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>> CHAIR: Ladies and gentlemen, can I please ask you to take your seats, so that we continue with the second part of this high level segment this afternoon.

Good afternoon. Welcome to this third plenary session, the high level segment. As we did in the previous session, I'd like to remind you of the importance of keeping to the time which has been allocated to each participant to share with us your points of view.

With this I would like to begin by giving the floor to His Excellency, Mr. Dauren Abayev, Minister of Information and Communication from Kazakhstan. You have the floor.

>> DAUREN ABAYEV: Conference participants, Chair, ladies and gentlemen, on my behalf and on behalf of the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, I thank the organizers for the warm welcome and would like to tell but the main opportunities for developing telecommunications in my country. Developing ICT infrastructure is strategically important for series of reasons. First the vast territory of our country, it's the ninth biggest in the world. Secondly, we don't have access to an ocean.

Thirdly, there is a low population density and it is distributed sporadically between cities. Thanks to the policy of the President, since independence 25 years ago we equipped a modern ICT landscape. Thus since 2006 number of Internet users

has gone from 8 percent to 76 percent. According to the rating of the World Economic Forum on network readiness index, we are 39th in the level of developing e-government and U.N. rating, we are 33rd. All towns big and small across our country have 4G coverage. High-speed access to Internet is available to more than a third of all rural inhabitants. Kazakhstan has its own space programme, and to date two of our satellites provide telecommunications services and TV and radio broadcasting services to all operators in our country at the same time, bearing in mind the rapid development high tech sector, we plan on a move to a new stage of development of the ICT sector, with our 2018 new state programme entitled digital Kazakhstan.

The draft document covers four key areas. Firstly, further construction of the digital economy. As such we plan to continue with more than 20,000 kilometers of fiberoptic networks; secondly, increasing the level of digital skills amongst the population; thirdly, digitalizing all sectors of the economy; and fourthly, developing a proactive set of state services for the people and businesses. There are many promising projects set up in this programme. We would welcome any opportunity for support in implementing them, within the framework of the international ....

(no audio).

New technology for working with data. The ITU will ensure all countries can reap the benefits of them. Thank you very much for your attention.

(applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Dauren Abayev.

I would now like to invite His Excellency, Mr. Abdi Hassan, Minister of posts, telecommunications and technology from Somalia to take the floor.

>> ABDI HASSAN: Secretary-General of ITU, ministers, ITU Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen. I first express my gratitude for the government of Argentina for hosting the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017, celebrating the 25th anniversary of ITU-D in this beautiful city Buenos Aires.

I also want to thank the ITU, especially ITU-D for organizing this conference. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, and distinguished guests, it's an opportunity for me, the theme of this conference, ICT, Sustainable Development Goals. In Somalia the ICT is one of the bright spots of the Somalia contributing close to 10 percent to the national GDP.

Today most enjoy high communication and mobile levels and lower rates compared to other people from countries in the region.

However, Internet rates are among the lowest in the region

due to limited domestic broadband network infrastructure and international connectivity.

The state of national telecommunications were destroyed, private operators filled the vacuum by building companies in totally unrelated environment.

Due to the nature of the ICT environment in Somalia, several providers are not covered by regulations providing consumer rights providing interconnectivity and interoperability, nor formal license for provision of service.

Last month, the Parliament passed the federal communication law which is in the hands of the President and has signed into law on 22nd, on 2nd October, 2017. My Ministry is now in the process of establishing a authority. As we build the authority, we would look to leverage the expertise of the ITU and benchmark other relevant authorities. Many more people will articulate far better than I can what ICTs for sustainable development entail. But let me just say that for Somalia and I would imagine for other lesser developed countries, our fear and concern is being left behind in the world where countries with advanced economics, economies, are moving to the 4G industrial revolution while we are still struggling with providing basic Internet access to our people.

Today, access to knowledge and information is necessary to participate in the global economy. Yet far too many people in the developing world particularly in the least developed countries lack access to computers and basic Internet. This is especially true in my country, which is struggling to recover from years of conflict. What countries like Somalia need, investments in their ICT infrastructure, this can be done directly by providing, directly by private investors or in collaboration with the government, in public/private partnership arrangements.

In Somalia, we are keen to attract investors to develop our ICT sector, so I call on private companies and member states alike, to consider investing in Somalia. Thank you very much for your attention.

(applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, your Excellency. We would like to invite His Excellency Mr. Modibo Arouna Toure, the Minister of the digital economy and communication from Mali. You have the floor. Thank you.

>> MODIBO AROUNA TOURE: Chair of the conference, ITU Secretary-General, Director of the BDT, Excellencies, ministers, honorable delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor for me and the delegation that is supporting me here to represent Mali at this high level conference on ICTs, in terms of keeping to the time given for speeches, we submitted to the

Secretary-General Mali's contribution to the work of this conference. Already I have the opportunity now to thank the Argentinian authorities for the hospitality shown, since we arrived here in Buenos Aires.

Today, Mali, my country has made remarkable progress in the digital economy. This includes the implementation of fiberoptic networks, administration work on line and setting up a platform for biometric identity cards.

This conference is the key place to talk about the digital divide which is being felt today in all of our societies. We believe that innovation, entrepreneurship, ICTs also will all contribute to bridge this digital divide as effectively as possible. To achieve this, our countries should step up their efforts to achieve this goal and to also achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

We believe that the ITU with its partnerships will develop initiatives to achieve, to make progress in bridging this digital divide. Before I conclude, I would like to reaffirm here that Mali, my country and as member of the Council, ITU Council, and we count on the contribution of all of you to the next elections. Muchas gracias, thank you.

(applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, your Excellency.

I now would like to invite His Excellency Mr. Rashid Ismailov to make his presentation, Deputy Minister of Telecoms and Mass Communications from the Russian Federation. You have the floor, sir.

>> RASHID ISMAILOV: Chairman, Secretary-General of the ITU, your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, first of all, I would like to express gratitude to the government of Argentina who hosted the first conference in the telecommunication development sector in 1994. Now we are entering into a new era of activity of the union focused on the future, and global digital transformation. This future already exists in our lives and we can see huge number of signs of tomorrow. It is difficult to exaggerate the role of the ITU in this connection, because in the scope of the work of the ITU, it covers most sensitive topics in terms of international regulation and developing standards, for telecommunications and ICTs, as well as relationships between government and business, civil society, private sector, scientific and academic institutions.

A key aspect of this is the focus on the needs of developing countries. We are convinced that all countries of the world thanks to the assistance of the ITU clearly understand the goals and challenges before them, in terms of implementing modern ICTs and developing further the information society. The Russian Federation believes it is important to further

strengthen the ITU, particularly the role of the development sector, working directly with both states and Sector Members, as well as with other organisations, in order to implement the outcomes of the union's activities.

Particular attention is given to developing countries, including drawing up legal mechanisms, standards, recommendations, and to clearly understand the interests and needs of the overwhelming majority of the world population. We are convinced that the good quality ICT infrastructure and approaches to development will allow us to achieve sustainable economic growth in all countries and reduce social inequality and preserve economic and technological and bridge the digital divide rather.

This digital divide is still substantial between and within countries. Bridging this is needed for sustainable development of infrastructure, increasing the levels of education and health care, capacity-building, preserving and developing cultural heritage, in all it's country regional, linguistic variety, and also covering the use of ICTs to eradicate poverty and fight the negative consequence of climate change and provide support in emergencies.

Our administration, Russian administration highly appreciates the growing role of the ITU in development of ICTs, and for filling the outcomes of WSIS and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Russia like other countries has been active in working to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and ensuring digital transformation, and a transition to a digital economy. Indeed, in six months in our country we have drawn up a new programme entitled the digital economy of the Russian Federation. The aim is to introduce technologies, particularly all spheres of activity within our society. The programme sets out measures to establish legal, technical, organisational and financial conditions for the development of our digital economy. This would allow us to increase the effectiveness of all sectors of the economy and establish cross-cutting digital platforms to work on the global market and create a system of start-ups around them, with research teams and industry, businesses and representatives.

We successfully implement our own plan for increasing availability of communication services particularly broadband access. Despite the vast territory of the Russian Federation and its variety of geographic and climate conditions, mobile access is one of the most affordable in the world. Russia is working on strategic projects here on the digital economy. We actively work to support the ITU, not only as a U.N. specialized U.N. agency of telecommunications but also it is the leading international organisation where the basic role is achieving the

goals to introduce modern technologies and systems into the telecommunication development. Russia will be active in support of ITU and development sector, in carrying out its core mission, given the benefits of telecommunications and ICTs to the world's inhabitants, every one of them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank, to wish host country the best wishes on the upcoming festival in Argentina on its culture. We hope that the conference will continue in this vein. This celebration is in line with the goals of the ITU and the challenges faced by us that we need to address. I wish you every success in the work of this conference. Thank you very much.

(applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Rashid Ismailov.

Now I would like to invite His Excellency Dr. Phan Tam, the Deputy Minister of information and communications for Vietnam. You have the floor. Sir.

>> PHAN TAM: Mr. Chairman, the ITU Secretary-General, Mr. Houlin Zhao, officials, Excellencies, distinguished heads of delegations, ladies and gentlemen. It is great honor for me to make this statement on behalf of the socialist republic of Vietnam, at this very important WTDC 17. First of all, I would like to highly appreciate all the effort and hard work of the ITU in organizing this high level very important conference. This is a really very good opportunity for us to learn and to exchange experiences on the implementation of ICT strategies and on solutions to use the ICT to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Nowadays is explosive development of ICT has made such rapid and deep changes to the society and to the economy. One can easily find the very strong impacts of ICT on all aspects of our life, our workings and our social relationships. And that happens at all scales, global, national, regional, organisational, and individual.

In this context, we strongly believe that we have to put ICT in the heart of our SDGs strategies. In fact, Vietnam has been making every effort to make the best use of ICT to create new driving forces for sustainable and inclusive growth.

We are focusing on the following priorities. Firstly, we promote ICT application and services in public areas, such as public governance, and public health. In two years, from 2014 to 2016, according to United Nation e-government index, Vietnam has improved its e-government performance and made the leap from middle e-government and development index to high values. In public health area, we succeeded in establishing a database of health insurance covering approximately 99 percent of population. This opens up the path to the wide use of

electronic insurance card.

Secondly, we need to invest a lot in HRD. The shortage of digital skills is the biggest challenge of developing countries in this digital transformation. So international cooperation in HRD led by ITU, namely ITU-D, plays very important role.

Thirdly, as an agriculture country, and among the ten most impacted by climate change, we need to promote eAgriculture. Our government and Prime Minister emphasize that priority must be given to eAgriculture.

Fourthly, we started smart city initiatives. We think that this will create new ICT market opportunities and new opportunities for international cooperation.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in this all connected and integrated world, Vietnam strongly believes that cooperation, mutual assistance between nations is key for success. And from our side, we are always ready and eager to cooperate with other members to jointly address common ICT challenges.

In addition, we do wish to make further contribution to the ICT community, through our presence at the radio regulation board. In concluding, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the ITU, the ITU Secretary-General and the ITU staff who have been making continued efforts to connect members, to enhance mutual understanding and to provide valuable assistance to members.

I would also like to thank for all the great hospitality extended by the host nation of the Argentina Republic, who helped to make this conference possible and meaningful. Finally, I would like to wish you all good health, success and happiness. Thank you for your kind attention.

(applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Excellency Deputy Minister. I'd like to invite Her Excellency Miss Ana Julia Marine Lopez, Deputy Minister of Communication for Cuba. Madame, you have the floor.

>> ANA JULIA MARINE LOPEZ: Mr. Secretary-General of the ITU and Chair of the conference, ministers and deputy ministers, Distinguished Delegates, 7 years ago we met in Dubai with a will to work coherently and together to search for strategies in order to lead to access to telecommunications for all.

In terms of connectivity and innovative technology in ICTs, in the same vein, the risks and threats have increased. We acknowledge the efforts undertaken, that the ITU-D takes and the view to bridge the digital divide between countries. The digital divide is only one aspect of the inequality across cultures in existence. The importance of the use of ICTs that these offer for society and for individuals, in our country, in

the 1980s, we had electronic computing throughout the country. In order to stimulate the use of technology in the communities, this is a real product which looks to link communities with technology.

Our country, despite its financial limitations and the economic blockade which has been for almost 50 years, has shown the commitment to give the society access to ICTs safely Cuba through an inclusive information process which guarantees the technological sovereignty, the sustainability and uphold the territorial integrity and the intervention of the states should be upheld in the virtual space, according to the charge of the United Nations. We will continue to work to achieve the proposals of the 2030 agenda. We will only achieve these if we work under the auspices of quality. Mr. President, Cuba strengthens the need to work for a framework on security and safety of use of cyberspace which is legally binding to complement the international law that is in place on the basis of respect and independence of each state and strengthens its commitment to continue to work together with the ITU to develop ICTs. Thank you very much.

(applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, your Excellency, Deputy Minister of Communication from Cuba.

I'd now like to invite Mr. Masahiko Tominaga, Vice Minister for internal affairs and communications from Japan. You have the floor, sir.

>> MASAHIKO TOMINAGA: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General, Director of the telecommunications Bureau, the government of the Republic of Argentina, Excellencies and the respected delegates, on behalf of Japan, I would like to express my gratitude to all efforts for this conference.

I would also like to congratulate on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of ITU-D. It is my great honor and opportunity to speak at this World Telecommunications Development Conference in Buenos Aires.

With respect to the Dubai declaration and action plan adopted in 2014, Japan has been conducting the activities in such areas as rural telecommunications, e-health, Cybersecurity and digital management.

As for Cybersecurity, for example, improving the ability of network administrators and organisations to respond to cyber attacks, Japan has been carrying out practical cyber defense exercises, by making use of that experience Japan has been contributing to the development of the human resources on Cybersecurity in the Asia Pacific region.

As for disaster management, in the cases of the 2011 greatest Japan earthquake and the following, ICT has played the



leading role for disaster management, such as assessing damage situation, confirming the safety of residents and sharing their information in locating people.

Japan has been accumulating good practices, and it would like to share those with as many countries as possible. In relation to those activities, in 2015, Japan hosted the third U.N. World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, with 185 U.N. member states, and more than 6500 participants. The international guiding principle for disaster risk reduction, such as the importance of investment in disaster risk reduction, commitment by various stakeholders, and the concept of build better is adopted as the central framework for disaster risk reduction by consensus.

At the conference Japan and ITU held international forums on disaster risk reduction through ICT technologies and applications. Also in 2015, Japan hosted the world telecommunication ICT.

(audio breaking up).

Delegates participated from about 110 countries.

International telecommunication technology is a driving force for socioeconomic activities. It is an engine for growth and prosperity of mankind.

I believe that global dissemination of ICT infrastructures and services will enable people and things to be connected globally, any time, anywhere, and that prosperity will be enhanced globally. We are facing numerous global issues, such as global warming, wide scale natural disasters, infectious diseases and food and energy problems.

I believe that ICT which connects mankind will contribute to finding solutions for such global issues.

We all understand that the ICT for SDGs is a ... I believe we should promote to breach the digital divide by including ICT ...

(audio breaking up).

And also should promote to enhance accessibility and data literacy for everyone, by providing all people with high quality access to telecommunication metrics and opportunities of developing ICT skills.

In conclusion, I hope that the activities of ITU-D in the future will be course for achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

Japan would like to continue to contribute to the activities of ITU-D by taking advantage of its experience. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

(applause).

>> CHAIR: I'd like to thank His Excellency, Mr. Masahiko Tominaga. Now I'd like to ask His Excellency, Mr. Karol

Okonski, Under-Secretary of State, from the Ministry of digital affairs from Poland. You have the floor.

>> KAROL OKONSKI: Ladies and gentlemen, firstly I'd like to begin my speech in Spanish, by thanking the government of Argentina, and to all of the Argentinians for their hospitality and the excellent organisation of this conference. It's a real honor for me to be here and to participate in this World Telecommunication Development Conference.

Your Excellency, directors, dear delegates, all of us work in the telecommunication sector, which is very important branch of the economy for both developing and developed countries. ICTs accounts for 6 percent of the global GDP. I believe that ITU can and should play a significant role in this world, especially I would like to stress the importance of the ITU telecommunication development sector.

I have no doubt that bridging the digital gap and bringing the digital advantages to all citizens is a necessity. It is ICT that is a engine, can be an engine for growth efficiency and productivity increase, and innovation is the key determinant of the economic growth and social welfare.

Because of the importance of ICT, we recognize the significance of such institutions as ITU. The only truly global organisation that deals with electronic communications, and it's develop interest in organisation and frequency management. The Polish government is actively involved in ITU, have been a member of ITU Council, the most important decision-making body of the organisation, since 2010. It is thanks to your votes that we got elected, and we are confidence that it was not a missed opportunity.

I'd like to take this occasion to strongly request your support in the upcoming elections to the ITU Council, the Republic of Poland and me personally would be honored to continue this fruitful cooperation.

Polish Ministry of digital affairs has been undertaking a series of initiatives aimed at creating modern and efficient public administration, on a strategic level, it forms a part of our horizontal responsible development strategy. We strongly focus on building the innovative sectors of the economy and supporting start-up businesses.

We believe that the power of ICT can improve the relations between state, the citizens and the businesses, to make them as simple and straightforward as possible. We want our actions to let people live better, through digitalization of public services.

A vivid example of an approach of such an approach is related to the Polish initiative regarding ITU expert group on mobile identification. This is one of the most promising

projects we are running at our Ministry, and some valuable knowledge was gained through the platform and the expert group. There are also other projects and workshops organized in Poland such as 2016 workshop on services and infrastructure mapping.

Another proof of our unconditional thinking is the fact that we have also started a cooperation between the state and the banks, which enables a distribution of social welfare benefits directly through on-line banking services.

40 percent of our citizens use on-line banking services. They can use this interface that they are used to, to deal with some administrative procedures.

Another developmental aspect, important aspect is 5G technology. Our companies and operators have a lot of experience with such innovative mobile solutions. They have 5G on their devices of course still being developed, and we in Poland team up together with businesses, academia and research institutions to come up with 5G strategy from Poland.

Key objectives for Poland's digital strategy include openness, cooperation with various partners not only in Europe but around the globe, active participation shaping industry standards and policies, and digital manufacturing sectors and groups.

It is important to counter protection or abuse of market dominance causes fragmentation of the digital economy. To sum up this positive message, I would like to thank you for this invitation, and I'm sure this conference will lead to many interesting discussions. I wish you all the best, and hope that we can meet later on during the week.

Thank you for your attention. Muchas gracias.

(applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, your Excellency, Mr. Karol Okonski. I'd like to invite Mr. Karma Penjor, secretary for the Ministry of information and communications from Bhutan, you have the floor, sir.

>> KARMA PENJOR: Mr. Chairman, Secretary-General, ITU, Deputy Secretary-General, directors, standardization Vice-Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the delegation from Bhutan, I thank the Argentinian government for kindly hosting this important WTDC 2017 in this great historic city.

We offer our best wishes to BDT for the 25th anniversary celebration which will be held the day after tomorrow.

Excellencies, as the distinguished speakers before me, our government also believes the very important role of ICT in achieving the SDGs and also in terms of enhancing our development. The policy framework, although we are very new to the ICT agenda, the Bhutan information communication media act

2016 is to be repealed very shortly to be replaced by the ICF act 2016. In terms of policy, the telecommunications and broadband policy 2014 is the legal framework currently, and it is also in this framework that we have received ITU support.

Aspects of ICT strategies and objectives, to bring under one policy framework, in terms of infrastructure, the government has made 3300 kilometers of fiberoptics. These fibers are being given free to our Telecom operators, in order to keep the prices low, in order to ensure that connectivity is affordable and accessible.

Despite this, the people still find the Internet prices high, and the usage on the turnover basis is still very low. The challenge that we are facing in Bhutan is a small mountainous rugged country is the last mile connectivity and the cost, marginal cost of delivering Internet connectivity beyond the urban centers.

Notwithstanding this, it is I believe that the SDGs can be facilitated with the use of ICTs, but it is access to affordable ICT that is going to be the game changer, as has been in the last 30, 40 years of global development, education to be the key in bringing people out of poverty in the developing economies, I think it is access to affordable connectivity in today's modern digital economy that is going to be a prerequisite for most of our governments to deliver that inclusive development to our citizens.

We have two international gateways, and we hope that we will be able to build on this in trying to improve and bring access to a third international gateway in order for Bhutan to be, position itself and take advantages of the green environment, especially for green data centers. Although a small country, we have 79 percent Internet coverage, with 93.3 percent mobile subscribers. However, as I stated earlier, the actual usage is very low and this is primarily due to the affordability issue. As a landlocked country, we are constrained in bringing reasonable priced Internet bandwidth and like most LDCs and in particular Bhutan being a LDC, in the international bandwidth that we receive from outside, this is a area that we hope we will be able to receive support and cooperation, and also be guided by ITU as they have in bringing us up to date, especially with their assistance we have been able to set up in 2016, Bhutan computer incident response center to begin to address the threats of Cybersecurity. With ITU support we are getting digital roadmap through. About a month ago, the cabinet approved our roadmap to ensure we are ready for digital broadcasting, and we look forward to this support of all our development partners. Thank you very much.

(applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Karma Penjor. Now I would like to invite Her Excellency, His Excellency, excuse me, Dr. Tobias Feakin, Ambassador for cyber affairs from Australia. You have the floor, sir.

>> TOBIAS FEAKIN: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary-General, Excellencies and respected colleagues in the audience, good day from down under from all your friends in Australia. It is a absolute privilege to be here today. Please allow me to begin by thanking the Argentine Republic for their kind generosity in hosting us here today, and for this important event, for their warm hospitality and being in this magnificent City of Buenos Aires. It is a real privilege to be here. Thank you.

This year marks a really important anniversary. It's the 25th anniversary of the ITU development sector. Under those 25 years, the development sector has made important if not vital contributions to the growth and expansions of telecommunications and ICT networks and services, and I think that is worthy of pause and I think it's worthy of a round of applause, from all of you in this room for all your hard work over this time, in revolutionizing the way the world interconnects and communicates.

(applause).

But we can't rest on our laurels. Indeed since this conference last met, there has been progress made. Governments around the world have agreed the agenda 2030, the sustainable development. This agenda recognizes the technologies is our vital contributors to ending poverty, expanding access to quality education, achieving gender equality and social inclusion, promoting inclusive economic growth, improving health outcomes and supporting cross sectorial innovation, all worthy goals for us to achieve in partnership and collaboration. The theme for the conference, ICT for Sustainable Development Goals, encourages every one of us in this room to think about what contribution the ITU development sector may make to the achievement of this important and ambitious agenda.

In Australia last week we released and published our first ever international cyber engagement strategy, which set an ambitious agenda across the full spectrum of cyber affairs and illustrates my government's commitment to this agenda in the long term.

We approach on a commitment to open, free secure cyberspace and the strategy established a comprehensive and coordinated approach to inform governments, private sectors, civil societies, wherever they might be, what Australia's perspective is. It will provide the basis for creative partnerships across 7 key themes, digital trade, Cybersecurity, Cybercrime, international security, Internet governance, human rights and

technology for development.

The theme technology for development sets out our continued commitment to working bilaterally, regionally, multilaterally, to engage in access, encouraging access and to encourage innovative uses of digital technologies to support sustainable and inclusive development wherever that might take place.

We strongly support the ITU development sector's role in stimulating social and economic development by facilitating access to ICTs. We are incredibly proud of our long standing commitment and collaboration with the ITU. Our annual voluntary contribution supports the whole range and plethora of different projects across multiple countries, and they have included supporting better regulation and national telecommunications ICT policies, promoting ICT access, bridging digital divides, strengthening Cybersecurity and computer emergency response team capabilities and supporting emergency communications.

Having been a member of the Council since 1959, we look forward to continuing that long-term commitment that we have as a country, to working with the ITU to deliver on that mandate and leverage its key competencies to support the Sustainable Development Goals.

We look forward to working together in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration to successfully complete the work of the conference, and under your leadership, Mr. Chairman, and efforts of all distinguished delegation we are sure we will achieve a positive outcome of the conference but more importantly over the next 25 years we will progress further. With that I'd like to thank you all.

(applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Ambassador, for your presentation.

I'd like to thank all of the previous speakers. Before concluding, I want to give the floor to the secretary to give us announcements, please.

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The third session of the high level segment meeting plenary will be carried out tomorrow, Tuesday, in the same room at 11:30.

Right now, we have the committee one meeting, will meet immediately after this meeting on the fifth floor. Also from 5:30 to 5:50, in this room, we are going to have the Argentinian modernization plan presented by the Minister of modernization in this same room. So we invite you to stay.

Tomorrow, our women's breakfast will take place in room 48 at the Hilton Hotel from 8:00 a.m. to 9:15. All women participating in the conference are invited to attend. Please note that this event is open to friends of women, involved in the implementation of projects focusing on gender equality and

inclusion.

So, everybody is welcome to join and first come first served will be applied. Finally, a welcome reception is offered by Argentina administration today, starting at 7:00 p.m.

A bus service will be provided to the reception from the Hilton Hotel between 18 and 1830.

At the end of the event, buses will be provided to the hotels on official bus routes from 9 to 10:00 p.m. this evening.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Secretary, for those words. I'd like to emphasize particularly the invitation to attend the lightning session, where the Minister of modernization from Argentina will speak. Having said that, this session is now closed. Thank you very much.

(end of session at 1730)

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