ITU WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2017
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

OCTOBER 9, 2017
12:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME

PLENARY – ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

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>> Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, may I invite you to
take your seats. We would like to begin the first Plenary. May
I invite the elected officials to come to the podium. Thank
you. Ladies and gentlemen, may I ask you to please take your
seats. We will begin the first Plenary immediately. Thank you.
>> It is a pleasure to host the first Plenary session of
the World Telecommunication Development Conference, so I would
like to invite the Secretary-General of the ITU to present the
agenda to us of this first Plenary session, Mr. Zhao, you have
the floor, please.
>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, let
me take a this moment to express our sincere thanks to the
Ministers, minister of foreign affairs, for the wonderful
Opening Ceremony.
Ladies and gentlemen, I'm very pleased to present to you
the agenda of this first Plenary, as published in our ADM No. 4.
As you know, the agenda has been reviewed several times by the
meetings informal meetings last night and formal meeting this
morning. Anyway, I would like to present this to you.
>> Thank you very much, Mr. Zhao. I'm going to move to the
second item of the agenda, which is the election of the Chairman
of the conference. I'd like to give the floor once again to the
Secretary-General so he can put forward his proposal. Thank

you.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to ITU rules and procedures, we would like to invite the host country to present a candidate to be the chairman of the conference. I'm very pleased to receive a proposal from the delegation of Argentina to propose Mr. Oscar Martin Gonzalez, Undersecretary of Regulation of the Ministry of Modernization as our chairman of the conference.

I submit this for your formal approval. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Good morning, Mr. Secretary-General, Mr. Houlin Zhao, Mr. Secretary-General, Malcolm Johnson, directors of the Development Standardization and Radio Communication sectors of the ITU, Mr. Brahima Sanou, Mr. Chaesub Lee, and Mr. Hansai.

Ministers, authorities ladies and gentlemen, delegates, Sector Members, and academia. Let me begin by conveying my sincere gratitude to all of you for electing me to chair this global conference. I would like to thank the government of my country and in particular, His Excellency, the Minister of Modernization, who have placed their faith in me to carry out this important role. Furthermore, I would like to work with all of you collectively during this conference, which surely will foster equitable development of our societies through these and access to information communication technologies.

I'd also like to welcome you to my country, Argentina, which today is put forward to you, as it has done always in the past, as a very diverse and pluralistic country in which side-by-side, peacefully and in harmony, there live melting pots of different ethnic and cultural peoples who work together to uphold their identity but also working to live in peace with a national territory of more than 3 million square kilometers from Patagonia and also the area and the overgrowing falls and the vastness of the Humahuaca Ravine in the north, this global conference ratifies once again the strong commitment that Argentina has with ITU and with different aspects of organization.

And as Minister Ibarra says, it commits itself by the President Mauricio Macri to put Argentina very firmly in the national committee. During this conference, we'll work on communication and information technologies as a tool towards achieving the agenda 2030 for sustainable development. This encompasses 17 Sustainable Development Objectives adopted by the United Nations in 2015.

Throughout history, technological revolutions and industrial change have played a critical role in the social, cultural, and economic development of a country perhaps -- I apologize if I'm just taking a moment to look back on this. The most critical point of this current paradigm of technological

change in the area of ICTs is a transformation of this change itself. It is not only by the change of progressive innovation, innovation above others, but really about profound changes from which new social, cultural, and economic paradigms can emerge, networks, Internet access to broadband connectivity have made it possible to overcome distances. Knowledge and information are at a lightning speed.

The 21st Century, as we have said, is a century of absolute speed. The world, in this fashion, has now become a village. We find ourselves in a new Industrial Revolution, the time of the digital economy

Information and communication technologies are, are therefore, absolutely critical to develop new ways of efficient and competitive production, to eliminate hunger and poverty, to reduce inequalities, to develop systems of education and health, which are of good quality, to contribute towards gender empowerment and to have inclusive, safe, and sustainable cities, and also an important role for climate change and to combat this.

All of this through close partnerships, committing all of us, the public sector, the private sector, Civil Society, and academia. The paradigm of sustainable development is the alternative which allows us to redefine how we approach things, to reconfigure economic and social models, and to all intake technology use towards developing a more balanced and fair world. Through the Sustainable Development Goals, we must foster incorporation and the use and access to communication and information technologies. With this in mind, to foster inclusion of development and collusion of life whilst respecting diversity.

So as our Secretary-General mentioned, more than half of the inhabitants of our planet still don't have access to networks and broadband access, may remain excluded from the Internet and from the benefits and challenges of the economic digital economy. This situation generates even inequality and exclusion and can even be exacerbated if we don't work together in order to reverse the current imbalances.

Likewise, many sec sectors of the global population have access to network connectivity to the Internet, but they don't have sufficiently good enough broadband in order to have a full insertion in production and generating worth of the new digital economy. Both problems can worsen and are even more critical in developing countries and the least developing countries.

And these are the challenges which all of us face, either -- to some degree, as we are responsible to put in place policies and to have in place good policies on information and communication technologies. And this really is the crux and the

critical part of our conference, that Member States, Sector Members, and academia will all work together to underscore the work for the years to come of ITU and the development sector. We commit to universalize access to ICTs for those communities who are -- do not have access to contribute to reduce the digital divide and to expand the -- the digital economy for progress for all of our societies.

Finally, before we just move forward with our agenda which we have for today's Plenary session, I would like to invite you to address the challenges with commitment and enthusiasm. I would also like to emphasize to work, all of us together, to really focus our best endeavors on the objectives which we have put forward for this conference. Always looking and always prioritizing the interests which join us together and address these in a framework of tolerance and respect for diversity. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

>> Now I would like to move forward with Agenda Item 5 of today's agenda, which is the election of the vice chairman of the conference. I would like to give the floor to the director of the BDT, Mr. Brahima Sanou, to present the proposal to us. Thank you.

>> BRAHIMA SANOU: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and again (Off microphone) as the Secretary-General said, we are all at your disposal to make this conference a great success. For the vice chairmanship of the conference, I would like again to thank the recommendations to coordinate for all the presiding officers of this conference and particularly for the Plenary. There are six Vice Chairmen that were proposed and discussed at the earlier meeting this morning. The proposals are Sam Kundishora from Zimbabwe, Jeffereson Fued Nacif from Brazil, Nasser Almarzouqi from UAE, Mr. Charles Punaha from Papua New Guinea, Mr. Rashid Ismailov from Russian Federation, and Mr. Paulius Vaina from Lithuania. These are the Vice Chairmen that have been proposed for the conference.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Director. I would like to know if are any comments from the floor on this proposal. Seeing none, therefore, the proposal for the vice chairmanship of the conference is accepted.

(Applause)

The next agenda item of the Plenary is the approval of the agenda which can be found in Document DOC/1. Once again, I ask Mr. Brahima Sanou to present this proposal. Thank you.

>> BRAHIMA SANOU: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Document 1 is the agenda for the full two-weeks conference. This agenda is part of the paperwork sent to all the countries to come to this meeting here, so I submit it, Mr. Chairman, to

the assembly, the conference, for consideration and adoption.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Director. If there are no requests for the floor, I understand that the agenda of the conference is adopted. I'd just like to say that this agenda has been discussed at length in the proprietary meetings and informal and formal meetings of the Heads of Delegation.

Seeing no requests for the floor, therefore, we will adopt the agenda for the World Telecommunication Development Conference-17.

The next agenda item refers to the structure of the conference. This can be found in Document DT/2. I would like to give the floor to the Director of the Development Sector to present this document. Thank you.

>> BRAHIMA SANOU: Thank you very much, again, Mr. Chairman. The conference will be structured into five committees. This Structure was prepared through the regional meetings, the other delegation meetings this morning, so proposal draft committee -- the steering committees that comprises all the chairs and vice chairs of the conference and the committees. Our Committee 2, Budget Control; Committee 3, Objectives; Committee 4, ITU-D Working Methods; Committee 5, Editorial Committee, and the Working Group of the Plenary on contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023 and WTDC Declaration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Director. I would like to present you with comments on this proposal, if there are any. Seeing none, therefore, the structure of the conference is approved.

The next agenda item is the Draft Time Management Plan. I'm just translating this as I go, so I hope that's correct. This is Document ADM/2. Mr. Brahima Sanou, could you please present this document.

>> BRAHIMA SANOU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Draft Time Management Plan is published. You can see on this Time Management Plan, we use a color code to distinguish the different parts of the Time Management Plan, and what we see as blue or green are the side events. The deep purple are the Plenaries, white are the committees and Working Group sessions, and the light yellow is the high-level segment and we also have green, the -- on the 11th of October, this is the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the ITU-D. So I submit that to you for consideration and approval. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Director. Are there any comments on this? Seeing no requests for the floor, therefore, I consider the Time Management Plan approved.

The next topic of the agenda is Agenda Item 9, proposals for the election of the chairmen and Vice Chairmen of committees

and Working Group of the Plenary. I'll now give the floor to
Mr. Brahima Sanou to present this proposal to us. Thank you.
        >> BRAHIMA SANOU: Thank you very much, again, Mr. Chairman.
After consultation with the support of the international
communication organizations, we are in a position to propose the
following. For Committee 2 -- of course, Committee 1 will be --
will comprise all the chairmen and the vice chair of the
committees. Committee 2, the Budget Control, Chairman,
Ms. Helena Fernandes from Mozambique; the Vice Chairmen,
Mr. Santiago Reyes from Canada, Mr. Facal Bayouli from Tunisia,
Mr. Yoshiaki Nagaya from Japan, Mr. Nazim Jafarov from
Azerbaijan, Mr. Anders Jonsson from Sweden.
        Committee 3, Objectives, Chair, Mr. Ahmad Reza Sharafat
from Iran; Vice Chairmen, Mr. Mustapha Babagana from Nigeria,
Mr. Stephen Bereaux from the Bahamas, Mr. Mustafa Abdelhafiz
from Sudan, Mr. Almaz Tilenbaev from Kyrgyzstan, and Ms. Blanca
Gonzalez from Spain.
        Committee 4, ITU-D Working Methods, Chairman, Mr. Majed
Mazyed from Saudi Arabia; Vice Chairmen, Ms. Regina Fleur
Assoumou from Cote d'Ivoire, Mr. Enrique Antonio Rosales
Osegueda from El Salvador, Mr. Kishore Babu GSC Yerraballa from
India, Ms. Umida Musaeva from Uzbekistan, Mr. Dietmar Plesse
from Germany, and Mr. Adel Darwish from Bahrein.
        For Committee 5, the Editorial Committee, Chairman is Ms.
Hassina Laredj from Algeria; Vice Chairmen, Sameera Belal Momen
Mohammad from Kuwait, Mr. Gulolei Cai from China, Ms. Marie
Humeau from the UK, Mr. Vladimir Minkin from Russian Federation,
and Mr. Hector Carrillo Morales from Mexico.
        Working Group of the Plenary, Chairman Fabio Bigi, from
Italy; Vice Chairmen, Ms. Ingrid Poni from South Africa, Khloud
Aldosari from Qatar, Ms. Eunice Lim from Singapore, and Ms.
Sahiba Gasanova.
        Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
        >> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Director. I would like to invite
you to provide any comments on this proposal. Are there any
comments? I see none. I understand that there is broad support
for this proposal. So let's welcome both the Chairmen of the
conference and the Vice Chairmen of the committees and the
Working Group of the Plenary. Thank you very much.
        Agenda Item 10 refers to the in-conference translation
deadlines, classification and distribution of documents. This
can be found in Document ADM/3. I'd like to give the floor to
the Director of the Development Sector to present this document.
Thank you.
        >> BRAHIMA SANOU: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.
Again, we are -- the documents will be translated in Geneva.
For this, it is proposed that all documents that are requested

are required to submit it the day before -- the day after --
should be submitted the day before at 10:00 p.m. in the evening
at the latest to give us time to move the translation into six
languages and make the document available the next day for
consideration. This is about the deadline for the translation
used in the conference. I don't know if I should go over the
other items. At your disposal.

>> CHAIR: Yes, please, if you could continue the other
items.

>> BRAHIMA SANOU: (Off microphone) the ITU-D application.
That is available on Mac platform or PC platform and AS
platform, so it is proposed that this conference, because -- the
reason to give just a proposal or contribution coming to this
conference, it is proposed to limit the first contributions of
the contribution of this meeting to limit the new contributions
coming in at the 12th of October at 1430, 12th of October at
2:30 p.m. in the afternoon. After that, we should not be
receiving any new contributions, just working on the
contributions we received. This is the proposal submitted to
this Plenary for consideration, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Are there any comments on this document? Seeing
none, therefore, the document on the proposal is approved.

moving on to Agenda Item 11, the Composition of the
conference Secretariat. I'd like to ask the director of the
development sector to present the proposal. Thank you.

>> BRAHIMA SANOU: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If
you'll allow me, I would like to come back to mention one point
that is important, which is, first, the presence of the press
and the public in the meeting of the conference, so here we have
-- it is proposed that the public and the press be accepted to
all the Plenary sessions of Committee 2 -- excuse me --
Committee 3, Committee 4, and the Working Group of the Plenary,
and other sessions would be not accessible to public.

The second item on Document ADM/3 I ran through.

>> CHAIR: United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am simply
asking a question, and the question is was the extension for
contributions of documents discussed at the Heads of Delegation
meeting? Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I would like the
Secretariat to reply on this point in particular.

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As
proposed by the Director that he presented a few minutes ago,
the proposal to -- to be submitted to this Plenary to set a
deadline for submissions of the documents through the next
Thursday, the 12th of October, at 2:30 p.m., so I'm reading what
the Director said. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: The United States, does this meet your concerns? Is this sufficient?

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I would note that several Heads of Delegation are not in this meeting room at this point, and I'm just a little concerned that it wasn't brought up with the Heads of Delegation in the Heads of Del Meeting. I'm certainly not objecting, but I just think that it's a little bit out of the ordinary to bring something like this up to the whole conference as opposed to the Heads of Delegations. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Now I'll give the floor to the Director of the Development Sector, Mr. Sanou.

>> BRAHIMA SANOU: Thank you very much. We have the Heads of Delegation meeting earlier, but it's my recollection that this point was raised during the Heads of Delegation meeting, and there were no objections and were addressed by the Heads of Delegation. This occurred at the meeting this morning. So let me -- it was proposed at the earlier Delegation meeting. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Director. We'll take into account the comment. There's been no objection to it, and if there is no objection, we can, therefore, move on with our agenda, with the next agenda item.

We were discussing it Agenda Item 11 of our agenda, the Composition of the Conference Secretariat. I'll give the floor to the director of the Development Sector, Mr. Sanou.

We're just going to go back to Agenda Item 10 so that the Director of the Development Sector can talk about the distribution and allocation of documents.

>> BRAHIMA SANOU: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. For the allocation of the documents, ADM/3, this is where it was proposed at the informal Heads of Delegation meeting that -- we had some comments taken into account. It was presented to the Heads of Delegation meeting this morning, so I'm submitting to this Plenary for consideration. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Director. Much are there any comments or concerns on this item. Seeing none, therefore, documents under Agenda Item 10 are thereby approved.

So coming back to Agenda Item 11 regarding the Composition of the Conference Secretariat, I would like to ask Mr. Brahima Sanou to present this to us.

>> BRAHIMA SANOU: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. To support you, I'm to support this -- and to support this conference in its deliberation, it is proposed the secretary of the conference, Mr. Houlin Zhao; the executive secretary of the conference, Brahima Sanou, myself; the conference coordinator, Mr. Yushi Torigoe; the secretary of the Plenary Meeting and

Committee, Mr. Bruno Ramos; the Committee 2, Budget Control, Mr. Alassane Ba; Committee 3, Objectives, Ms. Eun-Ju Kim; and the Working Group on the Plenary ITU-D Strategic Plan and Declaration, Mr. Comas Zavazava; and the legal adviser of the conference, Mr. Arnaud Guillot.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Director, for providing this information. I think all of us received this satisfactorily. Therefore, we'll now move on to the next agenda item, which is the working hours of the conference. I would like to invite the Director of the Development Sector to present this information to us.

>> BRAHIMA SANOU: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It is suggested the formal working hours from Monday-Thursday from 9:30 to 10:30 and from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. On Friday we start at 9:00, we finish at 12:00, and start in the afternoon at 2:30 and finish at 5:30 p.m. These are the working hours report for this conference. I thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Director. So we're coming to the last topic of our agenda. Any other business? I would like to invite the director of the development sector to present us any relevant information pertinent to this agenda item. Thank you.

>> BRAHIMA SANOU: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. For this conference, we are going to have captioning that will be proven to be very useful. It will be providing captioning for the meetings of the Plenaries, committees, and Working Group of the Plenary and for the Heads of Delegation meeting scheduled next week. The meeting will be webcast for the Plenary committees and the Working Group of the Plenary. Of course, interpretation is in the six languages for the committee, the Plenary, and the Working Group Plenary and the Heads of Delegation meeting next week. And we have also in addition to what I mentioned now the ITU-D -- ITU-D events application. Please use this application. It is a compliment to the (Off microphone). With this application, you can have all the documents of the conference on your smartphone or tablets, on your computer. You can look at them at any time, so this is a very, very good application, and also this application can access to other resources of ITU-D, so this information at this point in time given to the delegates of this conference. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Sanou, for that information, and I'd like to give the floor to the Secretary of the Plenary to present some announcements to us.

>> SECRETARY: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to kindly encourage you to stay in the room should your time

commitments allow you for that because just after this Plenary, we are going to have satellite and SDGs Making a Difference here in this room from 12:35 to 1:00 p.m. The satellite association will present the role of satellite operators in contribution to 2030 objectives. Also, the Argentinean Modernization Plan we have here in this room from 5:30 to 5:50 in Room Pacifico, and the Honorable Minister Andres Ibarra will present the country's national plan, and for finishing, Mr. Chairman, we will have right now, after this, the government of Uganda is hosting a standing lunch for Heads of Delegation in the foyer from 1:30 to 2:30. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Ramos. So we've adopted the agenda for this first Plenary session. I would like to thank the delegates for their support and to thank the Ministers and national authorities for being here and also to the ITU elected officials who have been here with us today.

Having approved all agenda items, could you please lift your -- Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I apologize, there seems to be some technical issues that I'm sure are going to be resolved shortly. First and foremost, to congratulate you on your appointment as the chairman of this conference and to express Canada's commitment to work closely with you for a very successful outcome.

Mr. Chairman, this is a question related to some of the organizational matters, and it relates to requests that Canada would place in terms of anticipating that we will have ad hoc meetings, particularly stemming from Committees 3, 4, and from the Working Group of the Plenary, and to the extent possible, try to avoid duplication of those meetings because some delegations, of course, have a reduced number of participants, and I know that we have had this issue in the past, and most of the time it has been successfully resolved. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Canada. The -- the idea of the conference is to make all the endeavors possible to avoid duplication and to address substantive issues in the sessions which aren't side-by-side. On the other hand, I want to bring to your attention so we have a more dynamic and friendly conference that we try to address concerns in the committees and, thereby, avoiding having working groups which would then impede the participation of countries which may have smaller delegations. I would like to thank you for raising this but also for giving me the opportunity to appeal to all of you to work collaboratively on this.

As I was saying previously, all of the agenda items have been approved for today's session. I would like to thank all of

you, and we will see one another at the next Plenary session at 2:30 this afternoon. Thank you.
        (Applause)
        (Session concluded at 12:58 p.m.)

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