

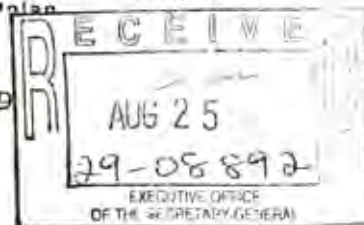
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The Secretary-General.

ACTION  
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Geneva, 21 August 2009

His Excellency  
Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

International  
Telecommunication  
Union

Sir,

I would like to solicit your support for a Resolution being presented by the Government of Azerbaijan and other countries co-sponsoring the draft Resolution, known as the Group of Friends, for a Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway Initiative which will be presented at next session of the General Assembly.

Developing countries, in partnership with all the relevant stakeholders at national, regional and global levels, are being called on to invest in the development of network infrastructure capacity and to take advantage of newer, cost-effective telecommunications and computer technologies.

At present, citizens of most Eurasian and neighbouring countries share a common problem in connectivity and have become a part of the 'digital divide'. Undersupply of international connectivity and the resulting low broadband penetration levels in the region lead to a risk of 'isolation' from the connected world of today. Long term risks can include a wider gap in social and economic development.

Officials of the relevant ministries of Azerbaijan, Iran, Russia, Egypt and Georgia as well as the 15 member countries of the TAE consortium have already shown great interest to participate in the feasibility study of the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway and discussions with other interested countries are under way.

Azerbaijan trusts that the realization of the Project will enable:

- Increased internet adoption by consumers and businesses at an improved price and quality;
- Improved telecommunication infrastructure for telecom operators and ISPs of the region;
- Regionalization of traffic, including development and storage of regional content;
- Strengthened economic development through on-line trade, e-commerce and e-marketplaces;
- Support in the realization of the governmental information society targets such as e-government, e-health and e-education initiatives.

I believe that in supporting this initiative from Azerbaijan we will make a step forward in establishing knowledge-based societies and closing the digital divide and for this purpose I request that you lend your support to the Resolution as I am doing here at ITU.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Dr Hamadoun I. Touré