CIRT Assessment

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Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Mr.Jackson, Manager, National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NITCA),

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Distinguished Guest Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all on behalf of the Secretary General of ITU, I would like to express my gratitude to NICTA for the trust in ITU to plan and strengthen the capabilities of CIRT for Papua New Guinea. The topic of cybersecurity could not have been more relevant today than ever!

The past twenty years has been an extraordinary time for the development of information and communication technologies – and with the 'mobile miracle' we have brought the benefits of ICTs within reach of virtually all the world's people. But I believe that the next twenty years will be even more dramatic with 200 billion devices being connected through Internet of Things by 2020 and the benefits of broadband become available to everyone, wherever they live, and whatever their circumstances. According to market capitalization, there are five companies in top 10 Apple Inc, Alphabet Inc. , Microsoft,   Amazon.com , Facebook compared to 10 years back showing strong leadership of technology / ICT companies and their contribution in the economy!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted in 2015, are a great opportunity to put ICTs at the center of people's lives. The SDGs have broadened our horizons. Today, it is our duty not only to provide broadband access and affordable ICT services for all, but also to put ICT at the service of other economic sectors such as health, education, agriculture and trade.

Greater connectivity also brings with it greater risk, not least the risk of losing trust and confidence in the networks we rely on, and the risk of losing trust and confidence in our ability to communicate securely. Security is key to building the trust and confidence in the use of ICT for e-transactions. Cybersecurity continues to be a big challenge as we embark

on the Internet of Things, 5G, Smart Cities and Artificial Intelligence that will affect each and every aspect of our lives! In such an interconnected world a loophole anywhere in the global ICT network represents a challenge anywhere in the network. We are very interdependent for building, operating and securing the global ICT network as well as for using it in service delivery to other sectors. The loss of such trust and confidence undermines the benefits of ICTs as an enabler of global social and economic development. As our physical and cyber worlds overlap, there is an increased need to address the related challenges of ensuring security, human rights, rule of law, good governance and economic development and impact on business and corporate entities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me share with you the role of ITU in building confidence and trust in use of ICT. A fundamental role of ITU, based on the guidance of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, is to build confidence and security in the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). At WSIS, Heads of States and world leaders entrusted ITU to be the Facilitator of Action Line C5, "Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs", in response to which ITU launched, in 2007, the Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA), as a framework for international cooperation in this area.

The absence of institutional structures to deal with cyber incidents and attacks is a genuine problem in responding to cyber threats. ITU is working with Member States, regions to deploy capabilities to build capacity at national and regional level, in addition to establishing National Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRTs). ITU is helping countries to establish their National Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT), which serves as a national focus point for coordinating cybersecurity incident response to cyber-attacks in the country. The objective of the CIRT Assessment is to define the readiness to implement a national CIRT. ITU has to date completed CIRT assessments for 72 countries also ITU has to date conducted **20** Cyber drills involving more than 100 countries, where our experts study and evaluate the core functions of established CIRTS, to ensure that CIRTs are effective in managing incidents as well as ensuring proper inter-CIRT cooperation, consistent with international standards and good practice.

Pacific Islands Countries are considerably aware of the issues and cyber threats. Some countries have made efforts in building a National CIRT. For instance, Fiji's Cabinet has mandated the establishment of a Fiji CERT and it is working its way to establishing a National CERT. Others such as Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Tonga, Samoa are attempting to follow the same manner. On the other side, there are small economies like Cook Islands,

Tuvalu, Niue, among others, which have no or limited capacity to develop their own national CIRTs and would have to rely on a multi-country or Regional Initiative to address their cyber threat concerns.

The ITU has assisted countries in the Pacific with regard to cybersecurity. For examples, ITU conducted a Readiness Assessment on National CERT Establishment in Fiji and Vanuatu. ITU organized the First Pacific Islands Capacity Building Workshop on Child Online Protection and Commonwealth National Cybersecurity Framework Regional Workshop in 2014 in Vanuatu. ITU also assisted countries like Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Samoa and Vanuatu, in developing cybercrime legislations and developed human capacity in cybersecurity in the Pacific region.

Despite efforts from the Pacific Islands Countries and international community, a number of challenges are yet to be addressed either partially or fully in respect of cybersecurity in general and CIRTs in particular. These are such as:

- Assessment, establishment and strengthening of national cybersecurity framework (policy, legislation and strategy), where there are still gaps;
- The need of national CIRTs and CIRT-to-CIRT collaboration;
- Investments and sustainable model of national CIRTs;
- Human and institutional capacity;
- Regional coordination and collaboration.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

During this week, we are very pleased to share with you the expertise of ITU and its partners OXFORD which has GCSC in UK and OCSC in Australia to ensure not only the requirements and assessment / strengthening of capabilities of CIRT in Papua New Guinea, but a holistic and comprehensive technical capability building of the team as well as insights from various stakeholders whom we would have opportunity to interact this week.

Finally, I would like to thank the host for their sincere efforts to organize this week long workshop with gracious arrangements. I wish you are a very productive, interactive and fruitful outcome of this mission.

Thank you