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ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2014

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>> CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I hope you had a nice lunch, and I once again thank the U.K., Saudi Arabia, and Kenya for providing wonderful luncheons to all our Delegates.

Now the Fifth Plenary Session is called to order. We will begin our policy statements from Colombia, followed by Indonesia. I would like to call upon Advisor, Ministry of Information and Communications technologies of Colombia. Colombia, you have the floor.

>> COLOMBIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your Excellencies, Delegates of the Plenipotentiary Conference, permit me to welcome you all here on behalf of our Minister of Information and Communications Technologies of Colombia who has unfortunately been unable to attend this Conference nevertheless, but permit me to welcome you all.

Colombia salutes your efforts to arrive at the objectives set forth. We have had very close links with Korea since the last century. That's why my Delegation is particularly happy to be here, and so we're very happy to be at the receiving end of their warm welcome.

When Juan Manuel Santos was beginning his first period as President head of Government, and he had a series of objectives that fortunately after four years of Government have been totally fulfilled and this has been recognized in different international fora, and also the digital plan has been approved in 2012 as the best Public Policy in the world. Today the Government of Colombia continues taking the necessary steps in order to be able to integrate all of its citizens, thanks to the revolution of Internet and the digital revolution.

We find that the ITU is extremely ambitious concerning closing the digital gap, which should be feasible thanks to the ICTs. And this will assist us in achieving our objectives. We also wonder, though, how much time has to pass before we can close this gap. The no‑return road which has to be taken by all, and has been taken by Korea, has to be facilitated by the ITU in order to be able to respond to the technological changes, and to benefit all humanity.

In order to continue creating a favorable ICT environment in the world, this should be the item that we should most promote in the next period, so that each member of ITU can entirely benefit, and this will be supported by Colombia. Each one of us brings to the Conference our technical and all our assistance in order to be able to progress and in particular in our case, for the promotion of broadband in our country, and we hope that we will have a favorable response concerning our efforts during this Conference. It only remains, Chairman, to thank you for all the efforts made for this Conference.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Your Excellency, for your Policy Statement. That was very concise, and the message was very clear. Thank you very much.

Before giving the floor to Indonesia, I once again would like to express our sincere appreciation to Saudi Arabia, Kenya and the U.K. for providing excellent luncheon to all Delegates.

Now we will hear from Indonesia, followed by Burundi. I would like to call upon Vice‑Minister of Communication and Information technology of Indonesia.

Indonesia, you have the floor.

>> INDONESIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Excellencies, Delegates, first of all, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, I would like to congratulate the Republic of Korea and ITU Secretariat on hosting the significant Conference and to congratulate Mr. Wonki Min on your appointment as the Chairman of this Conference.

Delegates, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate Indonesia's insights regarding ITU's vision and strategy goals for the forthcoming 2016‑2019, and it is time for all countries to move forward hand in hand to assist the developing countries and those least developed ones to enable their technology to leapfrog so that ICT advances particularly IT and broadband may benefit all the world's inhabitants. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen as the telecommunication ecosystem evolves, many countries possibly possess difficulty particularly developing countries to catch up to its evolution and ITU targets high figures to be accomplished by 2020.

In terms of access to Internet, broadband and to more affordable ICTs, the new Government of Indonesia which was just integrated three days ago, continues to align its National ICT policies to ITU's vision and global ICT targets for 2020 in order to create an informative, prosperous society through several milestones in the ICT Sector, and hope that ICT advances may accelerate our technological competitiveness and economic growth.

Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, ITU plays an important role in development of Global Telecommunication, and it must be maintained in the emerging era of the ICT industry today. It should play a more pivotal role in helping developing countries to gain the ability to transform their telecommunication industry into a converging broadband industry.

In the process of transforming the telecommunications industry into a broadband industry in developing countries and 2015 Broadband Commission target, the ITU should perform the function of providing assistance, recommendations, and assistance to developing countries. Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, Indonesia strongly encourages ITU to take a stronger role in shaping the Internet or cyber ecosystem of the future, particularly as aspects regarding universally accepted values, security and legislation. As the Internet becomes more proliferated it is the main concern of Governments, Civil Society and businesses to ensure that its growth doesn't exceed its capacity to protect its users from threats that may arise from within.

Indonesia is in the view that not only the growth and dissemination of ICTs need to be strengthened but also the needs to have a safe impact through digital.

Mr. Chairman, finally Indonesia feels that the current and future ITU should be managed by the ITU management Council. For this reason I would like to underline that Indonesia has always been committed to the work of the ITU vision which has been reflected in Indonesia's past contribution to the ITU. Furthermore as the first developing countries that has its own satellite since the 1970s, and has been extensively using radio satellite frequency bands Indonesia is highly familiar with satellite matters and cases and thus nominates one of its best experts in satellite industry as a member of Radio Regulation Board for the period 2015‑2019. He's one of the most prominent citizens with technically advanced and extensive business experience as well as regulatory background. Therefore the Government of Indonesia would like to invite the kind support of Fellow Member States towards our candidature for reelection as a member of ITU Council region E for the period 2014‑2018 and candidate the tour as a member of Radio Regulation Board.

Lastly, I would like to extend our warm invitation to kindly participation in our reception which will be conducted the tonight at the Haeundae Centum Hotel at 9:00 p.m. just across the street from BEXCO. I here by conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Your Excellency, for your Policy Statement and thank you for your invitation to the dinner. At the same time we all wish your new Government a great success. Now we will hear from Burundi, followed by Djibouti. I would like to call upon Minister of Telecommunication information, communication and relations with Parliament of Burundi. Burundi, you have the floor.

>> BURUNDI: Secretary‑General, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Delegation of my country Burundi I would like to extend a warm welcome on behalf of the Government and the people of Burundi. I'd also like to congratulate Mr. Chairman on your eminent collection, my greetings and congratulations also go to the Government and the people of South Korea for the organization of this Conference as well as a warm welcome extended, I'd also like to extend my sincere greetings to the Secretary‑General of ITU and his crew for his tireless work over the past eight years in the preparation of this Conference. First of all, I'd like to highlight principal events in ITU over the past few years, and then say a few words about our plans in terms of developing our digital economy. We had growth in this Sector, we had investments. The backbone of fiber optic network has been laid down thanks to the support from The World Bank. All of the Provinces of our country have been connected, and other services will follow. It's going to enable us to significantly reduce the digital gap.

We'd also like to remind you of the fact that when in 2011 we had an intergovernmental Conference attended by Mr. Hamadoun Touré and the Secretary of State, the Tunis reiterated the commitments to help Burundi in terms of developing its digital economy, which will further assist in the economic development say in our country.

We'll introduce the necessary legislative framework for promoting ITU in particular in terms of mobile telephony.

Our National ICT Policy was adopted in 2011. Other measures have been put in place, and other matters have been prepared.

We also recognize that frequency and the reliability of spectrum is the locomotive for developing our digital economy. Our ICT Sector will need to obtain new frequency bands in order to promote innovation and to ensure the best possible coverage of our territory.

The existing coverage by mobile telephony is already ensured to the tune of 85%. In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a few proposals to ITU. First of all, to engage in reflections in 2015 that begging on ICT's sustainable development to develop wider band communications and to reinforce international cooperation, Governmental cooperation, and private‑public partnership, to combat cybercrime, to promote the education of young people in LDCs, to build up a country where information is a priority.

We have a great deal of hopes for the next four years for our future and for the future of this organization. In conclusion, on behalf of my Delegation and the Burundi Government, I'd like to wish good luck to the countries and to the nominated persons in forthcoming elections. I can assure you you would receive nothing but the most solid support on the part of my Government and my Ministry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your Policy Statement, which was very concise and clear. The message was well delivered to all Member States.

Now we will hear from Djibouti, followed by Lao peoples Democratic Republic.

I would like to call upon Minister of Communication Post and Telecommunications of Djibouti. Djibouti, you have the floor.

>> DJIBOUTI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Secretary‑General of the International Telecommunication Union, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of my Delegation, I would like first of all to address my sincere gratitude to the Government and the people of the Republic of Korea, as well as to its Ministry of Telecommunications for an excellent organization of this meeting, as well as the warm welcome extended to us here in Busan.

My gratitude also goes to ITU in the person of its Secretary‑General, Mr. Hamadoun Touré, as well as all those who have been behind the successful organization of this meeting, which is going to deliberate the future of the Sector for the next four years.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, information today is one of the most precious resources, because it is capable of radically improving the way lifestyles not only working conditions but also lifestyles. It is incumbent on us to recognize that it all depends on the relevant socioeconomic development models more than economic and other considerations. The development of intelligent technologies brings an important contribution to the overall economic development.

ICTs have already surpassed all the expectations in terms of their contribution to education and other sectors. Proper use of ICTs in our view, is capable to ensure broader public participation in State affairs. Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, we in Djibouti are fully aware of the role that ICTs can play. Because of our privileged geographic situation, we link the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Because of that, we are committed to constantly developing our networks, and bringing them up to world‑class level. We are all aware of the stake and we have a vision, Djibouti 2035, which has been put in place by our President, and which would help widely disseminate information communication technologies and help our National and regional economies. Our development strategy will enable us in the future to bring in better contribution to improving the fabric of economic life, develop infrastructure not only in our country but also in Africa, and the Arab Region.

That is a strategic choice which is supported by a number of projects in the pipeline to improve infrastructure, develop human resources, and above all develop new application. In terms of developing ICTs in our country, Djibouti in 2014 held an African Internet Summit, which was the platform for deliberations among more than 500 participants, advancing broader issues of economic and technological development in the region.

For the school year 2014‑2015, we have applied the project to provide schools with laptops and station computers. We are convinced that our Union will be in the position to bring an efficient contribution to put in place new strategies to overcome the digital gap, and I'm convinced that ITU will be up to this task with proper partnerships in technology, and ICTs will be promoted and that the outcome of this Conference, this Plenipotentiary Conference, will serve that end.

In conclusion, I'd like to refer you to Item 4 of the Djibouti Conference this year, which pertains to the ICT developments in countries of the region, and the need to provide assistance to developing countries.

In conclusion, I'd like to say one word in Korean, kamsahamnida.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your Policy Statement and sharing Djibouti's achievements and policy directions with us today. Now we will hear from Lao People's Democratic Republic followed by Paraguay. I'd like to call upon Minister of Telecommunications and Post from Lao People's Republic. Laos, you have the floor.

>> LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: Mr. Chairman, distinguished Delegates, first of all, I would like to join all of the Delegates who have spoken before me to express our sincere congratulations to the people and Government of the Republic of Korea for the perfect organization of this event, the 14th Plenipotentiary of the ITU.

My Government considers of particular importance these opportunities, and it provides a means for our Government to be able to congratulate the excellent team of Mr. Hamadoun for the work carried forward for this meeting. It is also an opportunity for the Delegates to be able to elect the new people who are going to lead the ITU during the next four years.

Mr. Chairman, Laos is one of the countries of ASEAN that suffers a lack of development concerning other members, or in comparison with other members, concerning all National development of the electronic digital systems, and in the area of ICTs, for we will the our utmost to be able to progress towards 2020.

I take advantage of this opportunity to express our thanks to the ITU on behalf of my Government, in particular to Dr. Touré for the most valuable assistance that he has provided our country.

I would similarly like to reiterate the full support of my Government for the Korean initiative, Korean Asian ICT initiative, 2012‑2016 that covers infrastructure, new technology, the development of human resources, and sharing knowledge.

This initiative has allowed us to have a fruitful cooperation in these areas, in particular between Laos and Korea throughout the last years. Similarly, my country has not spared efforts in order to implement the ICT Master plan and the economic statement of ASEAN for 2015 in the ICTs, and all this is going to assist our country to be able to develop and to be able to close the digital gap.

We consider that it is important to be able to have electronic content in our own language, and this is going to assist us and be able to have our Government facilitate full availability of ICTs to all the country's citizens. The fiber optic network is going to be ‑‑ going to facilitate links, and therefore our country is going to participate in the link of technology and communication.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we would like to wish full success to our Conference. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your Policy Statement. I appreciate for your recognition on the work of ITU, ASEAN and the Government of Korea, thank you.

Now we will hear from Paraguay, followed by Costa Rica. I call on the President of the National Commission of telecommunications of Paraguay. Paraguay, you have the floor.

>> PARAGUAY: Thank you, Chairman. We would like to take advantage of the opportunity to congratulate you for your election as Chair of this Conference, and we are fully trusting in your capacity to be able to lead us to a successful conclusion.

We would also like to congratulate Mr. Hamadoun Touré for the work that he has been able to fulfill during his leadership of the organization.

Similarly, I would like to, along with the other members of my Delegation, to bring greetings to all of you in the name of my Government, and to congratulate Korea and thank them for the excellent organization of this Conference.

Mr. Chairman, our country Paraguay, which is in the heart of the Latin American Continent, similarly to ITU now fulfills 150 years of the first telegraphic communication, and since then, communications have become central to our development. As other Mediterranean countries, we require telecommunication in order to be able to have full symmetrical access to all transportation and all communication. This has been important for many families in our country, because it is a fundamental means to be able to communicate despite distance. Access to telecommunications has become a right that the Governments must guarantee, and we believe, Mr. Chairman, that ITU should be able to continue being a Forum for dialogue and world cooperation, thus facilitating for all citizens in this world access to ICTs in a trustworthy environment, and in an environment that is fully connected.

This is the vision that we have of it, and that we wish to share with you.

Mr. Chairman, after four years of having been elected for the first time in our country's history as members of the Council of the ITU, we would like to indicate that we have been able to participate in Forums particularly for those of countries that are land linked, our cooperation and as with all our neighbors, we must fully improve access to international networks, seeking a decrease in the cost of connectivity, in particular for land‑locked countries, and therefore the Conference of Dubai adopted Resolution Number 1 concerning special measures in favor of the development of land‑locked countries and small developing countries, and we find that we as a country have been able to develop thanks to CITEL within Latin America and according to what has been approved in the various fora.

And we have been able to fully contribute so that the ITU should have the first Forum for connectivity in the Americas. We now bring to this Conference contribution Number 74, the aim being to close the gap concerning international connectivity for countries such as ours, and despite our efforts, this continues being an unresolved problem.

We therefore need, according to the agenda of Tunisia to be able to have an open environment for formulating strategies, and we have been able to have continued development and participation.

And now in closing the year 2013, we can say that we had increased in 50% access to Internet. Paraguay has displayed efforts in order to be able to be fully participating in all ICT activity, including increasing participation in international activities, in particular of ITU, with specific financial and human resources so that we can participate on an equal footing with other members of the Union.

The full participation of the private sector of our country has been essential for development. We need infrastructure for telecommunications that should be larger, comprehensive, and we have therefore been carrying out public‑private partnership, PPPs, in order to achieve it.

Mr. Chairman, Delegates, for the first time as indicated, Paraguay has been part of the Council since 2010, and we continually want to share with all members our vision of equal participation on an equal footing for all countries. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Your Excellency, for your Policy Statement, and sharing your vision and your commitment to the work of ITU with all Member States.

Now we will hear from Costa Rica, followed by Bangladesh. I would like to call upon Vice‑Minister of science, technology, and telecommunications of Costa Rica. Costa Rica, you have the floor.

>> COSTA RICA: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. Can you hear me, asked the speaker?

First of all, I would like to congratulate you for your election, and also for the incredible work that you are carrying out as you lead these sessions.

In addition to thanking you for your participation and efforts, we would like to thank the Government of Korea, not only for having invited us and welcomed us in this meeting, but also for all the efforts carried out at world level concerning communication and relationship with others in the world.

Mr. Touré, Mr. Zhao, distinguished members of the various Delegations here with us, we would like to extend to you a warm greeting on behalf of our Government, and concerning the issues in our country, we have been able to greatly improve our situation thanks to ICTs, and we are now considered to be one of the happiest countries in the world. As total defenders of freedom of expression, we find that it is crucial to be able to participate in an open, secure, free for all and guaranteed Internet for all. We are therefore carrying out all that is needed in order to be able to guarantee full privacy and access. Similarly to all countries here present we participate fully in Connectivity 2020 and are developing a National plan, a 2021 plan, as part of the celebration for the 200 years since our independence.

Our communications are centered in the individual, as was promoted in the previous Summit, and concerning all concepts of digital inclusivity. We feel that it is particularly important to take into account the most vulnerable parts of populations such as youth, women, people with discapacity, and the rural areas, and we are developing similarly tools to be able to proceed further so that all technology and all ICT can be an adequate instrument for creating capacity and integrating each one of our communities, as in the case of indigenous communities.

Concerning connectivity, we are developing broadband thanks to fiber optic network, and given our geographic position, we have to be able to fully connect with our Central American brothers and sisters, and we have to harmonize the use of the spectrum with the help of ITU. With this purpose in mind for next year we're already seeing plans in order to achieve full participation in the 700 band and digitalized TV.

We have been the first country of Central America that has been elected to participate in the Council, and we have therefore the intention to continue working fully with the Council in order to achieve our objectives, and we would like to once again submit our candidature for this position. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Your Excellency, for your Policy Statement. Your message was concise but at the same time very clear. And we know you're one of the countries in the happiness index. Korea has long been number one in the development of ICT index but we're in the bottom half of the happiness index so hopefully we can catch up, catch your country in that index in the near future.

Now we will hear from Bangladesh, followed by south sued an.

I'd like to call upon State Minister of Post telecommunications and Information Technology of Bangladesh. Bangladesh, you have the floor.

>> BANGLADESH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Wonki Min, Mr. Secretary‑General, Hamadoun Touré, Deputy Secretary‑General Mr. Houlin Zhao, elected members of the Council, developed Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, very good afternoon to everyone.

It's a great honor and privilege for me to address this auspicious gathering. At the outset, I would like to express my heartiest thanks to the Korean Government and authorities for their warm reception and hospitality extended to all of us here in Busan.

Distinguished Delegates, the vision of ITU to establish an Information Society for sustainable growth and development is very much similar with our National vision, the vision 2021, for building digital Bangladesh. To realize the goal, we adapted time befitting National Telecom and ICT policies and undertook a number of remarkable initiatives. 98% of our geographical area and 99% of our population are now under the Telecom network coverage with 116 million mobile phone subscribers and 40 million Internet users.

Dear audience, our National Web portal contains 25,000 websites to ensure an easy and affordable digital access we have set up 4517 rural digital centers. Every month, 40 million people receive digital services from there.

In recognition, we've been given the prestigious WSIS Award by ITU. Iconic inventor Bill Gates in his recent interview with "The Wall Street Journal" stated, quote, Bangladesh has been widely adopting technology and a shining example of using digital technology, unquote. This year, we hosted Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization annual Forum and Council meeting successfully.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have introduced e‑Filing system to achieve paperless office, mobile services for the unbanked poor, a registration system, e‑tendering system, online bill payment, railway ticketing system, et cetera. Considering our achievements, Bangladesh has been given public sector excellence award 2014 by the world Information Technology and services aligns, WTSA.

Distinguished participants, the objectives of our on going activities include achieving 35% broadband penetration and 70% Internet penetration by 2018 through a quick rollout of 3G and LTE technology. Bangladesh secured top spot in the world in terms of financial attractiveness for providing software and IT enabled services as assessed by the world's leading consulting firm AT Kearney Global.

Dear friends, Bangladesh not only renews its sincere support for the Connect 2020 vision, but also wants to remain as an active partner. Bangladesh exhibits strong intent and capability to attain the digital Bangladesh well before 2021. Now we are very keen to collaborate with the global community by sharing our experience and achievement in the field of telecommunication and ICT.

For this purpose, we solicit your kind support in favor of Bangladesh in the forthcoming ITU Council election. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Your Excellency, for your Policy Statement. Congratulations on receiving the award which in my view is a good evidence where Bangladesh stands and where it goes toward, and we are all excited to see your future and Bangladesh's economy is really vibrant nowadays so we expect to hear a lot more from your side next Plenipotentiary, too. Thank you.

Now we will hear from South Sudan, followed by Israel. I would like to call upon Minister of Telecommunication and Postal services of south Sudan. South Sudan, you have the floor.

>> SOUTH SUDAN: His Excellency, President of ITU Plenipotentiary 2014, His Excellency, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary‑General of the ITU. Heads of Delegations, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to attend and address this Plenipotentiary Conference 2014. I wish to commend the warmth and hospitality of the Republic of Korea, not forgetting the quick facilitation of our visas to travel to this beautiful country.

We highly value the support of ITU Secretary‑General Dr. Hamadoun and his colleagues to our country. Their wise leadership has been an inspiration to the people and Government of South Sudan. South Sudan which had gone through many decades of war and suffering got its independence in 2011. In no time, South Sudan was blessed to become the 193rd Member State of ITU, and soon was allocated Country Code +211 and other subsequent codes.

Since then, born kicking and bouncing and with the political will of its leadership, led by our President Salva Kiir Mayardit, South Sudan, which is barely three years old, has taken reasonable steps towards ICT development. Since then, with clear ICT vision, mission, Strategic Plan, South Sudan has become an active participant in the ITU fora, participated with a pavilion for the first time in our history, in Bangkok, Thailand, ITU world Telecom 2013. We celebrated World Telecom and Information Society Day May 17, 2014, and to involve the public since our intention was to educate and create awareness, the activity was held in a primary school, where it attracted wide range of pupils and public.

We have taken reasonable steps in the process of building our optical fiber network, starting with the connection of our capital city, to the Northern border of Kenya, to the border with Kenya, and as well from Juba to the border with Uganda southwards. Our future plans are to activate and construct to the Northern border with Sudan.

These outlets, ladies and gentlemen, will complement our country's backbone currently under procurement process. We are collaborating with our neighbors in Eastern Africa, and other African countries, in what we call the Northern corridor and transform Africa programmes, respectively, to construct our broadband infrastructure. We believe these strategic steps will ensure affordable access by our large rural population in order to improve their livelihoods.

Mr. Chairman, the good news that I would like to share with this august Conference today, being an answer to a question I found difficult to answer a year ago, is the establishment of our regulatory body, the National communication authority as an autonomous entity, thanks to the ITU for supporting us.

Within three years of our age, South Sudan managed to have a regulatory to ensure compliance with international standards through international collaboration. This is geared towards building South Sudan as a free and modern Information Society. Your Excellency, the Chair, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to say South Sudan needs to be considered as a country emerging from conflict with the shattered lives and institutions, and we have great needs. We need your support. With this, I would like to appeal to the upcoming ITU Secretary‑General and his team to work with us through the challenges faced by South Sudan, which includes but not limited to, one, support with experts in formulation of the required policies. Strengthen the nascent regulatory body. Support the building of fiber optic infrastructure. Facilitate in the capacity building, training and provision of skills to our human resource. Support universal access programmes. And supporting computer literacy programmes for women and children.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we commend the achievements made by the ITU Secretariat in helping the world's Information Society. We would like to express our support for the upcoming ITU body wishing it success in the course of building ICT and making it an enabler for the development of information societies.

As I conclude, in South Sudan, when we are celebrating we say, South Sudan, Oyee! Join me then all of you in repeating the word oyee. I say International Telecommunication Union PP‑14, oyee. Thank you very much for listening to us. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, oyee. And congratulations on the establishment of the independent regulatory and when you are making your speech regarding the support you want to receive from the next ITU hat, actually Mr. Zhao was attentively listening what you're saying so I believe that Mr. Zhao will do something when he will take his new office, I should say. Thank you.

Now, we will hear from Israel, followed by Democratic Republic of Congo. I would like to call upon Ambassador of Israel, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Israel, you have the floor.

>> ISRAEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my honor to address this Plenipotentiary on behalf of the State of Israel. I wish to thank the Government and the people of the Republic of Korea for their excellent hospitality. We recognize that the Republic of Korea plays a key role in developing ICT policies and is ranked first in the world on ICT indices. We thank the ITU under the outstanding leadership and vision of Secretary‑General Touré for its important role in promoting international cooperation and designing the future direction of ICT and the Information Society.

We also thank the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning, and Chairman Wonki Min for the wonderful work and dedication. The rapid development in digital economy and hyperconnected societies continuously transformed the world and our way of living. Today's challenges include Internet availability and access for all, fostering e‑Learning and e‑Business, promoting transparency for e‑Gov solution, as well as cybersecurity.

In all of the above areas, regulation and legislation lag behind technological advancement, and should be addressed. As a leading country in innovation and ICT, Israel introduced in 2012, the first time ever UN General Assembly Resolution on behalf of 100 co‑sponsors entitled: Entrepreneurship for Development. The Resolution promotes entrepreneurship and innovation in developing countries, which serves as a growth engine, creating jobs and empower people, especially women and young people.

This Resolution is part of Israel's contribution to the global efforts to achieve the four main goals stipulated in the Connect 2020 framework of the ITU, and the objective of bridging the digital divide as a major step towards establishing a truly global information society. Towards this end, Israel will continue to share its experience and best practices in ICT capabilities, and its success in building a vibrant high‑tech economy through capacity‑building and training programmes in developing countries.

Mr. Chairman, today's Information Society creates not only opportunities, but also new challenges. One such challenge which Israel considered as most important is the issue of cybersecurity. Israel invests heavily in developing its cybersecurity oriented ecosystem, and its human capital in that field. There are currently several hundred cybersecurity startups in Israel and many mature companies taking on this challenge.

Mr. Chairman, Israel is a small country that enjoys an advanced ICT market, and has vibrant information society with an advanced e‑Gov system and dynamic market economy. Recently a license was issued to a new subsidiary of the Electric Company and private investors to deploy FTTH network to all households throughout Israel using existing electricity infrastructure. This project is expected to enable ultra fast broadband services for both uploading, downloading, and data throughput services.

Before I conclude, I wish to stress that Israel prefers not to respond to the Palestinian statement out of respect for the ITU, and in order not to politicize the work of the Union. We reiterate that the only mechanism to discuss any question related to the telecommunication relations between Israel and the Palestinians is the Joint Technical Committee which was convened a number of times this year. We welcome the continuation of such meetings aimed at achieving constructive progress and fruitful results. Finally I wish all of us productive discussions on the important outstanding issues instrumental to the success of the PP‑14 Conference that will no doubt contribute to the future architecture of the ICT World.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Ambassador, for your Policy Statement. Now we will ‑‑ let's hear from Democratic Republic of Congo, followed by Samoa. I would like to call upon Minister of Post telecommunications and ICT of Democratic Republic of Congo. Democratic Republic of Congo, you have the floor.

>> CONGO: Mr. Chairman, Secretary‑General of ITU, ladies and gentlemen, Delegates, I'd like to extend my gratitude to Mr. Chairman, congratulate you on your election, to express our sincere thanks to the Government of Korea, and to her excellence Madam President for the warm welcome in this beautiful city of Busan, which has impressed us all, African countries and others. So the level of its independence. The dynamic nature of the security and stability are capable of bringing much to our people and to humankind.

Also, thank you for the organizers of this Conference for the excellent organization. Secretary‑General, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, for having conducted this meeting with the high professional level, with all the respect, your respect is an example to follow for the international system. That was highlighted in Kinshasa during our ICT Day celebration.

Thank you very much for an appeal to tackle Ebola in the affected countries, to bring in the necessary expertise to bear. This session is dedicated to general Policy Statements, and I'd like to tell you how the privileged geographic position of my country can help further development.

Africa is the spearhead of Africa. We are an enormous country from the West to the east, from north to the south takes two hours by plane. It's a unique country on the continent, and that's why it behooves for Congo to assume its unique responsibility in terms of promoting optic fiber networks, submarine cables under the Atlantic, 3,000 kilometers of the National backbone is already in operation. The overall project would extend to 4,000 kilometers to connect the far east of our country, and the mobile 3G is already available. The test for 4G are under way.

Congo is 70 million population. We need to extend these networks to cover the rural areas. The Steering Committee has already been created, which would help further penetration of networks. We have 70% of TV coverage. We have certain goals in the area that are not being linked in. What is needed is to bring the State and our citizens closer, but we have many linguistic and other issues. The international community, international donors, and such as Google have been assisting us.

We need to oppose cybercrime, ensure cybersecurity, and for that purpose in mind, we have a new legal framework in place. The 27th of September at the UN General Assembly, we stressed that we are a developing economy, with a dynamic developing infrastructure. Our Government has decided to open the telecommunication headquarters in Kinshasa, and since then, the development of our cities in our country has been assisting the entire Continent.

For instance, we are helping the Central African Republic in laying down their backbone line. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for sharing your experience and your policy in the field of ICT with us today.

Now we will hear from Samoa, followed by Philippines. I would like to call upon Minister of Communications and information technology of Samoa. Samoa, you have the floor.

>> SAMOA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency Wonki Min, Secretary‑General, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the Government of Samoa would like to add its voice to those that have already congratulated you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to lead this Conference. You have no doubt a mammoth task to accomplish over the next three weeks, and I am confident that you will perform it to the best and achieve successes.

Similarly, allow me to extend my warm regards and that of my Delegation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for a hospitable reception in this great country, and in particular, the beautiful city of Busan.

Samoa maintains a strong commitment to the ITU, and believes in its importance in the supporting cooperation across National borders on telecommunications and Radiocommunications matters. Samoa continues to participate actively in a number of ITU activities and programmes, especially in our Asia Pacific region, but more in the Development Sector. It is my Government's hope that ITU will continue to play a pivotal role in the development of telecommunications the world over.

I am pleased to report that Samoa has gone through some major reforms in the communication Sector which led to the successful liberalization of telecommunications, broadcasting and Postal services in order to broaden access.

The Government as a result privatized the State owned fixed line operations and new legislations have facilitated the start of competition in the mobile telephone market which has also been a success. The fast growth in broadband both through fixed line and wireless systems in Samoa has helped in getting Internet access to about 95% of the country.

We truly believe that ICT development has been a contributing factor for Samoa graduating earlier this year, from the LDCs group, to developing status, and the UN classification.

Just last month, Samoa was honored to host the third UN International Conference on Small Island Developing States. This was a huge challenge for us being a small island developing state, but with good broadband and ICT infrastructure, plus reliable international connectivity, in addition to the willing cooperation of our international partners, we were able to meet the requirements for the UN and the Delegates with overwhelming success.

Broadband connectivity and cybersecurity are two of the areas the Government accords high priorities. The new Crimes Act of 2013 includes a whole section on cybercrime, an issue fast becoming a concern to all citizens, and more people using social media and networks. The Samoa National Broadband Highway was launched earlier this year connecting all Government agencies and related institutions.

In area of climate change and disaster risk reduction, Samoa recently launched its National early warning network to alert its citizens on tsunamis and major disasters like cyclones, earthquakes and floods. With ITU assistance Samoa has now developed a National policy for migration to digital television and targeting its completion by 2017.

For improving international connectivity, we are doing final negotiations for another submarine cable connection for implementation within the next 18 to 24 months. The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference is a key event at which we all can help to shape and secure the future role of ITU and its ability to support the development of telecommunications worldwide.

For the new Connect 2020 Strategic Plan, Samoa is in full support of the vision that highlights the role of ICTs as a key enabler for social, economic, and environmentally sustainable growth and development, as well as the four key goals set out as part of the Strategic Plan. I am confident that ITU will remain responsive to the requirements and needs of the Member States especially its small island state members, including LDCs, in seeking to foster the development of telecommunications worldwide.

I conclude ‑‑ before I conclude, let me express on behalf of my Government our gratitude to the Secretary‑General, Dr. Touré, who with the support of the management has guided our ITU ship successfully over the last eight years, through some calm and rough times. We thank you for your courage, leadership, and friendship, especially to us smaller island members. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

I wish all Member States a fruitful deliberation during this important Conference. I thank you for your attention.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your Policy Statement. We have discussed the ITU in disaster prevention and we will discuss this issue in this Plenipotentiary Conference, and I'm glad to hear that you have established a National early warning system. That will really help the prevention of natural disaster. Congratulations.

Now we will listen from Philippines, followed by France. I would like to call upon Undersecretary of Department of Science and Technology of Philippines. Philippines, you have the floor.

>> PHILIPPINES: Heads and member Delegations representing Member States of the Union, colleagues in the ICT Sector, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, a pleasant good day to you all. On behalf of the Republic of Philippines and our Delegation, allow me to express our sincere gratitude to the International Telecommunication Union, its members and this year's host Government, the Republic of Korea, for the opportunity to meet and discuss how we collectively shall move forward during the next four years, with the best interests of our beloved Union and its members at heart.

As the elections of a new management this PP‑14 nears, let me take this opportunity to thank Secretary‑General Hamadoun Touré, Deputy Secretary‑General Houlin Zhao, and the three Bureau Directors for their cohesiveness, great efforts and sacrifices that produced fruitful results during the last eight years for which we indeed are all blessed.

ICT is, without a doubt, an enabler for National and global economic growth and social development. ICT has transformed our Governments and businesses in ways we could not have imagined some 30 years ago but most significantly it has transformed our peoples, our children most of all, in weaving itself into the fabric of our lives. While the Philippines is one of the first to liberalize its telecommunications industry that is now rapidly deploying fourth generation mobile technology, and laying new optical fiber both domestic and to our neighbors, with spending for e‑Government increased four‑fold in recent years and a National free wi‑fi project to start next year in the poorest half of our country's towns, cybercrime prevention and data privacy legislation enacted and with an ICT enabled services industry, recognized as one of those top tier in the world, we remain fully aware that many of our countrymen are still denied the basic right of access to ICT that this organization has so ardently pursued for nearly 150 years.

Our administration is fully committed to the ideals of the ITU, and has thus redoubled its efforts through innovative multistakeholder engagements, expanded public‑private partnerships, and bilateral and multilateral cooperation. For example, the Philippines is currently examining the use of dynamic spectrum allocation, specifically in the underutilized TV bands in anticipation of the spectrum division once our soon to start migration to ISDB‑T is completed in 2019. Though this may mean necessity, innovation and open mindedness in the aspect of spectrum governance. Connecting the unserved areas is not only about economic development, it is also about saving lives.

The Philippines being on the Pacific ring of fire and typhoon belt is constantly challenged by natural hazards. Recently we have made much progress in our ability to forecast severe weather and its hazard using advanced computer modeling, land and space based sensing technologies including a nationwide network of remote sensors, while only five years ago we could only make general forecasts and indicative warnings of life threatening floods and storm surges from severe weather. The Philippines is now able to predict some threats and give warnings of at least six hours in advance. But what is the value of such information if it cannot be communicated to those it intends to aid? Thus the Philippines, it is of utmost importance that ICT be available to everyone, everywhere.

Mr. Chairman, please allow me thus to offer our sincerest gratitude to the ITU, its members and the international community that came to our aid in the aftermath of the typhoon Haiyan. We therefore urge all members of the Union to continue to cooperate and to exchange best practices, risk management research as well as to make available innovative and affordable ICT crucial for disaster risk management.

In closing, we sincerely appeal that the Philippines be elected anew as the member of the ITU Council. As before and more so now, we believe we have much to contribute and commit to serve you again as an active member of the Council. We also thank the Government of Korea, especially His Excellency Minister Yanghee Choi and you Mr. Chairman for the time and opportunity to see your beautiful country, the scenic city of Busan and to savor the warm smile and welcome of your lovely people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Your Excellency for your Policy Statement. It was really encouraging to hear that there is an improvement in the early warning system in Philippines. Actually previously our distinguished Delegate from Samoa also mentioned about the establishment of National early warning system, so I think this kind of practices could be shared with other countries. Once again, thank you very much. Now we will hear from France, followed by Namibia. Namibia will be the last country to make a Policy Statement today.

Now I would like to call upon Ambassador Mr. Baras of France. France?

>> FRANCE: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished Delegates, France is gratified this Conference is being held here in Korea which is a model of dissemination and use of ICTs. According to the UN, Korea leads the world in e‑Government. I would also like to emphasize that in the same terms, France is fifth in the world and first in Europe, so Mr. Chairman, we are going to continue to be inspired by the example of Korea because that's a guarantor of success. Now I would like to make five points.

First of all, France shares the vision and the objectives of the new Strategic Plan put forth by the Council, in particular, all of the efforts undertaken by Secretary‑General to turn ITU into a multi‑actor organization, multistakeholder, in its models.

Governments and companies are more and more taking part in our work which is excellent. The work of ITU is more open. All of the texts have free online access to them. And the procedures are more transparent. All that goes in a good direction.

Secondly, we are facing a major challenge. We have next year of 2015 Conference. We hope that will improve the management of our Conference. France as a leading member of the United Nations has played an important role in the preparation of ‑‑ played an important role in the preparation of the WSIS Summit and hopes to be very instrumental in the new Conference.

I'd also like to emphasize very great benefit from being active in ITU in terms of the use of satellite communications, because that provides the maximum number of people with a high rate access. So we hope that you will make the proposals and we also hope that the points I have made will be considered by this Conference, as well as by ITU.

Fourthly, following the proposal by Korea, France would like to see ITU the global standardization platform. ITU needs to be more flexible in approaching these crucial matters in cooperating with other organizations in standard‑setting, where such expertise resides. Vis‑a‑vis these ambitious goals, France is confident that 150 years after its foundation, ITU remains an organization for the future, so France intends to support ITU in all its activities.

And so we would also like to reiterate our nomination of Mr. François Rancy for the Post of the Radiocommunication Bureau. To the outgoing Secretary‑General, bravo to you for your efficiency. Thanks to you, ITU is an old lady who serves the interests of us all. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ambassador. Thank you for your very concrete remarks to the work of ITU and future work of ITU. We all appreciate the excellent work provided by Mr. Rancy. Mr. Rancy is not here, but we just echo what you said. Thank you.

Now I would like to call upon Ambassador to Namibia. Namibia, you have the floor.

>> NAMIBIA: Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to address the ITU Plenipotentiary 2014. Allow me also to first thank the Republic of Korea for the hospitality you have bestowed us with since our arrival here in Busan. We also congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to lead and guide our discussions.

Over the past years, Namibia has been effectively engaged in the establishment of a policy and legal framework for the development of ICT in Namibia, which culminated in Namibia now having an overarching National policy on ICT and fully‑fledged autonomous regulator, CRAN.

Namibia is cognizant of the fact that the development of the ICT Sector internationally is central to the creation of new opportunities for promoting sustainable development, alleviating poverty, achieving universal service and access, facilitating wealth creation, enhancing Economic Growth and Development, as well as deepening Democratic practices and good governance. It is therefore imperative that Namibia expands its participation in the international sphere through the dynamic support of the ITU strategic goals and targets under the Banner of Connect 2020.

ICT infrastructure development is a National priority for the Namibian Government and we have invested broadband infrastructure through WACS, SAT‑3 and SEACOM. This has broadened bandwidth capacity and improved connectivity between Namibia and the rest of the world.

The investments aforesaid resulted in a 100% digital National backbone network forming the bedrock upon which 4G/LTE mobile services were rolled out in 2012.

In the broadcasting Sector, the migration from analog television services to digital television services is progressing well, and we have recorded 61% population coverage thus far. We are, therefore, confident that Namibia will meet the June 2015 deadline as set by the ITU.

The Namibian Government has also prioritized universal access and service with respect to a wide range of electronic communications networks and services. To this end, the closing of the digital divide between the rural and urban areas will be accelerated. Namibia recognizes with appreciation the ITU's assistance to the development of ICT in our country.

In 2009, the ITU assisted us to develop our regulatory framework, which is the bedrock of our current ICT operations.

During Mr. Houlin Zhao's recent visit to Namibia in July 2014, ITU also offered to assist Namibia in the development of digitization policy, and capacity building in cybercrime and cybersecurity, in order to support our Government's efforts. This assistance is timely and most appreciated.

The new frontier in ICT service delivery is undoubtedly mobile‑data services. Mobile telephony penetration in Namibia has surpassed 120%, with about 40% of users accessing the Internet from various platforms in Namibia.

We are also involved in a TV White Space Study through our regulator in order to assess not only the sustainability and affordability of the utilization of White Spaces in other bands, but also the new technologies that will emanate from this use. Mr. Chairman, we would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the work of our international partners that have been instrumental in providing us with the necessary assistance to establish various ICT driven initiatives in e‑Health, e‑Education, and e‑Government.

Allow us, please, Mr. Chairman, to acknowledge the work of Secretary‑General, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, and to salute him for his leadership of the ITU over the years. We thank you for your devotion not only to the ITU but to the plight of women and youth in the ICT. Africa is certainly proud of your achievements.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, Namibia is committed to the ITU's strategic goals of growth, inclusiveness, sustainability, innovation, and partnership, and we will continue to contribute to the international agenda, and ensure that these goals are reached. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ambassador, thank you very much. Your first remark actually stressed the importance of the commitment to Member States to the work of ITU, because your strong support to the ITU actually keeps the more power to the ITU to support the Member States, and the 120% of mobile penetration rate and 40% of mobile Internet usage, that's just impressive. Congratulations.

And I should express my thanks to the speakers for their efforts to keep the time limit. At the same time I just want to congratulate all speakers for their excellent messages delivered today in the Conference.

And especially I think this is just timely because our final speaker the distinguished Delegate of Namibia just finished the Chair's remarks right on time, that's five minutes, so that really shows the kind of spirit of cooperation in this room. Thank you very much again.

That will end our second Agenda Item, general Policy Statements. Now we move to the third Agenda Item which is other business.

Here I would like to invite Chairman Dr. Imad Hoballah to introduce the document DT/4. Dr. Hoballah, you have the floor. Lebanon, you have the floor. Lebanon, you have the floor. Dr. Hoballah, are you in this room?

It seems he's not in the room, so I will call upon him again later.

So then we will discuss what?

Dr. Hoballah is not in the room. On behalf of him, I will read some instructions. DT/4 has been published as a reminder to the Conference of the mandate, composition, and working arrangements of the Committee 4, Editorial Committee. It also invites Delegates who would wish to participate in the meetings of Committee 4 that they have to register by sending an e‑mail to the dedicated e‑mail address pp14edcom@itu.int. This is in order to facilitate the Committee's work, particularly as regards the preparation of meeting documents and in view of the small size of the Committee's meeting room.

So if you want to participate in Committee 4, please send an e‑mail to pp14edcom@itu.int, which is in the document DT/4.

I would you like you to take note of this document. And then we ‑‑ that's actually the end of today's session, but I just want to remained you that we will begin tomorrow's session at 8:30, because there is a possibility we will have two rounds of elections. We will begin 8:30, on time.

And the shuttle will leave from your hotel at 7:00 a.m., instead of 8:00 a.m. So please, please be here on time tomorrow, so we can have two rounds of elections, not making any influence on the scheduled receptions.

Having said that, I just want to say thanks to your attention throughout the whole Policy Statements. Now this Fifth Plenary Session is adjourned.

[ Applause ]

I think you may be surprised because we finished so early, so I will give you one good news: The weather is getting better, and according to the weather forecast, we will not have any rain until the end of the weekend, so there is a possibility we can enjoy this great city of Busan, if all Committees and Working Groups of the Plenary can do their work during the week.

So I urge the Chairs of Committee and Chairs of Working Group Plenary to do this work according to the schedule so all our Delegates can enjoy the weekend, so hopefully we can avoid the weekend session.

I do hope that at least we can have a free day on Sunday.

We already finished our session but I think the Chairman of Committee 4 is with us right now, so I would just like to give the floor to the Chairman of Committee 4. So Lebanon, you have the floor. Chairman of Committee 4, you have the floor. Lebanon, you have the floor.

>> LEBANON: Thank you, Chairman. Thanks, everyone. I just would like to get everybody's attention to document DT/4. This document describes the terms of reference for the Committee and its efforts. We call upon the Delegations to basically review the terms of reference and try to see if there are members of the Delegation that could be part of the effort of Committee 4.

We invite you all to participate, and we thank you for your effort. I'm not going to go through the details. Thanks.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr. Hoballah. I just want to remained you, the session is already closed but I just want to remind one more thing. We have a tradition of having a French Chair for Committee 4, but we just ‑‑ we recognize that this is a global, international institution, so this time, we actually have made the choice to have a Lebanese Chairman, but we have full confidence in him. And with why don't you just give a round of applause to him.

[ Applause ]

Thank you very much. I just want to say one more time, the session is adjourned.

[ End of Fifth Plenary Session ]

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