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ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2014

BUSAN, KOREA

23 OCTOBER 2014

ROOM A

PLENARY

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>> CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Could you kindly take your seat, please? I'm waiting for the secretary. She's coming.

We will begin shortly.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Please take your seats. We will soon begin our Sixth Plenary meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen, it will be appreciated if you can take your seats.

The Sixth Plenary Meeting is called to order. Before beginning the session, I just want to make a few remarks. I would just like to give my condolences to Canada and our Canadian Delegates at this conference. As you may well be aware, there was a tragic incident yesterday at the Government buildings yesterday in Ottawa, Canada. I'm sure I speak for all Delegates in saying that our thoughts and prayers are with Canada and the Canadian people during this difficult time. Indeed, the entire conference stands in support with you. It is a pity that we have had to start our day on such a sad note. But I hope our work today may help raise our spirits.

I should begin by noting some of yesterday's accomplishments. First of all, I would like to express our appreciation to countries which provided a coffee break, luncheon and evening receptions. Coffee break was provided by Canada, and luncheon was provided by the U.K., Saudi Arabia, and Kenya. The evening receptions were provided by France, Canada, Nigeria, and Indonesia. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: I believe that some of us actually broke our personal record in terms of the number of dinners we take in a single night. Personally, I took six dinners yesterday. That's my personal record.

I also would like to note that we noted publication of DT/4 and how to participate in Com four. I think you remember the e-mail address which you can send your e-mail in order to participate in Com 4.

As we announced, Com 4 Chair is Dr. Imad Hoballah. Yesterday we heard 40 policy statements. So in total, we have heard 88 policy statements.

Now I would like to submit the draft policy agenda, which is Document ADM/12-E for your approval. Any comments?

Without any comments, I take it that the agenda is approved.

Now, we will move to the second Agenda Item, which is the election of the Secretary-General and deputy Secretary-General. This is an exciting moment. So we will now proceed to the election for the post of Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary General of the ITU. The room has been divided into 5 blocks having a Voting Station in each.

The stations are identified by numbers from 1 to 5 and are placed conveniently within each block.

Document 102, listing all Member States having the right to vote within each block has been published on the website.

A floor plan indicating the location of voting stations is available on the screens to facilitate the voting process.

Additionally, you are requested to bring your badge to -- not this one -- to the staff and tellers for verification.

I will now give the floor to the Chairman of Committee 2, Mr. Timofey Kim, to inform us of any transfer of powers or proxy from one delegation to another.

>> TIMOFEY KIM: Yes. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, Excellencies, colleagues. Thank you for this opportunity to transmit information from Committee 2 on transfer of powers and proxies. There are the following three transfer of powers: One, Malta to the Netherlands.

Two, Iceland to Denmark. And three, Republic of Guinea to Mali. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: There are three transfer of powers: Malta to Netherlands, Iceland to Denmark and Republic of Guinea to Mali.

Those Member States who have a transfer of powers and who will therefore be casting two ballots for each election are invited to cast each ballot at the voting station of the respective Member State, according to the roll call that will be read by the Secretary.

I would now like to invite the 5 tellers who will oversee this election --

Region A, Ms. Meredith Leter, Suriname, at ballot box 1.

Region B, Mr. Raza Qureshi, Denmark, at ballot 2.

Region C, Mr. Dmitry Tarasov, Russian Federation, at ballot 3.

Region D, Mr. Sylvestre Noubissie, Cameroon, at ballot 4.

Region E, Mr. Jackson Kariko, Papua New Guinea, at ballot 5.

The tellers are already in position, one at each of the voting stations.

The secretariat is now in the process of distributing two separate ballot papers, one for each election, together with a pen, to all Delegations having the right to vote and present in the room, as well as instructions on how to complete the ballot paper.

Delegations having received a transfer of powers or a proxy from another delegation will receive four ballot papers, two for each election, plus a pen.

The ballot paper for the Secretary-General is blue and the one for Deputy Secretary General is yellow.

Each delegation is requested to complete the two ballot papers at the same time so that the two ballot papers may be put in the ballot box one after the other.

I would like to remind you that, in accordance with No. 131 of the General Rules, once the voting has begun, it cannot be interrupted, unless a point of order has been raised in connection with the way in which the vote is being taken.

The voting will begin as soon as I announce its beginning and will end when I announce the results of the vote.

In accordance with constant ITU practice, the doors of this meeting room will therefore remain closed throughout the voting procedure, and will be opened again once the casting of ballots has been completed and the ballot boxes are moved to the green room for counting.

You may leave the room but you will not be allowed to come back in.

Before completing the ballot papers, I strongly recommend that you carefully read the instructions in order not to have your vote declared invalid.

The ballot papers carry a computer-generated identification box in the lower right hand corner which permits the papers to be identified as being used in a specific round for a specific election.

The box is identical on all ballot papers in the specific round.

It is not possible to use the box to identify who has completed any specific ballot paper.

One final remark about the process -- in the event that a delegate makes a mistake when completing a ballot paper once the vote has started, the delegate should raise the point of order paddle.

The secretariat will collect and destroy the ballot paper in question and provide a fresh one.

When the voting starts, the Secretary of the meeting will call out the French short names of the Member States having the right to vote in the French alphabetical order within each block by groups of 15 at a time.

One representative of each Member State with the right to vote is invited to go to their voting station with the two ballot papers and their badge as they are called by the Secretary.

At the end of the voting, when all Member States having the right to vote have been called, the Secretary will then call on those, hopefully few, who have not cast their vote and give them a second and last chance to do so.

Following this last call, I will declare the vote closed.

If everybody is comfortable with this?

Is everyone comfortable with this? Any questions? Very well.

Before starting the vote, may I ask if all delegations having the right to vote have received two ballot papers, one blue and one yellow.

If not, could you identify yourselves?

Okay, yeah. The secretariat is still distributing ballot papers. Please wait a moment. Yeah, they will soon distribute the ballot papers to you.

We are still waiting for the Secretariat to distribute the ballot papers to all Member States. As you know, we have two elections today. One for Secretary-General and the other for Deputy Secretary General.

The first one you may think the first one is the easy one, but I don't think so because Mr. Zhao should pass Chinese language test to get the first.

For the second one, I think we have very well qualified five candidates. Whoever wins the election, I'm quite sure that we will have a very good Deputy Secretary-General. In that regard, the ITU has already won the election. But I think these five candidates are not very comfortable at this moment. But sooner or later, one of them will be very happy, but I think the other four should be happy, too, because they all of them have run a very admirable election campaign. All their campaigns are based on their merits and visions for the ITU. I want to congratulate all five candidates.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Now, I believe all Delegations with the right to vote have two ballot papers. If not, identify yourself so the Secretariat will deliver ballot papers to you. Any Delegations here have not received the ballot papers?

Thank you, very well.

Now we will close the doors.

Security, could you please close the doors to the Plenary room?

I declare that the voting has begun and give the floor to the Secretary.

>> SECRETARY OF THE PLENARY: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

As indicated by the Chairman, I shall now call out the list of Member States present and having the right to vote in the French alphabetical order within each voting block by group of 15.

In addition to the ballot papers, you may wish to refer to the document containing the designation of Member States by voting station, Document 102 Rev. 1.

Please look carefully as well at the voting instructions that have been provided.

Let me remind delegates to please use the pens supplied by the secretariat to mark their ballot.

Keep those pens for future elections. If you have not received a pen, please raise your hand and the Secretariat will provide you with a pen.

Okay, everybody has a pen.

Please note as well that the voting procedure requires that delegates mark their ballot with an "X," and only an "X," in the appropriate boxes to indicate.

If you make a mistake, please raise your card and we will bring you a new voting paper.

When I call your country's name, you are inviting to come to the Voting Station. You are requested to bring with you your badge. Your badge will be scanned. Then you will be invited to deposit your two ballots in the voting box.

The purpose of the badge scanning is to help us quickly call the second time any country that did not vote the first time.

So that delegations can see where the 5 voting stations are located, I will ask the staff at those stations to hold the ballot boxes in the air.

You will note that they are transparent so there is nothing in them.

The ballot boxes are transparent so that you can see that they are empty.

Box1, Box 2, Box 3, Box 4, Box 5.

I will start with block 1.

Afghanistan.

Albania.

Algeria.

Germany.

Andorra.

Angola.

Saudi Arabia.

Australia.

Bahrain.

Bangladesh.

Barbados.

Belarus.

Belgium.

Belize.

Benin.

I will now move to Voting Station number 2, Argentina.

Armenia.

Austria.

Azerbaijan.

Bahamas.

Brazil.

Burkina Faso.

Burundi.

Cabo Verde.

Cambodia.

Cameroon.

Chile.

Colombia.

Comoros.

Costa Rica.

Now moving to Voting Station 3, United States.

Georgia.

Ghana.

Greece.

Grenada.

Guatemala.

Guinea.

Equatorial Guinea.

Guinea-Bissau.

Guyana.

Haiti.

Hungary.

Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iraq.

Israel.

Now moving to Voting Station number 4, France.

Gabon.

India.

Indonesia.

Ireland.

Iceland.

Jordan.

Kazakhstan.

Kenya.

Kiribati.

Kuwait.

People's Democratic Republic of Lao.

Lesotho.

Latvia.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Now moving to Voting Station number 5.

Philippines,

Poland.

Qatar.

Syrian Arab Republic.

Democratic Republic of Congo.

Kyrgyz Republic.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Slovakia.

Czech Republic.

Romania.

United Kingdom.

Rwanda.

Saint Lucia.

San Marino.

Samoa.

Now coming back to Voting Station number one, I continue, Bhutan.

Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Botswana.

Brunei Darussalam.

Bulgaria.

Canada.

Central African Republic.

China.

Cyprus.

Vatican.

Republic of Korea.

United Arab Emirates.

Continuing for Voting Station number 2.

Côte d'Ivoire.

Croatia.

Cuba.

Denmark.

Djibouti.

Dominican Republic.

Egypt.

El Salvador.

Ecuador.

Eritrea.

Spain.

Estonia.

Ethiopia.

Russian Federation.

Fiji.

Continuing with Voting Station number 3, Italy.

Jamaica.

Japan.

Lebanon.

Liechtenstein.

Lithuania.

Luxembourg.

Madagascar.

Malaysia.

Malawi.

Maldives.

Mali.

Malta.

Morocco.

Moldova.

Continuing with Voting Station number 4.

Libya.

Mauritius.

Mauritania.

Mexico.

Mongolia.

Montenegro.

Myanmar.

Oman.

Uganda.

Pakistan.

Panama.

Papua New Guinea.

Paraguay.

Netherlands.

Peru.

Continuing with Voting Station number 5.

Sao Tome and Principe.

Senegal.

Serbia.

Seychelles.

Sierra Leone.

Singapore.

Slovenia.

Somalia.

Sudan.

South Sudan.

Sri Lanka.

South Africa.

Sweden.

Switzerland.

Suriname.

Continuing with Voting Station 2, Finland.

Continuing with Voting Station number 3, Monaco.

Mozambique.

Namibia.

Nepal.

Nicaragua.

Niger.

Nigeria.

Norway.

New Zealand.

Continuing with Voting Station number 4, Portugal.

Continuing with Voting Station number 5, Swaziland.

Tajikistan.

Tanzania.

Chad.

Thailand.

Timor-Leste.

Togo.

Tonga.

Trinidad and Tobago.

Tunisia.

Turkmenistan.

Turkey.

Ukraine.

Uruguay.

Vanuatu.

Venezuela.

Vietnam.

Yemen.

Zambia.

Zimbabwe.

Chairman, this completes my first call of Member States present with the right to vote. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Can the Secretary of the Plenary. I now declare that the casting of ballots is closed. I ask the Tellers and the, and under the supervision of the tellers -- I'm sorry, we have to wait for the second call.

We'll wait.

(Pause.)

>> SECRETARY OF THE PLENARY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to call the countries with the right to vote that did not yet deposit their ballots. I will start with Voting Station number one and ask Afghanistan, Angola, Belize, Benin, Central African Republic.

Now, Mr. Chairman, moving to Voting Station number 2, Comoros, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia.

Moving to Voting Station number 3, Haiti, Madagascar, Malawi, Republic of Nepal.

Now moving to Voting Station number 4, Kiribati, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Libya, Panama.

And Mr. Chairman, as the votes are still being cast at Voting Station Number 5, I will come back in a moment and call those who have not yet voted at Voting Station Number 5. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary of the Plenary.

(Please stand by.)

>> SECRETARY OF THE PLENARY: Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to call the following Member States.

Syrian Arab Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Chairman, this completes my second and final call. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary of the Plenary.

(Please stand by for the Plenary to resume.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. I now declare that the casting of ballots is closed. This is official this time. I will ask the Tellers and ITU staff to please proceed to the green room with the ballot boxes.

Under the supervision of the tellers, in the Green Room, the ballot boxes will now be opened and the ballot papers counted.

The results will be announced as soon as they are available.

While the tellers are tabulating the votes, I propose that we take a 20-minute coffee break offered by Senegal.

So we will meet at 5 to 10 sharp. I will announce -- we will meet 5 to 10 sharp. When we return from the break we will continue with policy statements. After the election results are announced, I will propose that meetings of Committee 6 and Working Group Plenary will start while we continue with the policy statements in Plenary. We will take a 20-minute coffee break and come back at 5 to 10. I thank you again Senegal for providing the coffee break. We will take a 20-minute coffee break.

(Break.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen we will soon resume our Sixth Plenary Meeting. So please, take your seats.

As soon as you are seated, I will announce the exciting results of the election outcome.

Okay.

Please, put on your headsets.

Okay? Now we will resume our Sixth Plenary Meeting. First let me announce some changes on our schedule. Before the coffee break I proposed to have the meeting of Committee 6 and Working Group of Plenary to get along with this Plenary, but because of the room allocation problem we will meet, we will have this meeting of Committee 6 and Working Group Plenary at 11. Working Group Plenary will meet hereafter the Sixth Plenary Meeting. And Committee 6 will meet at Room B. Room B.

And we will finish our Plenary Session at 11 sharp and give the floor to the Working Group of the Plenary.

Now I am pleased to announce that the Tellers have completed their work. So now I will read the results.

First of all, I would like to thank the Tellers for their hard work. I have received two reports from the Tellers. One per election. And shall now proceed with the announcement of the result in the following order.

First, Secretary-General, second, Deputy Secretary General.

Now, I will read the Tellers' report on the election of Secretary-General.

Election of Secretary-General, first round. Ballot papers deposited, 156. Invalid ballot papers, zero. Abstentions, four. Delegations present and voting, 152.

Required majority, 77.

Mr. Houlin Zhao has received 152 volts and been elected as Secretary-General of the ITU.

Congratulations, Mr. Houlin Zhao!

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: As you see, Mr. Houlin from China has received the required majority and I officially declare him elected for the post of Secretary-General of ITU.

(Applause.) Mr. Zhao, would you like to take the floor to say a few words? You have the floor.

>> DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, dear colleagues and friends, ladies and gentlemen, I feel deeply moved that you have unanimously and enthusiastically elected me.

As the new Secretary-General of the ITU. Entrusting to me the honor of leading our beloved organization for the next four years.

I sincerely thank all of you for your confidence in me. At this happy moment, I would like to express my profound gratitude to the Government of China for presenting me my candidature. I would like to thank His Excellency Mr. Lihua Liu, Vice Minister of IIT of China, and to the Chinese Delegation, to this PP-14.

As well as to all Chinese friends who have worked very hard to promote my candidature over the last two years. I would like to thank all Delegates of ITU members, ITU Member States, sector members, associates, academies, experts and friends of ITU members and others. And to thank the ITU staff for their invaluable support and encouragement shown to me since my candidature was announced two years ago.

The last but not least, I would like to thank my dear wife who has always assisted me in serving the ITU. And is now here in this room, together with my son Peng, to support me in person.

(Applause.)

Thank you.

Thank you.

I thank you all. Mr. Chairman, at this special moment, please allow me to express my gratitude to the outgoing team of the ITU management. My first heartfelt tribute is to Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General. He has done his utmost to lead the ITU with many achievements. Over the last eight years he and I have enjoyed working together in an excellent relationship.

He is a great son of Africa and my life friend and brother. I wish him and his family all the best in the future.

(Applause.)

>> DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL: I would also like to express my gratitude to my colleague Directors, Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Director of TSB; Mr. Francois Rancy, Director of BR; and Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director of BDT. It has been a very enriching experience to work with them.

Mr. Chairman, ITU will celebrate the 150th anniversary next year. Over the last 150 years, ITU has demonstrated its ability to lead telecom ICT development in the world. Over the recent two years I have seen an ever-increasing support to ITU by our members and a very high expectation of ITU's role by ITU's friends and partners worldwide.

As newly elected Secretary-General, I would like to assure you I will do my best to fulfill ITU emission and through our close cooperation to make ITU deliver services to the global telecommunications and Information Society at the level of excellence.

So, Mr. Chairman, dear colleagues and friends, once again I present my sincere thanks to you all. And I count on you all for the brilliant future of ITU. The harmonized information era. Let us work together for common goals: Better communication, ICTs, a better life for all.

I thank you very, very much. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary-General elect, Mr. Zhao. Once again, congratulations.

Now, I will give the opportunity to the Government of China, followed by Dr. Touré, to deliver a few congratulatory remarks and will then announce the result for Deputy Secretary General. If there are any Member States wishing to take the floor to congratulate the newly elected, Secretary-General elect, you can do so after the announcement of the result of the Deputy Secretary General.

Now I would like to give the floor to China. China, you have the floor.

>> CHINA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dear Delegates, first of all we would like to extend warm congratulations to Mr. Houlin Zhao on his elect as Secretary-General of ITU. I would like to extend my profound gratitude to the support and trust that the Delegations and friends have given to Mr. Houlin Zhao.

(Applause.)

>> CHINA: The Chinese Delegation would like to extend regards to Mr. Hamadoun Touré. In the past eight years Mr. Touré has been making unremitting efforts to advance the global ICT sector as the Secretary-General of ITU. He also made significant achievements in realizing a connected world, improving the role of ICT as enabler of economic and social development which is laying the foundation for the Future Work of the new management team.

I believe that with the concerted support of all parties Mr. Houlin Zhao will lead the new management team of ITU to make concerted efforts, keep abreast of the times, better serve the memberships of the ITU and make positive contributions to enabling ITU to play a greater role in the global ICT sector.

China is willing to work with the Member States to support Mr. Houlin Zhao and the work of ITU for the common goal: Promoting the development of the global ICT sector and building a beautiful ITU society. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and all Delegates.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your congratulatory remarks. Now I give the floor to the current Secretary-General, Dr. Touré.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, let me say first of all to my very good friend Houlin Zhao, congratulations, congratulations.

(Applause.)

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: I will be handing over the flag of the Union to my very good friend, Houlin on December 31st never before a Secretary-General has been so well prepared for the job than Mr. Zhao.

I promise a professional handover to my successor, but I can safely say that we have been doing this handover for the past eight years. Never before had I had a colleague in this type of position where we have 100 percent of agreement on all of the issues. And, therefore, I would like to commend you, our membership, for the choice you have made in Mr. Zhao. It is the right choice. I personally believe in him and I believe the organization will be in very, very good hands. I should say in even better hands than they are today. Therefore, I will be leaving this organization with great hopes for the future of this union. This is a great moment in the history of this union, and I promise until December 31st we will continue to work together to make your wishes come true. Again, it is an opportunity also to thank, as Mr. Zhao did, my other colleagues from the management team: The Directors of BR, Francois Rancy; Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director of BDT; and Malcolm Johnson, Director of TSB. Together we work as one. They made my life easy.

And this is the choice you made in Mr. Zhao today is the testimony, the trust you have had in our team. I would like to thank you for that.

Again, my good friend, Houlin. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

>> DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you, Dr. Touré.

>> CHAIRMAN: Countries are asking for the floor, but I will allow after I announce the results of the election of the Deputy Secretary General. This is because of time management.

I will read the Tellers' report. Election of Deputy Secretary-General first round, ballot papers deposited, 156. Invalid ballot papers, zero. Abstentions, zero.

Delegations present and voting, 156.

Required majority, 79.

Ms. Fatimetou Mohamed-Saleck, 19 votes; Mr. Bruce Gracie, 27 votes, Mr. Shola Taylor, 30 votes; Ms. Magdalena Gaj, 38 votes; Mr. Malcolm Johnson, 42 votes.

As you see, no candidate has obtained the majority required for election in the first round. We will therefore propose to a second round of voting this afternoon, Thursday, 23 of October at 4:35. 4:35.

If a membership wishes to withdraw candidature, the Delegation must inform me in light of this decision no later than two hours prior to the next round which is 2:35 p.m.

2:35 p.m.

I will now open the floor to any Member States wishing to take the floor and to deliver congratulatory remarks to newly elected Secretary-General. In my guideline I ask you to provide this congratulatory remark on a regional basis. If you can deliver your remarks on a regional basis that will be highly appreciated. I don't want to be rude to the newly elected Secretary-General, but I already told you we will have Working Group Plenary meeting at 11. Please consider that when you ask for the floor for the congratulatory remark. You can have your chance in the afternoon session. Now I would like to give the floor to UAE. UAE, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Please allow me at the outset and on behalf of the UAE to present my congratulations to Mr. Zhao for having been elected to the position of Secretary-General. I wish him all success in the coming years. I would like you to know that the UAE will support you in your coming journey, Mr. Zhao, elected Secretary-General of the ITU. We will be working with you and with the elected group to ensure the success of the works of the ITU and to achieve the strategic objectives of the ITU. May God bless you and, once again, all our congratulations to you for much success. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, UAE. Now I give the floor to Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia, you have the floor.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. At the outset, I would like to profusely thank the Government of China for nominating Mr. Zhao to the position of Secretary-General and I would like to congratulate the Chinese Government and to Mr. Houlin Zhao for the trust he has obtained and to assume the role of Secretary-General of the ITU.

Mr. Zhao is well-known in this organization. He is the son of this organization, and the organization has in a sense given birth to him. Now he is holding the Reins of this organization. We wish him all the success and we will give you all the support you will need in your task so that you can accomplish and carry out the responsibilities of the ITU and achieve its objectives. Make this is the appropriate opportunity for me to profusely thank Dr. Hamadoun Touré, the current Secretary-General of the ITU. He will be departing at the end of this year and he has left an imprint of achievements during his heading of the ITU. Therefore, we thank him and present to him our appreciation and wish him much success in his future. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Saudi Arabia. Now I give the floor to Mali. Mali, you have the floor.

>> MALI: Thank you, Chairman. I would like to congratulate Mr. Zhao on his brilliant election to the position of Secretary-General and wish him every success for his Future Work.

We stand convinced that he will be capable of taking up this baton and carrying the ITU future as Hamadoun Touré has over the past few years. We would encourage him in every way. He can count on our support. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mali. Now I give the floor to Korea. Korea, you have the floor.

>> REPUBLIC OF KOREA: We would like to extend our congratulations to Mr. Houlin Zhao to be elected as the next Secretary-General of ITU. We believe with his excellent leadership, deep knowledge, warmth humanity he shall contribute to the further development of telecommunications and ICT for the world and the ITU.

As the host country of PP-14 we are also very honored to give birth to the new Secretary-General of ITU in Busan. Korean and Korea will fully support the newly elected Secretary-General of ITU. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Korea. Now I give the floor to Turkey. Turkey, you have the floor.

>> TURKEY: Thank you, dear Chairman. On behalf of the Turkish Delegation I would like to extend our warm congratulations to Mr. Zhao as being elected Secretary-General of the ITU. We will be sure with his rich background and experience he will lead ITU in an excellent way. We will continue to support him in his journey. He was elected in -- as the Deputy Secretary General and Secretary-General in Korea. Thank you very much. And we wish you success. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Turkey. Now I give the floor to India. India, you have the floor.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Chairman. We congratulate you, Mr. Zhao, on your outstanding success. We also congratulate the Government of India for the success for fielding a very competent candidate for this prestigious post. We wish Mr. Houlin Zhao all success. We appreciate the work done by Mr. Hamadoun Touré taking the ITU to this level. This opportunity we will also take to appreciate the judgment of all the Member States in electing such a competent candidate for this prestigious post. We wish you all the success in the future and you can count on our support. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, India. Now, I give the floor to the Philippines. Philippines, you have the floor.

>> PHILIPPINES: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Republic of the Philippines, may we be allowed to give a tribute to a great leader? The Philippines personally have had on several occasions related, cooperated in work with Mr. Zhao, the incoming Secretary-General. Those cooperations led to fruitful results, all to the best interest of ITU.

Countries of the world may have differences that at times is all for the better because plurality and ideas lead to one and the same singular truth.

In all of these global differences, ITU stands out as a unifying factor. And in Mr. Zhao we find unifying, a great leader who can and definitely will lead ITU and us to great heights. To Mr. Zhao personally my friend, please expect the Philippines' full support. Good luck, sir. More power and success. Again, congratulations.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Philippines. Now I give the floor to Argentina. Argentina, you have the floor.

>> ARGENTINA: Thank you, Chairman. We, Argentina, would like to congratulate Dr. Houlin Zhao on his brilliant election. Very warm wishes to him, and he can count on our support for the forthcoming years.

On behalf of the Americas Region we would also like to strengthen the links which we have been building with the ITU.

We also look would like to congratulate Dr. Hamadoun Touré and thank him for all his dedication over the course of the past few years. Argentina is very grateful to you and to the Union. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Argentina. Now I give the floor to Mexico, followed by United States. Mexico, you have the floor.

>> MEXICO: Thank you very much, Chairman. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mexico, we would like to express a full measure of support for Dr. Zhao. We will be fully involved in and support his work. Latin America is playing an increasing role given the major changes which are taking place in our region. So we offer him all our support. Mexico will stand at his side throughout his work. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mexico. I have six countries in my list. United States, Morocco, Pakistan, Indonesia, Iran, Zambia. I don't want to close the list, but I think I should because the first thing the current Secretary-General and Secretary-General elected are concerned is the work of ITU. We should give the room to the Working Group of the Plenary at 11. I close this list of speakers with Zambia. I give the floor to the United States. United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. First I would like to extend our thanks to Dr. Touré for his hard work and his leadership. On behalf of the United States of America I extend my sincere congratulations to you, Mr. Zhao, on being elected the 19th Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union. It is an incredibly exciting time in telecommunications. With your leadership, the United States will work with the rest of the membership to ensure that the ITU continues to perform its vital functions and that we as a world come together in order to ensure the connection of all our people. Congratulations on your election. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, United States. Now I give the floor to Morocco. Morocco, you have the floor.

>> MOROCCO: Thank you, Chairman. On behalf of the Kingdom of Morocco, I would like sincerely to thank Mr. Zhao for his brilliant election to the post of Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union. His unanimous election demonstrates from all of us that we wish to elect him. And Morocco will support him fully.

I also want to take this opportunity to reiterate our admiration for the outgoing Secretary-General, Mr. Touré, for the enormous amount of work which he's carried out in this organization. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Even though I close the list of speakers, countries are asking the floor. So let me do it again this time. This time I really close the list of speakers. I have countries Pakistan, Indonesia, Iran, Zambia, Poland, South Africa, Kuwait, Malaysia and U.K. Then I close this list of speakers. List of speakers is closed. So I was finished with the U.K.

Pakistan, you have the floor.

>> PAKISTAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Government of Pakistan I would like to first congratulate Mr. Houlin Zhao for his election as Secretary-General. I would like to congratulate the whole membership who made this excellent choice. We are confident that he will carry on the tremendous work undertaken by Dr. Touré in his last two tenures. And our work together will continue in the full spirit of collaboration, inclusiveness and openness. In the end I would like to exclusively thank Dr. Touré for whatever he has done for the ITU and he has set a new benchmark. We are confident that it will be exceeded by Mr. Zhao. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Pakistan. Now I give the floor to Indonesia. Indonesia, you have the floor.

>> INDONESIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, I would like to congratulate Mr. Houlin Zhao for his election as the new Secretary-General. We would like to express our sincere support to you, managing the ITU. We believe with your leadership you can handle all of the challenges we will be facing in the years to come.

I would also like to express our thanks to Dr. Hamadoun Touré who has made this ITU a leading U.N. specialized agency like never before. Thank you to both of you, and thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Iran, you have the floor.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to express our sincere thanks and congratulations to Mr. Houlin Zhao for his very successful selection as the Secretary-General. We would like also to take this opportunity to thank the out coming Secretary-General, Mr. Touré, Dr. Hamadoun Touré for his excellent work for the Union. We are very proud that both candidates, outgoing and the new Secretary-General have always been very thoughtful and cooperative for all countries of the region, in particular the Developing Countries of the Union.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Iran. Now I give the floor to Zambia. Zambia, you have the floor.

>> ZAMBIA: To Dr. Touré, we say good luck. You leave the check with applause in your ears. Yes, you left the family of ITU, but I'm sure as Africa will count on your good experience to do more for the continent. Dr. Zhao, thank you very much for coming to here. We pledge our support to you. Despite the fact that you are the only candidate, you also had unanimous support. Thank you, sir.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Zambia. Poland, you have the floor.

>> POLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. However, this is not Poland. This is CEPT, the European regional organization. On behalf of Europe I would like to express congratulations to the newly elected Secretary-General, Mr. Houlin Zhao. We are confident he will succeed reply lead the organization in the future under your able leadership. I can promise that Europe will continue to contribute positively to the works of ITU. Secondly, we would like to express our appreciation for the outgoing Secretary-General, Dr. Hamadoun Touré. We acknowledge the enormous work you have done. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, CEPT. Now, I give the floor to Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe, you have the floor.

>> ZIMBABWE: Thank you very much, Mr. President. On behalf of the African Group and on behalf of Zimbabwe as well, I would also want to extend my congratulations to the new Secretary-General of the ITU, Mr. Houlin Zhao, for being elected into that position. Let me also congratulate all the Delegates for making such a wise decision because it ensures continuity of the good work that has been done by the entire team being led by Dr. Touré.

This continuation of the good work ensures success of all the nations of the world because of, as I say, institutional memory and other good things that the team has been doing together.

We wish you well in your challenging job and also, Dr. Touré, we wish you well in your new endeavors. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Zimbabwe. Now I give the floor to South Africa. South Africa, you have the floor.

>> SOUTH AFRICA: Thank you, Chairperson. South Africa also would like to congratulate Dr. Zhao for the overwhelming victory to the position of Secretary-General. We are confident that your experience will take the ITU to greater heights.

We would like to assure you of our unwavering continuing support. Lastly, let me take this opportunity once more to recognize the great work done by outgoing secretary, the doctor from Mali. Chair Chairman thank you very much. Even though I closed the list of speakers, the list is growing. So I think this is a time of celebration, we should celebrate this good occasion and give the floor to deliver congratulatory remarks to Mr. Zhao. So I will take the liberty as Chairman to give a second chance to you.

On my list now I have Kuwait, Malaysia, U.K., Egypt, Lebanon, Oman, Tunisia, Tunis, Russia. We have only ten minutes. I will give one minute to each. And Switzerland and Israel. This is really the last. So I will give only minutes to each of you. Please be brief. I give the floor to Kuwait.

>> KUWAIT: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I would like to congratulate Mr. Zhao on his election to the position of Secretary-General of the ITU.

And I express to him the full support and appreciation of the Government and state of Kuwait. And we are ready in the future to work with him in order to face all kinds of challenges and anything that has to do with the ITU and its membership. I present to him the invitation to visit Kuwait in order to cooperate and ensure the common work together in the future. I call upon all the participants to celebration organized this evening by the state of Kuwait. Congratulations once again. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I correct that 40 minutes to each speaker, that really showed my scale. It's 40 seconds and now I reduce that to 30 seconds. I invite Malaysia followed by Egypt -- followed by U.K. Malaysia, you have the floor.

>> MALASIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our dear Mr. Zhao, Malaysia is thrilled for you. And we look forward to working with you and your team in the coming four years. We also congratulate China for this thumping support. Dr. Touré, you have our deepest appreciation for the tremendous effort you have made as Secretary-General. Hamadoun, we wish you only the best for your post ITU adventures. And the biggest -- we can offer you. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: UK, you have the floor.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Chairman, it's very clear Mr. Zhao will continue the enormous commitment to the Union and his dedication to effective delivery of ICT and to bridging the global digital divide is very clear. We congratulate him on his election and salute Dr. Touré.

The first time I talked to Dr. Zhao in Geneva, we talked about his plans for advancing children's education around the world through ICT. We are confident he will carry on and continue the excellent work of the ITU leadership. We look forward to supporting him and working with him. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, U.K. Now I give the floor to Egypt. Egypt, you have the floor.

>> EGYPT: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. On behalf of the Government of Egypt I would like to congratulate Mr. Zhao for this great victory during these last elections.

And we would like to emphasize that we will always support him and look forward to working with him in his leadership of the ITU. I would like to seize this opportunity to present the words of thanks to Dr. Hamadoun Touré for having led the ITU and for the great achievements during the past eight years in leading the ITU and he has left a strong imprint in the ITU and in the consciousness of Egypt. Therefore, we present you our words of thanks and congratulations. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Now I give the floor to Lebanon. Lebanon, you have the floor.

>> LEBANON: Thank you, Chairman. I would like firstly to thank you, Chairman, for the way in which you've managed this election session. On behalf of my country, the members of the Lebanese Delegation here and in my own capacity, I would like to congratulate Houlin Zhao, the new Secretary-General elect.

We know Mr. Zhao very well. He has visited Lebanon on a number of occasions. We have excellent relations. We assure him then of Lebanon's full measure of support for his Future Work activities and strategies.

Concerning the outgoing Secretary-General, Hamadoun Touré, we are extremely grateful for his work. The votes which Mr. Zhao has garnered this morning is an undeniable sign of confidence that all the states have placed in him. However, there's a great responsibility here as well. I wish you every success. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lebanon. Please, check the French interpretation channel. I heard that French interpretation channel is not working. It is fine now? Okay.

I just think I lost my authority as Chairman. The list is keeping -- it keeps growing. But I think this is a moment of indulgence. But this will be the final. This will be the final.

(Laughter.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Now I have Oman, Tunis, Samoa, Russia, Israel, APT, Switzerland, Gabon, Burkina Faso and Costa Rica. I asked the technicians to close the list so I cannot see the screen. This is final. If you want to make congratulatory remarks, please do it in the afternoon session. Please, please. I know how you feel, but this is time that we just bring some kind of -- I don't want to use the word sanity, but we have to work. We have to work. I just want to close this list of speakers here with Costa Rica.

With that, I'm give the floor to Oman. Oman, you have the floor.

>> OMAN: On behalf the Government of the Sultanate of Oman, we want to congratulate Mr. Zhao as Secretary-General and wish him much success in his mission. We would like to will congratulate Dr. Hamadoun Touré for all the achievements he made during his leadership of the ITU and during the 16 years he worked for the ITU.

We also present our support to Dr. Zhao during his leadership of the ITU. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: I give the floor to Tunisia. You have the floor.

>> TUNISIA: We would like to associate ourselves with the preceding speakers in congratulating Dr. Zhao on his brilliant election as the Secretary-General elect of the International Telecommunication Union. There could be no better transfer of authority from Mr. Touré, who has marked with his print the history of the international telecommunications union. Mr. Zhao, who has been following very closely all the achievements in the International Telecommunication Union. We would like to thank Dr. Touré. Africa is proud of you, Dr. Touré. We wish every success to Mr. Zhao and assure him of the full support of Tunisia. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Tunisia. I give the floor to Russia. Russia, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Distinguished Chairman, thank you for giving me this opportunity on behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation and all members of our Delegation, and my perfectly personally, to congratulate Dr. Houlin Zhao on his election as Secretary-General. We supported his candidature from the very beginning and assure him of our further support at his new post for the wellbeing of all countries of the world and improving life through ICTs.

We would like to thank Dr. Hamadoun Touré during his term of office there has been the greatest growth in use of ICTs in the history of mankind. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Russian. Now I give the floor to Israel. You have the floor.

>> ISRAEL: Mr. Chairman, Israel would like to warmly congratulate dear Mr. Zhao for his election as Secretary-General. We are confident he will lead the ITU to great achievements. We look forward to a fruitful collaboration and will give him our full support.

Dr. Touré, we would like to thank you for your enormous dedication and great leadership. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Israel. Now I give the floor to APT. This is an extraordinary case. Normally we do not give floor to the observers in front of the Member States, but I think this is an extraordinary situation. So I will give the floor any way to APT. APT, you have the floor.

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. In this auspicious moment of transition our management team of ITU, I as Chairman of APT grope, express our immense pleasure and congratulations to Mr. Houlin Zhao on his election as the new Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union. With Mr. Zhao as the new Secretary-General, and seamless transition of the top management of ITU in the very interest of the International Telecommunication Union and the membership and most importantly the telecommunications and ICT sector as a whole. We fully supported Mr. Zhao and it was in an endeavor to promote the ICT sector as a whole. We wish Mr. Zhao every success in his endeavors and taking forward in this tradition of ITU that Dr. Touré has taken forward so long, and of the new Secretary-General Mr. Zhao. Once again we wish Mr. Zhao great success and express our best wishes for the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, APT. Now I give the floor to Switzerland. Switzerland, you have the floor.

>> SWITZERLAND: Thank you, Chairman. The Swiss confederation wishes to congratulate Mr. Houlin Zhao for his brilliant election to the post of Secretary-General of the ITU as a member of the Union and as the host country of that union we are delighted that we will continue our fruitful cooperation with Mr. Zhao, cooperation which now has lasted more than 20 years.

We should also like to offer our heart-felt thanks to Mr. Touré for his commitment during his eight years at the head of the ITU, Hamadoun, you are a visionary and your work has contributed to a more equitable Information Society.

>> CHAIRMAN: I give the floor to Gabon. Gabon, you have the floor.

>> GABON: I should like on behalf of the Government of Gabon to take this opportunity to warmly congratulate Mr. Zhao for his brilliant election to the post of Secretary-General of the ITU. After these many years as Deputy Secretary General with Hamadoun Touré, we hope that he will be able to pursue the work of his predecessor. We can assure Mr. Zhao of Gabon's full support and hope that he will join us at the regulators meeting which will be held in Gabon in 2015.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I give the floor to Japan. Japan, you have the floor.

>> JAPAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We also congratulate Mr. Zhao as the newly elected Secretary-General. APT is proud of you. We wish you every success in your coming days. You can count on our continued support as always.

We also thank Dr. Hamadoun Touré for his dedicated efforts and achievements for ITU. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Japan. Now I give the floor to Burkina Faso. Burkina Faso, you have the floor.

>> BURKINA FASO: Burkina Faso would like to offer its warmest congratulations to Mr. Zhao for his election to lead the work of the ITU. We also would like to congratulate Mr. Hamadoun Touré for his devotion and commitment to the cause of the ITU. Mr. Zhao, when we had the forum on best practices in 2013, as you remember, you talked with us about what needs to be done to reduce the digital divide between the rich and the poor countries. I wish you all success in your work because this divide is still a huge one: We are sure your indefatigable work will move forward the cause of bridging it.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: The last country for this morning's congratulatory remarks is Costa Rica. Costa Rica, you have the floor.

>> COSTA RICA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Central American Group, the Central American Telecommunications Association, we welcome the election of Mr. Zhao as Secretary-General of the Union. We consider Mr. Zhao a great friend of our region. And remain convinced that that friendship will be continued and that we will continue to work together and, of course, are available for anything he may need us for in the future. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. That will end the congratulatory remarks to the newly elected Secretary-General.

And when we will meet again for the seventh Plenary meeting in the afternoon, I will give the chance again to the floor to make congratulatory remarks to Secretary-General elect.

Now we will move back to the agenda and our next Agenda Item is general policy statements. Apparently we do not have time. We will reorganize these general policy statements in the following Plenary Sessions.

And next item is other business. So this afternoon we will meet at 4:00 p.m. for the seventh Plenary meeting and I will give 35 minutes for congratulatory remarks to the newly elected Secretary-General.

Then at 4:35 we will do the second round of voting for DSG. And I will just want to remind up once again, among the candidates, if you withdraw your candidature, please let me know by 2:35. 2:35 p.m. And just after this Plenary meeting, Working Group of Plenary will meet in this room A. Committee 6 will meet in Room B. Room B.

Having said that, I just want to deliver my personal congratulatory remarks to the newly elected Mr. Zhao. As a member of an APT country we are really proud of you. We will provide full support during your tenure as the Secretary-General of ITU. Once again, congratulations.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Now, the meeting is adjourned.

(The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.)

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