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**Talking points of H.E. Mr. Čekuolis, Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations
and President of the Economic and Social Council**

**AIT 19th Annual Information Security Meeting
“Promoting Global Cyber Security: The importance of building confidence and trust in the
Internet”
4 June 2007**

- It is my pleasure, on behalf of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, to welcome you to this event on promoting cyber security and building trust in the Internet. I am particularly happy to welcome members of the private sector.
- For the benefit of those who may not be familiar with it, please permit me to take a moment to introduce the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and its relationship to information and communication technologies (ICT) for development.
- As you may know, the Economic and Social Council serves as the central forum at the United Nations for discussing international economic and social issues, and for formulating associated policy recommendations addressed to Member States and the United Nations system.
- The ECOSOC has been interested in the nexus of ICT and socio-economic development for many years. Notably, its High-level Segment in July 2000 addressed the topic “Development and international cooperation in the twenty-first century: the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy”, and the Council has since continued to follow this issue closely.
- In line with recommendations from the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the principal UN conference held in the field of ICT for development, the Council has encouraged the creation of multi-stakeholder processes at the international level aimed at engaging all stakeholders in open and inclusive collaborative initiatives and partnerships to enhance the impact of ICT on the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals.

- One global, multi-stakeholder entity endorsed by the Economic and Social Council is a co-organizer of this event -- the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development (GAID – pronounced “guide”). I expect that the Alliance’s Executive Coordinator, Mr. Sarbuland Khan, will provide you with more detail when he takes the floor shortly.
- I welcome GAID’s efforts to bring all sectors and stakeholder groups together to leverage ICT to generate economic and social development. The Council looks forward to receiving the Alliance’s first report on its activities at the Substantive Session in July in order to learn more about the good work it has already accomplished.
- I would also like to recognize GAID’s partner in this event, AIT Global, for its ongoing cooperation with the United Nations community, including in the organization of meetings like this which bring together policy makers, business executives and representatives from the UN system.

- Today’s topic is very relevant to development. If users do not have confidence in the security, stability and sustainability of information flows, the full value of ICTs as an enabler of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and a catalyst for social and economic growth can never be realized.
- For example, secure networks are an absolute requirement for supporting a nation’s critical governmental, educational, financial and healthcare systems. Moreover, governments are increasingly using ICTs to provide their citizens with better and more cost-effective access to public information and services, to improve the distribution and quality of the services and to offer more opportunities for citizens to participate in the public sector.
- The world has recently witnessed that Internet based societies face also new serious threats. A situation, where a country is under massive, coordinated cyber attacks against both government and private Internet sites, should be alarming to all of us.
- Cybercrime, cyberterrorism, cyberwar are no longer words from a science fiction book. As in many countries the ICT is used in virtually all aspects of life starting from banking or emergency services and ending with government sessions in virtual environment, we become more vulnerable and we have to make sure that we have done everything to deter action directed against integrity and availability of computer systems, networks and computer data.

- As more and more countries start investing in e-governance and e-services it might be time to ask if we have a functioning international framework to combat cybercrime.

- Not only does meeting the Millennium Development Goals require trust and security in our information and communication infrastructure, it also requires cultivating partnerships – between developed and developing nations, between the private and public sectors, and among civil society and other development actors.
- We welcome the opportunity to engage in fruitful discussion with the professionals here today and thank you all for focusing your expertise on addressing this particular challenge with wide-ranging impacts for business, for governments and – if we can realize the vision of the World Summit on the Information Society -- for all of the world's citizens.
- I thank you and wish you all the best for a productive meeting.