Global E-Government Forum

"Smart Governance for Sustainable Development: New Opportunities for Partnerships in the Networked Society"

Key Recommendations from the Ministerial Round Table

The Ministerial Round Table, which was held on 7 October, provided an opportunity for high-level representatives to share and discuss their views on how to promote smart governance for sustainable development. A number of recommendations emerged during the course of this event, including:

• As the opportunities offered by the digital development of recent years - whether through online services, big data, social media, mobile apps, or cloud computing - are expanding the role of e-government, Member States are encouraged to adopt these cutting-edge technologies proactively to deliver services in more efficient and effective ways and to reach out to all stakeholders.

• While open government data has great potential to enhance transparency and accountability of government operations, Governments should ensure that national security data is carefully handled in order to prevent possible misuses.

• As mobile phones are widely used across countries and their global penetration rate is expected to reach 100% in the near future, Governments should consider promoting mobile government as one important channel of public service delivery, in particular to reach out to citizens in vulnerable situations, such as those in remote areas.

• High-level participants expressed great appreciation for the work of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and recommended that the Department continues to act as a knowledge broker and global convener of ideas and innovative practices through knowledge-sharing platforms, such as the Global E-Government Forum and other similar events, to promote peer-to-peer learning and to enhance North-South and South-South cooperation.

• Ministers also recommended that the United Nations continues to play an important role in conducting research, identifying emerging trends and issues in e-governance for sustainable development and carrying out independent assessments of e-government development, which serve as helpful benchmarking and capacity-building tools. In addition, Ministers recommended that DESA focuses further on specific sub-themes of e-government, including e-government for health, education, etc., as well as on the role of e-government to promote the three pillars of sustainable development.

• Ministers recommended that the United Nations continues to act as a "motivator" of Member States' efforts to promote smart governance by acknowledging their achievements through special award ceremonies, and that it reinforces its capacity-building programmes in the area of innovation and e-government customizing them to Member States' needs.