

# Secretary-General's message to the 10th Internet Governance Forum (delivered by Mr. Lenni Montiel, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs)

10 November 2015, João Pessoa, Brazil

Excellencies, distinguished participants, stakeholders, participating online around the world, I'm honoured to join you at the 10th session of the Internet Governance Forum, and to deliver a message on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General. I quote:

I am pleased to send greetings to all participants of the 10th session of the Internet Governance Forum, including those following online.

And I thank the Government of Brazil for once again acting as a host. Less than two months ago, world leaders adopted the visionary 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Our challenge now is to implement this blueprint for a better future. Information and communication technologies and the Internet can empower this global undertaking. The breadth and depth of the Sustainable Development Agenda will require that we tap into the potential of the data revolution through the use of new and nontraditional sources of data.

We must enhance the statistical capacities and ensure our efforts are based on sound science.

Many challenges exist including large digital divides, people living in poverty, women and girls, children, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, older persons, marginalized and vulnerable groups lack adequate access to and training in using ICTs and the Internet. Cyber attacks, Cybercrime, and issues related to privacy and surveillance are also issues that need to be addressed.

I call on all stakeholders to intensify efforts to promote accessibility, affordability, education and multilingualism by investing in critical infrastructure and capacity building and by building an open reliable, safe, secure, stable, and inclusive Internet, through multi-lateral and multistakeholder global partnership. Let us reaffirm the universality indivisibility, interdependence and interrelation of all human rights, and fundamental freedoms, both online and off-line.

Let us turn the digital divides into digital opportunities for all. Let us leave no one behind.

I wish you a productive Internet Governance Forum. End of quote.