerial colleagues in DfID we are raising our ambition to be a global leader in digital and development, and for DfID to be the most digitally-enabled development agency.

DfID is developing a new Digital Strategy for 2016-2020: entitled “Doing Development in a Digital World” and this will be formally announced in early autumn.

DfID works for greater transparency and public accountability: with its online UK Development Tracker using open data to trace the flow of funding from donors to implementing agencies.

In DfID’s 28 country offices across many of which are Commonwealth, it is funding well over 160 programmes which are either wholly or have some significant digital element, and we are increasing the focus on digital to deliver our programmes.

### Conclusion

To conclude, this two-day CTO multi-stakeholder conference is important to Commonwealth governments so I wish you well in your deliberations – we need your input!

Thank you.