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ITU WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2017  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

9 OCTOBER, 2017  
17:30 LOCAL TIME

LIGHTNING SESSION ON ARGENTINEAN MODERNIZATION PLAN

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>> Ladies and gentlemen, ITU is announcing a special lightning session that will start a few moments in this room. Please enjoy the presentation.

>> Ladies and gentlemen, ITU is pleased to announce a special lightning session by the Minister of Modernization of Argentina. The session will start in a few moments in this room. Please enjoy the presentation.

>> Ladies and gentlemen, we are going to start the lightning session. We would like to request to put on hold your discussions, and to continue them at the reception by the host, which will welcome us just after this special session about the modernization plan by His Excellency Ibarra Ministry of Modernization of the government of Argentina.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are about to start. Please take the seats, and those who would like to continue networking please postpone this to the moment of the break. We are about to start this session in few seconds.

Dear ladies and gentlemen, this is the last call, and request to you to take the seats. The Minister has just joined us. Please let me welcome him. I one more time would like to request those who are continuing networking to continue to do this outside of this room.

We are about to start the session. Please take the

seats.(pause).

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the time when we will start the lightning session. Welcome to the last agenda point from our long, our long day. Let me welcome His Excellency Andres Ibara who arrived to the room. I request you to take your seats and really postpone your discussions to the later stage.

Now this is the moment when I have the pleasure to invite His Excellency to the podium and to hand over the floor is to him to present the national modernization plan for Argentina. His Excellency, the floor is yours.

>> Good afternoon. Good afternoon to you all once again.

Thank you very much for very closely the development of this programme, as we were saying this morning, the challenge we have in front of us ... Argentina as a country with a 21st century digital agenda with very ambitious objectives in terms of convergence and digital inclusion. Therefore, we felt that it is important to take this opportunity, take this part of the day to share with you some of the aspects of the modernization plan, the digital plan, and the policy which Argentina is using in this regard.

You will see on the screen there will be images, the different projects which we are working on.

The most important is that you have a global view of where we are positioning ourselves in this country. What we are looking for, of course, is to have a real digital inclusion throughout the country, to put in place a series of public policies which are transparent, agile, which are simple, and which are innovative in terms of public management, and this of course using technology is absolutely critical and essential, to ensure that technology is accessible for all citizens, the north, south, east and west, capital, different provinces, or even if we are talking about smaller places. It is the whole country.

For this reason our plan, organisation plan, this government forecast to integrate a series of projects and initiatives in the different areas, streamlined and simple manner which is easy to understand. Here in front of you on the screen, you can see an image, the different areas in which we are moving forward with this digital agenda plan, within smart government, the open government, the digital country plan, the digital inclusion plan, and of course the communications plan, which is really the very basis, as I was saying this morning, the fundamental pillar to move this country. One of the chapters is regarding the bureaucratization of the state, red tape production to facilitate everything to do with business and communication of business, one stop shops and on-line transactions because profit comes from different types of

exchange but also to do with and what the state can facilitate transactions for systems and for business.

With regard to the red tape production with the aim that we have and a idea how we are working on this, we are working throughout the whole country and provincial governments and municipal governments, so we have a overview of what we are doing here. All of the 23 ministries of the state are working on electronic policies. Now we have more than a million eTransactions with documents that have been digitalized .... more than 80 million different transactions, and more than a hundred percent of digital procedures in this electronic file system.

Therefore, it is very important, because in line with this and parallel with this we are going to develop what we call the remote transactions, so all of these businesses have to do with the national state, they can do this via the Internet from their home or from their businesses, from their offices. This is a way to facilitate and simplify and to avoid any physical difficulties of going from one office to another, and to have experts, for example, just over a week ago we launched the simplified action plan for businesses which means that in Argentina it is possible to have anonymous business in just a few moments. We thought this was not achievable. However, we saw that we had optimism, in how countries, different countries inside East Asia and Singapore had set up businesses in 30 days, in 15 days, even. Today in Argentina this is possible to do this in a few hours.

You can do this remotely with the use of the digital signature. So this is a real achievement, just only a few weeks ago this has been achieved and launched this initiative. In the same vein also working with the foreign trade vendor we are able to simplify in just a few steps the number of transactions and offices and where this export had to be sent throughout the country. They will do this area by area, so that everything is absolutely integrated now.

In public offices, you can get the information from the company. This data and interoperability can share this data with a single trade single window in place. We have also launched a month ago, people who took invoices in this way and a new design of a Web Page, people have the possibility to change the company, so you have a idea of what is the aim of our government in terms of reducing red tape. And therefore it is so important, and there is a lot of input on this and development of ICTs and connectivity throughout Argentina.

This has to do with an intelligent government, but also we would like to add the concepts of simplifying web pages of the different websites of Argentina. There were hundreds when we

came into government. Now you can find all of this on one website which is Argentina.ar. Therefore a intelligent government, we have elements with regards to different areas of the government, Ministry of Works, in a cross-cutting fashion, development and design of the different projects. An example of what we are doing here just a week ago, we launched with Ministry of Health in Mendoza the first part of the implementation of universal coverage, universal health coverage for those people who don't have any social health coverage.

This means to give not only the health services, public hospitals throughout the country, but also to launch the betterment of initiatives which in some provinces exist but on a national level we want this to be integrated, and would be produced in a uniform fashion and interconnected fashion. I'm referring to those being digital clinics and the possibility and having different transactions and hospitals throughout the region.

This is a development which will place importance and therefore it began with, which is eMedicine for pediatrics. Today in Argentina, it is in more than 20 provinces and Buenos Aires and different areas. We want to interconnect all the systems which will have around 300 health, we have 36 at the moment but to offer the possibility that we can monitor different pediatric remotely through images and data with the hospitals in the provinces, also with the hospital that is the leading hospital here in Buenos Aires.

This means that we would have a flow of data and images and the possibility to go backwards and forwards on a consultation, so that all of the health centers throughout the country and the leading hospitals, so this is a ambitious project. We have 36 health centers as I said. We have more than two million children throughout the country. So we are going to continue in different areas of medicine, but we want to begin with the children's e-health to roll out this concept initially in this area.

Of course in this vein, in order to move forward on the technical support, intelligent government, also strongly develop the infrastructure and capacity for hosting and data storage of our set. There we had more than 500 projects, from many different companies and different applications throughout the provinces, and from many municipalities, they enhanced it and which are using the application through our site. When he we came to government the available capacity was more than 97 percent was available. Now we are moving forward in this, using this critical infrastructure with the different provinces and different municipalities. They can access these tools which is really critical for the development of any kind of digital

government.

And of course in this vein over the next few years, next few days, we are going to develop a series of Cybersecurity, Cybersecurity national plan. It is absolutely essential that we think of this for Argentina with e-government throughout the country. We have to strongly develop Cybersecurity in all of the countries throughout the world. There are problems and concerns in this area, in Argentina. Argentina is very aware of this. Every development will have a series of applications hosted in different data centers.

Together with all of what I have mentioned, we have said that all of the transmission process of the state, lead to introduce management systems at the national and provincial levels. The fundamental part of this is employment, public employment which has a strong support in all the training. This year, we introduced a new institute of public administration to lend support, the consumer public management and throughout the career of the public civil servant, one of the main things of this is the career of the public civil servant. Since we introduced this system of the innovative system for the administration, where we had everything was done in one paper, now everything is done digitally. But with regards to the national level in the last year we have trained more than 100,000 public civil servants. They can train themselves on the new system.

The system can be developed and rolled out throughout all organisations and ministries of the national government. As I was saying this morning, one of the other pillars where we have a series of projects under way, that also appear, the very values that we would like to put in place in public, the concept of the open government and transparent government.

In this vein, we have rolled out together with the concept of a open government and to share information we began with the presidential decree last year, in February of last year, by launching the first national data portal, open data portals. From there we have more than 500 data sets where there is information where citizens can access. They can read it around the declarations from the different ministries on salaries, procurement, and each of the ministries and the organisations will continue to develop their own portals, with their specific information and management whether industry or Ministry of justice. Each Ministry will have the obligation to have their portal and they will continue to update this. Each one will update all of the information on management with regards to this.

But as we said, an open government is not only to share information. An open government is to move forward and

everything to do with the citizens' participation, to find citizens participation for all. In this vein we have been pioneers when we began this theme in Buenos Aires, the development of hackathons which are workshops, exchange of ideas, public and private, to share information. This allows for a development of many applications from universities or from NGOs to work together on different applications with civil society which can be used by the government and which can also be used by its citizens themselves.

Another important aspect that we launched this year for the first time in the third national plan of the open government, we launched the first 34 public undertakings of the government including provinces which are showing these commitments of public management to do with the government's policy on open government and the organisation of open governments.

This means that is a government which shares information which generates exchange with citizens and which commits to have an open government in all areas of government.

The other pillar which I spoke about before is the digital country plan. When we came into government, they were moving municipalities, they didn't have web pages, they had difficulties to access the Internet. They had many problems in Internet tools. We worked, therefore, strongly on this plan. Now we have more than 900 districts, where the different solutions have been implemented, and possibility of resolving in some cases problems of connectivity by giving free wi-fi or giving web pages or giving management dashboards, to enable each district in Argentina, so in this district, have the ability to manage and share this information management with the citizens through a real and true development in e-government, which leads towards the building of real intelligent citizens. Yesterday we had a conference held in Buenos Aires as well, and what we aim towards is to increase the level of knowledge and technology and management for each of these districts, in order to build real Smart Cities.

In this vein, we have a digital inclusion plan. As I was saying this morning, this is absolutely primordial to ensure that Argentina has real true development, which in the 21st century demands. We are not talking about only of communication and content in the education system, but also we are also referring to what we can offer through additional inclusion points and different areas of government, in terms of connectivity, but also on digital content.

Now we have these digital hot spots, more than a million people per year have digital training, and some areas, citizens, young people who have this training, they can receive training on traditional jobs, on skills such as programming or design,

graphic design, for example. This offers a possibility to give them training for the work market.

We also are complementing this in line with the universities and through which, through all these digital hot spots in the districts we are training people through the digital network. These people receive some kind of subsidies. There are hundreds of thousands of people throughout the country who receive this. These people receive and all receive digital training in different levels. As I mentioned this morning, so all of this is complemented by the delivery of tablets so that we have digital inclusion, from connectivity and digital content and ending with giving equipment.

There are people today who have real problems for inclusion and are part of this large percentage in Argentina, who are going to, hope to reduce the poverty and digital divide in Argentina. This contribution has been made to generate digital inclusion for its citizens. All this I've just spoken requires a strengthening, integration of the communications plan, a development for all schools, 273 schools and 2800 is our aim and the Internet federal plan of more connected to the Internet.

All of this, integration of our plans, the fiberoptic plan. As you can see we have 22600 kilometers today. We aim at 34,000 kilometers lit by 2018. We need to know how we are going to reach this goal, we call this the backbone, the kind of highway, is how we are going to roll this out, all of the, we are working on these through this. We will have a model of integration and how they are district and provinces in our country to map a solution in each of the districts, including the sat lighter solutions. Today Argentina is a country of thousands of square kilometers with a very diverse geographic landscape. In some places rolling out the fiber-optic plan is very complex, high costs are involved. It's important to complement this with a fit for purpose satellite plan.

We start a new stage. Now we are working on rolling out a plan with different solutions, with convergence as our goal. As I mentioned, the need so that each area of work has its very clear goals, with a regulatory framework surrounding this, to give framework to this, and the government as a whole, all of this is accessible for the citizen and the quality of service must be the engine which will govern all of this.

We must deliver quality services across all of these different areas. I hope I haven't bored you too much with this information. But for us this is really a source of pride for us, that all of you are here, that ITU is here in Argentina, so a real opportunity for all of the members here, more than 130 countries. I really wanted you to know what Argentina is doing in this area. Argentina has no doubt at all that it is going to

be a very important player on the digital policy. They are going to find the best solutions. They are going to have a constant dialogue throughout the world with all businesses.

We are going to look at the best technologies to use and the plans are going to go hand in hand with this. Thank you very much for being here. I hope you enjoy your stay here in Argentina. I hope that we can see you at the cocktail reception. It's 7:00 this evening. And there we can celebrate and exchange views on this. Thank you so much for your time. I've forgotten something. Now we are going to share with you a video that shows what we are doing throughout the country on the different plans that we are working on. Thank you. As ITU communications are working very well, as you can see. We are waiting for the video to come back on screen.

(receiving no English translation).

(video played).

>> Dear ladies and gentlemen, this brings us to the end of the session.

Let me call for the round of the applause for our speaker, His Excellency. Thank you very much. Dear ladies and gentlemen, technical announcements, in front of the hotel, we have already the transportation prepared for getting to the official reception by the host. So we are calling on all of you to join this great celebration, and discussions. Thank you very much to the host for offering this hospitality.

So thank you very much. And see you at the reception. Thank you.

(end of session at 1813)

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