Opening Remarks of International Telecommunications Society (ITS) Chair, Stephen Schmidt, for ITS webinar, *Innovation in 5G Technology: Leadership, Competition and Policy Issues***, 27 April 2022**

Welcome!

Thank you to everyone who is joining us today.

Thank you, in particular, to those of you joining us from time zones where it may be dark outside – either because it is before breakfast time or because it is almost bedtime (in Asia, in particular).

This is the third *International Telecommunications Society* (ITS) webinar of 2022 and our 14th webinar since the onset of the pandemic, covering topics such as remote work, deep fakes, digital platforms, AI, and more.

These webinars have helped magnify the reach and positive impact of the ITS: covering new subject matter; connecting with new audiences; and enabling new voices.

For making this webinar possible, I would like to thank:

- **Our panel of world-class speakers:**
  - Dr. Maria Massaro
  - Dr. Maria Alessandra Rossi
  - Dr. Pier Luigi Parcu
  - Dr. Johannes M. Bauer

- **Our world-class organizers:**
  - Dr. Erik Bohlin, an ITS Board member
  - Dr. Chiara.Carrozza
  - Dr. Niccolò Innocenti

- **Our fantastic academic co-hosts:**
  - Florence School of Regulation – Communications & Media (EUI)
  - Chalmers University of Technology

- **Our corporate hosts:**
  - TELUS Communications
  - ITS corporate members

- **And all of you who have joined today**, **from around the world**. We are very grateful that you have chosen to invest your time and attention with us.

Today's webinar:

It is widely accepted that the global rollout of 5G promises transformative economic and social impacts.

As we approach the halfway point of the 5G era, now is a crucial moment to take stock of what is known, and not known, about the features and characteristics of policy environments that support – *or hinder* – 5G rollout.

Across all countries, regulators and operators are confronting complex policy problems raised by 5G, and it is timely to return to fundamental questions.

Our four global experts will help us to that, today, and will address policy problems such as:

- How to promote domestic competition while supporting global technology leadership

- How to protect 5G patents and enforcing standards while driving innovation across vertical industries

- How to ensure that spectrum allocation supports network rollout while preventing market power

- How protect citizens from cyberattacks while fostering improved public perceptions about 5G

I look forward to our conversation!

Stephen Schmidt
ITS Chair