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>> Good afternoon. Welcome to this plenary session. Good
afternoon, everyone.

Given we're part of the high-level session today, then
we're going to continue with addresses given by the ministers
and vice ministers in respect to the order of speakers from the
moment when we had to break off for lunch.

I would like to ask the interpreters if we can hear you
clearly.

>> Yes, we can, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much.

Welcome to this Fourth High-Level Session of this
conference. I would like to ask all the speakers if you can
kindly respect the time allocated to you. We value everyone's
opinions but unfortunately we have many speakers ahead of us.
It is really important that everyone has time to express
themselves to begin we would like to invite Carlos Rafael Valdez
Velasquez Lopez, the Deputy Minister of communications from
Peru.

>> CARLOS RAFAEL VALDEZ VELASQUEZ LOPEZ: Good afternoon.
It is a pleasure to be here.

Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Secretary-General and elected officials of the ITU,

representatives from the international organizations, ladies and gentlemen, I'm pleased to speak to you here today on behalf of the arena Republic of Peru, a warm welcome from the government and to you for your warm hospitality.

I would like to begin with the cross-cutting role that ICT is playing in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. As set forth in the Agenda of 2030.

Also with the motto leave no one behind presents challenges and opportunities for countries in the region. In order to close the divide with regard to the access, ease and benefits from ICTs. The challenges of my country in Peru are considerable in this regard. To begin with, one of the significant challenges is broadband infrastructure. Therefore, this motto of leave no one behind, for our country this means to broaden the rational connectivity. Peru's geography is very challenging. Therefore, we have rolled out these important steps. For example, we have rolled out the national fiberoptic backbone network which is reaching 180 capitals in the provinces, this is 196 of provincial capitals. We have rolled out eight of 21 broadband regional projects. This is going to benefit 3.6 million people in more than 6,000 different areas and at the same time these people being able to connect to 11,000 government institutions, this is going to reach 1530 district capitols. Furthermore, we have 7 projects which are going to be carried out at the end of this year in December. Six projects, therefore, will be carried out in the middle of next year, seven more in the pipeline. We will also have other service coverage projects in the Amazon region which will kick off in 2018.

In Peru as I like to say, terrain is very challenging. We have the coast, we have the Andes and the forest, and therefore, the scope of the project and costs are relatively high. Despite steps we have taken, we're still aware that the next challenge will be working on the demand for services with an aim of drawing the maximum benefits of broadband through ICT-based solution in any sector, education, health, security just to name a few.

In this vein, the education sector, it is rolling out the national strategy of digital technologies in basic education. This plan runs from 2016 to 2021. From this, we have a framework on eHealth and created an eHealth national Committee for the rollout of medical records. This is some examples I wanted to bring to your attention today. Likewise, it is important to generate institutionalism in order to draw efforts to foster coordination between different stakeholders for the drawing up of digital public policies. Currently this work is being coordinated from the Multisectorial Standing Committee for

the digital plan of the Information Society in Peru. It is important to note that they're also managing the institutional development from the new vice Ministry of ICTs.

I would also like to share with you, in Peru in August this past, we have passed a new state policy. This state policy is for the long-term, and is the outcome of different exchanges between stakeholders that are committed to the information and knowledge society which is oriented on humans and not as sustainable while upholding human freedoms and liberties. This will allow you to identify, produce, transform and use and disseminate information in all areas.

For a final note, we would like to emphasize our commitment to make significant steps towards a Sustainable Development Goals through the use of ICTs using programs across all society to ensure that everyone is involved.

Thank you very much.

[Applause].

>> CHAIR: I would thank His Excellency, the deputy minister.

Now I would like to invite Gabriela Ceciliano Lopez, the Vice-Minister for Telecommunications from Costa Rica.

You have the floor. Thank you.

>> GABRIELA CECILIANO LOPEZ: Good afternoon, Chair, Secretary-General of the ITU, ministers and members of Delegations. On behalf of the Government of Costa Rica I would like to congratulate ITU for the organization of this world telecommunication development conference. I would further like to thank the public for hosting this important event which undoubtedly will bring about agreements and actions that will benefit people across the world.

All of us here have a commitment with our people based on the principle of building an inclusive, supportive and people-based society. This commitment that we'll leave no one behind and the opportunities that are available to all.

Studies and research has shown with ICTs that ICTs and particularly telecommunications is perhaps the most powerful driver of social and economic development throughout the world.

ICTs increase daily and improve our lives every day. ITU in statistics from 2017 has highlighted that mobile subscriptions have grown more than 20% every year in the last five years. It is expected to reach 4.3 billion by the end of 2017. 70% of our young people are online. The gender digital divide is closing and broadband is becoming more affordable for everybody. Having said that, all of these figures and statistics are very positive, nevertheless we must continue to work to ensure that access, use and ownership of ICTs are from a solidarity-based perspective which is fair for all in ensuring

that ICTs also achieve social, economic growth and development of our people and to promote uses to work together peacefully side by side. In 2015 we organized the event beyond 2015, it was an event in which we have over 600 people, young people from 68 countries participated. The aim of this and the outcome of this was a declaration drawn up by the youth participants that were aware of the momentous role that technology plays in modern society. They asked for a universal access to ICTs, particularly for women and young girls and other marginalized group in society to bridge the digital divide. Four years on, this is still relevant, it ensures that our governments have squarely shouldered the commitment to formulate policies, agreements and guidance which allow new generations to harness technology to benefit everybody. Therefore, this is essential to exchange experiences and knowledge which can served as policy formulation and decision making. We have worked on actions in order to transform the country to a connective society. This is based on inclusive focus for access, use and ownership of ICTs.

This is in order to secure safe, responsible and productive ICTs. To reach this goal, we need consensus to put in place actions between the private sector, academia, the government and Civil Society. This is an arduous task but we're convinced this is the correct path to take to reach not only the Sustainable Development Goals which we have agreed upon, but also to achieve these goals on a global level.

The outcomes from all of this work and endeavors which you'll undertake will have a positive impact to reduce poverty and to generate access to inclusive education which is equitable and high-quality. This will further generate economic growth and sources of employment. As a representative of a small country and developing country at that we're convinced that IC, its represent an opportunity that we must harness to bring this to our people but also furthermore to put in place activities at the right time, actions at the right time in order to bridge this divide and develop new businesses and support research and development by using ICTs. Furthermore, the environment to implement ICT projects such as Internet of Things, robotics, Artificial Intelligence and to implement solutions and proposals to resolve the issues which have affected all of us to ensure that we can improve the quality of people's daily lives. We know that this is no easy feat and we'll continue to work very hard and very significantly to improve our infrastructure and to continue to create capacity building and skills for people.

To carry this out, we have to work together, perhaps with other countries to share experiences to knowledge and to learn from their successes and failures, all of this work has to be

done together and we'll use technology to improve people's lives, to protect the planet, to generate wealth for all as well as to foster peaceful, inclusive strong societies without leaving anyone behind.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, vice minister from Costa Rica.

I would like to invite Mederbek Kurmanbekov, Deputy Chairman from the State Committee of Information Technologies and Communications from Kyrgyzstan.

You have the floor, sir.

>> MEDERBEK KURMANBEKOV: Distinguished Delegates, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, for me it is an immense honor to be here with you today at this conference, a jubilee for the telecommunication development sector. I would like to express our deep gratitude to the Government of Argentina for hosting this historic conference and wish everybody here success in their work.

The Republic of Kyrgyzstan recognizes the importance of ICTs, and we're implementing programs which also are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United States, in line with the plan of the ITU to shift to digital TV and radiobroadcasting in 2017 our government implemented a switch to digital TV and radiobroadcasting covering 98% of our territory and to expand coverage of mobile coverage, 99% of our population is now covered by mobile communication networks. In 2018 we plan to launch a regional project of the World Bank called digital CASA Kyrgyzstan creating a transborder telecommunication network with central and South Asia in one single digital hub. The geographical drawbacks of Kyrgyzstan is turned to a digital advantage giving us a leading position in the region. In order to build an open and transparent state and to boost the quality of life of our citizens, also to improve conditions for business in Kyrgyzstan while launching a national programme of digital transformation called smart country. This is a high-tech programme to build a safe, transparent community in which every person will be able to fully achieve their potential by gaining access to modern technologies. From this high roster, from the Government of Kyrgyzstan, I would like to once again express our sincere gratitude to the Secretary-General for supporting the initiatives in our country.

Kyrgyzstan, since the day it acceded to the Union has actively participated in the activities of the ITU, representatives were heads of the regional sector of ITU for other countries, in November of 2016 we have had the honor of hosting the regional preparatory meeting which kicked off a series of RPMs in other regions of the ITU. For further development and expanding

multilateral international cooperation our government has decided to put forward Kyrgyzstan on behalf of our region for election at the ITU counsel at the plenipotentiary conference in 2018. We are confident that with your support at the upcoming elections Kyrgyzstan will be able to make a new contribution of the activities of the ITU as they reach promoting development of new ICTs to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals taken into account the needs of Developing Countries.

Thank you for your attention.

[Applause].

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much.

Now I would like to invite Her Excellency Pakesia Parker-Edgecombe, Deputy Minister, Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of The Prime Minister, responsible for Information and Communications from the Bahamas. You have the floor.

>> PAKESIA PARKER-EDGEcombe: Elected officials, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, a pleasant good afternoon. On behalf of our team taking part in this dynamic conference we wish to thank the Government of Argentina for hosting this forum and the ITU for this opportunity to address this gathering. It is with great pleasure that the Commonwealth of the Bahamas participates in this historic World Telecommunications Development Conference, ICT for Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman, the Bahamas is committed to upholding and achieving a Sustainable Development Goals which have been identified as being achievable through the use of ICTs among them ending poverty, ensuring inclusive, equitable and quality education and promoting life-long learning opportunities for all. Empowering all women and girls and building resilient infrastructure while promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation. The Bahamas is now actively engaged in a process of examining and educating itself on ways to use technology to improve opportunities for the social and economic inclusion of persons as a part of its strategy to creating an ICT-enabled smart Bahamas.

It was in partnership with the ITU that the area was declared a smart island, the first in the Western hemisphere, that vision has been expanded. We recognize that in a smart Bahamas the use of ICTs and cutting-edge technology will contribute to an improved quality of life for our citizens and indeed the world, efficiency of operation and services and competitiveness. We are also aware that the economic social environmental and cultural needs of present and future generations can be achieved through such measures. The Bahamas remains committed to the development of sustainable and resilient communities with focused attention aimed at finding

innovative avenues in the creative avenues and the need to establish effective communication and build resiliency is more apparent as the Bahamas and the Caribbean region are confronted with issues including Climate Change, rising sea levels and increased frequency of seasonal storms and weather systems. The needs for ICTs to ensure our rapid response capability in times of disasters is clear. The Bahamas is aware that ICTs are critical to both survival and Sustainable Development. Our nation is currently in the process of ensuring that one of our southeastern islands devastated by hurricane Irma is rebuilt as a had green island with special emphasis placed on a delivery of quality communication at all levels. As the Bahamas seeks to make transformational strides within its borders our desire is to also contribute to the development of this critical sector on this stage.

The Bahamas has pledged itself to service in this community of nations and offers itself as a candidate for the council of the ITU in the next plenipotentiary in October of 2018. We commend for consideration and look forward with our agreement with you and these and other meetings on issues affecting the development of the telecommunication sector.

Muchas Gracias.

>> CHAIR: We would like to thank you.

Now I would like to invite Mr. Amer Hayat, the Assistant Undersecretary and Chief Market Regulations and Competition Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority from Kuwait.

You have the floor, sir.

>> AMER HAYAT: May God's blessings be upon you. Thank you very much, Chair of the conference, and thank you to the ITU Secretary-General.

Excellencies, ministers, heads of Delegations, all of the Delegates, may God's blessings be upon you. I have the pleasure and complements and the thanks from Kuwait and wish you success for the conference.

I would like to convey my gratitude to the people and Government of Argentina who are hosting this conference for the second time and for all the efforts undertaken. I would also like to congratulate you, Chair, for your election as Chair of this conference and we hope you're very successful and we would like to convey our gratitude to all of you, the WTDC is formed by the international community because we adopted the strategic plan for the ITU. This is a sector which supports all Member States independent of their economic status. We will focus on the theme of ICTs for SDGs.

We're responsible for this and must address all of the challenges by adopting an action plan which will allow us to

move forward on international levels. Therefore, the strategic plans are adopted in order to achieve goals and we'll look at resolutions for some Member States. I would like you to support the initiatives launched at the national launch that was organized and we have adopted measures for measures during emergencies and we have launched the international network of communications for meeting disasters. We're aware of the importance of ICTs in terms of improving people's lives in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Subsequently, authority has adopted a series of measures and is implementing some of these to strengthen our capacity building in ICTs, we have adopted a project of the national project in Kuwait to link Kuwait to the rest of the world. We also support the development of a broadband networks and our national infrastructure. We hope for global coverage in fiberoptics by the end of 2018. In order to achieve equitable access of penetration access for the fixed Internet services we deploy a number of efforts in this regard. Kuwait has a second place on the global scale in terms of the use of mobile Internet. We try to -- we have an exceptional geographical position in Kuwait and want to use it to form a regional corridor working together with Iraq to facilitate data transmission between Asia and Europe.

Ladies and gentlemen, cybersecurity is critical for national security of all of our countries and, therefore, at our authority we have just ended creating a new cybersecurity document, doctrine taking into account dangers and threats linked to cybersecurity to individuals and institutions.

Chairman, I am delighted to be here with you today.

I thank all of those that have worked so hard for this smooth running of this conference. I particularly would like to thank Argentina, His Excellency, the Secretary-General, the Chairman of the conference, the director of the BDT, the heads of the regional bureaus, also I would like to sincerely thank all of those that work behind the scenes for the excellence of this conference. I wish you every success.

Thank you.

[Applause].

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much.

Now I would like to invite His Excellency Marek Ondrousek, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade from the Czech Republic.

You have the floor, sir.

>> MAREK ONDROUSEK: Dear ministers, Mr. Secretary-General, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Government of The Czech Republic and my home, I would like to thank the Government of Argentina and representatives of the International Telecommunication Bureau to prepare this

important high-level conference.

It is the 25th Anniversary of the funding of the development sector of the ITU. I'm convinced that outputs of this and the conclusions will constitute a major and important steps for all members of the ITU and above all, for countries on all continents and islands.

The Czech Republic having experience in transmitting from developing country, it can be shared in the field of telecommunications and ICTs with Developing Countries. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the Czech Republic has a long-standing member of the ITU served on the council and candidacy for the elections for the plenipotentiary conference 2018 in Dubai. For the purpose, we announce with Joy and pride the launch of the campaign at this conference. As there could not be -- we would like to invite all of you to a nice Argentina coffee after this session. Heads of Delegation would be offered coffee and sweet drinks in the second floor of this building while members of the Delegation and other participants will be offered the same on this floor or on the 5th floor of this building.

In conclusion, let me wish a full success of the WTDC17. Thank you for the attention and enjoy your coffee break.

[Applause].

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Your Excellency, deputy minister.

Now I would like to invite Philipp Metzger, Director General of the federal Office of Communications from Switzerland.

>> PHILIPP METZGER: Chairman, Excellencies, my dear Distinguished Delegates, the Swiss Delegation would like at the outset to offer our most sincere gratitude to the Argentine organizers and those hosting the conference. We also celebrate the 25th anniversary of the telecommunications sector in this great city Buenos Aires. We welcome the major progress in the service of the Sustainable Development Goals utilizing ICTs, information communication technologies. We're grateful for the immense work accomplished by the director of the BDT and his team to implement the Dubai plan of action.

His report on the tasks implemented and the initiatives launched over the past three and a half years as well as the vigor with which WTDC17 was prepared demonstrate this commitment.

Chairman, the involvement of every individual into the digital society of the future means that every person must have the capacity to judiciously use the ICTs. The priority beneficiaries of the work of our organization should be Least Developed countries, small developing states, landlocked

countries, countries with transition economies and women. The authorities of industrialized countries must also engage in discussions involving all interested parties. This on social challenges and the consequences of the digital transformation. The multistakeholder approach is the only approach that can ensure that digital transformation will be sustainable.

The ITU has an immense role to play in putting in place new partnerships for Sustainable Development using ICTs. If we're to succeed, cooperation between the ITU sectors and cooperation between the ITU and the United Nations system agencies as well as other international, regional organizations and bodies must be strengthened, must be united in our actions and this must be a key principle of our work if we're to meet the challenges to implementing the 2030 Agenda. It is critical that we foster a true spirit of cooperation within our organization reflecting our shared values, the values shared by everyone here. The Swiss Delegation considers also that it is highly desirable for the BDT to consider the introduction of new ideas and working methods, innovative ones taking into account count and future needs in the ICTs sector in the area of capacity building in Developing Countries and knowledge sharing.

We support the initiatives of this union to help Developing Countries creating response teams to ICT incidents to fight cyberthreats, cybersecurity measures must include respect for guarantees of Human Rights following the key U.N. documents such as those of 1948.

I would like to conclude my statement, Chairman, offering the following two announcements. I have the honor to announce the candidature of Switzerland for our reelection to the ITU Council for the period of 2019 to 2022 as the host country as the ITU Switzerland always works hard to maintain the highest possible conditions for the delegates, personnel and others at the headquarters of the ITU. Switzerland wishes to continue this commitment within the ITU council.

Gentleman, I have the pleasure to invite you to Geneva to actively participate in the Internet governance forum, IGF, that Switzerland will host later this year in close cooperation with the United Nations Department of Economic and social affairs. This will be the 12th edition of the IGF and it will be held from the 18th through the 21st of December. The motto of the IGF 2017 is Shape Your Digital Future. We sincerely hope that this event will provide the environment conducive for informed discussions between experts and decision makers across the board who will meet in Geneva to explore new solutions to global digital governance.

Thank you.

[Applause].

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Philipp Metzger.

I would like to invite Celalettin Dincer, the board member of the Information and Communication Technologies Authority from Turkey.

You have the floor, sir.

>> CELALETTIN DINCER: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary-General, ministers, Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, on behalf of Information and Communication Technologies authority of the Republic of Turkey I would like to thank the Government of Argentina for their hospitality and for welcoming us to this beautiful city, Buenos Aires.

I also would like to express our sincere gratitude to ITU Secretary-General and to director of BDT for their efforts in the preparation of a successful conference.

We strongly believe the importance of Information and Communication Technologies as an accelerator of development. ICTs have a very critical impact on the quality of life of people across the globe, especially those who have access to them and those who do not. Therefore, it is government's responsibility to ensure that the goals and targets relating to the role of ICTs for Sustainable Development should address the basic needs and interests of the most disadvantaged citizens between society. These needs include, but not limited to, healthcare and food production, saving people out of poverty circle to job opportunities, monitoring Climate Change and processes related to land and water and bridging the digital gender divide.

With this huge responsibility, Turkey's strategic vision of 2023 sets very important goals regarding ICTs. These goals include maintaining ICT-based economic growth, transformation to knowledge-based society and enhancing high speed broadband access for all. In line with that vision, Turkey continues to take strong steps in order to create a fully transformed Digital Economy and society through affordable and accessible ICTs. The INT advanced auction held in 2015 represented an important milestone for Turkey's transition to 5G. Turkey is planning to be a first country to adopt 5G technology. Ladies and gentlemen, we're well aware that digital divide is still an important issue to overcome in the Agenda and we need to put connectivity in the corner of our focus. Finding ways and means for affordable access to ICTs should be one of our major solutions to tackle this problem. Turkey is proud of the success stories reached by the universal fund to bring broadband to remote areas within the country. The Internet is an important contributor to Sustainable Development but connectivity is a basic need and right of every significant and it is a challenge for governments. At the top of the list,

there is security needs of the Internet users, particularly children. Children are born as digital natives are vulnerable to harmful effects of the Internet. In ensuring their safety and security, it is a responsibility that all stakeholders should contribute within their capacity.

We have belief that this conference is a huge opportunity for us to emphasize the importance of ICTs for achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and they should all work together in the spirit of cooperation to reach concrete results.

To you, Mr. Chairman, to all respective colleagues, we wish you a successful, fruitful conference.

Thank you very much.

[Applause].

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Celalettin Dincer.

I would like to invite His Excellency the Ambassador Sergio Danese, the Ambassador of Argentina Brazil Public.

>> SERGIO DANESE: Thank you very much.

Secretary of the ITU, ladies and gentlemen here in the room, Delegates from to the different administrations, on behalf of Brazil, one of the regional offices in the Americas and the Caribbean, I would like to welcome all members of the ITU with whom we have very close links. I would like to particularly congratulate the Argentine republic for the excellent organization of this event which is so important for the region and for the sector.

It is also really welcoming to see Argentina and had Brazil working together and to see that it is hosting a number of events which will be held here in a universal city which is open to the world and which is fully connected. We share with Argentina the defined cultural and geographical links and we consider that it is very important that we participate in this conference which will have a really good exchange ever ideas and cooperation with other countries which is important for our foreign policy. This can be seen as relevant and is mutually beneficial. Brazil is a continental country and has a very challenging terrain, communication and ICT sector, it represents a strategic way to address the challenges, the opportunity afforded to allow us to overcome issues such as integrating people who are in rural areas, Sustainable Development and using tools and connectivity which is essential that will stimulate innovation and development and capacity building main goals include establishing the enabling environment for investment and broadening infrastructure and we have services for the people and making sure that these are fit for service and they're affordable throughout the country which we pay special attention to for rural and other areas. In this vein we're looking to improve competitiveness and getting new places in the market by

guaranteeing the respect of the consumers, in order to achieve these goals, we're looking at a regulatory climate which includes rehabilitation of a modernization plan in our sector. Consolidating research and development on regulatory aspects of regulation and the transmission to the analog to digital transition. With new spectrum auctions in order to put in place policies and new policies in order to work with consumers to improve accessibility to the services. We know challenges in the region for the largest challenge in the world, therefore this conference is an exchange of ideas and we'll have for technical cooperation and to look for more ideas in order to overcome the digital divide. Within this vein thank you for looking at satellite areas. This gives us an opportunity to look at regional cooperation in order to identify and investigate and to achieve research and develop studies that's been very efficient for the success of international events organized by Brazil in the last four years. Resources of the BDT of the ITU has been a priority of Brazil ever since the last conferences. We place priority on the regional initiatives and updating resolutions and streamlining the questions to put in place public policies on the Internet we have to make sure that ITU has skills and mandate to address the issue based on the actions put in place by the Information Society and to update this. I would also like to outline the importance of the theme of this conference, the ICTs for Sustainable Development Goals, the information to ensure we can achieve a Sustainable Development goal, it is very clear that these are very relevant and a tool to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and 160-odd goals put in place by the United States in the 2030 Agenda and I would like to conclude, Chair, by saying the main challenge of this conference will be BDT and to look at the Sustainable Development Goals in order to set up indicators and to assess the objectives. With that, Brazil would like to further its commitment for the conference. The conference for ITU, we hope that we can develop and be successful and work with all of the members, particularly with the members in our region.

We thank you very much, Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much.

I would now like to invite Elmir Tofif Aglu Velizadeh, Director General Telecommunications Investment Promotion Agency from Mexico.

You have the floor, sir.

>> ELMIR TOFIF OGLU VELIZADEH: Thank you very much, Chair.

Thank you to Argentina for the organization of this conference. Also very welcoming to the international community.

Good afternoon to all of you, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to welcome all members of the ITU, ministers, vice

ministers and members of all Delegations here with us today.

Mexico, as you know, has a population of more than 190 million people, yet telecommunications and ICTs really define the way in which we communicate. This is a Constitution guarantee.

In 2013 Mexico adopted structural reforms in different areas. In some we increased investments and increasing the economic possibilities from Mexico through dropping of free trade buyers. The reform in telecommunications is part of the is structural reforms. The government and all of the political stakeholders in Mexico acknowledging the existence of a problem of skills which is limiting the growth of the telecommunications and the radio sector during the last few years. The telecommunications was set up of the highest legal level, the constitution, the aim of this, it was to guarantee the access to ICTs such as broadband and Internet, of course, this would belong-term. With this, we have the reform to ensure that these can be achieved. Four years into the reform, reduction of the prices of telecommunication services has been undertaken and prices have fallen in telecommunications 28.9%.

If we think the information at the same time, it was 17.3% growth. We can see that there is a differential between the price of the products and the different areas of telecommunications in 46 percentage points downwards. Mexico among other things nominated the long national distance and we have prices that have fallen from 40%.

Thanks to this decrease in prices we have reached penetration of broadband, mobile broadband penetration which is 42%, 73 people in the last few years. On the other hand, investment in Mexico in the telecommunication sector has increased, particularly by generating thanks to a number of investments with AT&T for example who has entered this market and others, another company which is through the shared network in the 700 megahertz spectrum which would boost access to broadband for people and to telecommunications through a network. In this aim it is working to bridge the digital divide ensuring that more and more people have access to technologies and the information technology communication technologies and this reflects Mexico's actions for development.

In 19th of September this year at 1:00 in the afternoon Mexico suffered terrible earthquakes, 7.1 on the Richter scale and in those moments the increase in voice and data traffic was seen in different areas in the City of Mexico and throughout the states and other areas of the country. This was a situation for telecommunication networks, there was a huge number of extra people who were trying to make calls and sending messages all at the same time. 98% of the telecommunication public networks

weren't working. Furthermore, 97% of those effected were reestablished very quickly, in less than 48 hours. Places such as Mexico City which have around penetrable -- broadband penetration of 100 lines for every 100 people had a high level of communication between the government and Civil Society at that time. The voice service users and the data, they were able to communicate very easily with family members thanks to the solidarity and coming together of the people but also as the operators and the different telecommunication operators who opened the networks to people using it freely for data and cell services. In some cases we were able to save people who were in the tumbled down buildings.

Some of this effected poorest areas of the country and the level of access to mobile is only 30 lines for every 100 people, where conditions to help them was the most complex of all, especially the rural communities.

This situation has shown us the challenge that we have to ensure improved coverage and to ensure that we reach all of these communities. Of course, it is an achievement to ensure affordability of the telecommunication services and to ensure the devices themselves and ensure ownership is universal. In this vein, the earthquake brought many problems but also we worked together, everyone together as you see in other countries, and the countries also helped us, some are in this room, we thank you for your help.

We have participated actively since 1906. Mexico was elected for the first time as members to the council in 1953. We believe the value and importance of ICTs receive cooperation and the support in disasters, it is absolutely essential in a world that's changing and facing severe climate change. It is for this reason we think the Mexico Council for 2018 will allow us to continue working with the ITU as an absolute fundamental, and continue to work actively on this council allowing us to continue to work together on relevant issues for big global development of telecommunications and ICTs. The Mexico administration would hope, Chair, that the work from this conference would be fruitful. We thank you. We thank you for your support and to the international community. You can count on our support.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much.

I would like to give the floor to Almashakbeh Al-Ansari. You have the floor, sir.

>> ALMASHAKBEH AL-ANSARI: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary-General, Mr. Deputy Secretary-General, dear directors of the various sectors, dear brothers, directors of the Secretariat, God bless you all.

Allow me on the outset on behalf of the government, the people of Jordan, allow me to express my sincere thanks and my respect to the people and Government of Argentina. We would like to thank them for hosting so generously this conference. We have been very welcomed and I would like to thank the government for organizing this conference.

Dear brothers and sisters, ladies and gentlemen, Chairman, the world is completely different than what it was years ago. Despite the development that's been achieved in various countries of the world, we still suffer in many parts of the world from poverty, from poor health, poor hygiene and this is a real challenge to all of us, whether it is each country that's a focus of this t even though development has been achieved in many countries of the world, even though there was progress the difference is bigger and bigger every day despite the efforts made we notice the amount of suffering and results of progress are at risk because of climate change and civil wars and tensions and despite all of the political problems that every country is suffering. Ladies and gentlemen, we're meeting today in order to start in a new stage of our life and in the life of the ITU.

We have had to suffer with world development, we have to celebrate the 21st anniversary of BDT and at the same time we have to stress a fruitful framework, we have to remember the Sustainable Development and the global objectives and we have to work together to achieve the global objectives in order to design a new future, achieving progress for the future. This could be achieved through an international partnership. This is why we believe that we have to work hard in order to achieve our objectives in this conference so that we can reinforce BDT and so that we can participate in achieving the objectives of BDT and this will help us with the ITU objectives, at the same time we would have to promote the telecommunications, and we have to think about regions and we have to think about the objectives of each region. Dear colleagues, the development objectives are universal. We have to work hard to use ICTs so that it becomes a tool that's very successful and we have to look at the countries. Our objectives and methodology in Jordan have led us to inform the infrastructure and we are developing the ICT sector. Our development is starting from inside in order to increase trusts and faith and in order to ten courage creativity and to have new jobs for our youth so that you can raise the quality of life. This ICT sector has been developed, and we have turned our difficulties and challenges into good solutions. I would like to explain to you the various achievements of Jordan and what we hope to achieve in the future.

In 2016 we have declared the implementation of new work

plan and on the development of Digital Economy so that individuals, groups, companies, they can work hard in order to have good results. Our work plan has the following items. First of all, creativity development tools for various sectors, second item, it was the creativity in the public sector, to encourage and promote the work of the ICTs in the governmental transactions. Third item, it is concentrating on partnership and the fourth item, it is promoting resources so that you can respond to the needs of the market in order to reduce the difference between the wealthy and the poor.

We have also looked to put in place a framework to encourage entrepreneurs and companies to develop their infrastructure. We also work in order to strengthen our structure to develop the Digital Economy.

Dear Delegates, the debates we're having here, it will take the necessary seriousness to develop ICTs and we would also like to use the connectivity of our partners and this has to be remembered.

I would like to thank you for listening to me and I wish you all and the conference all the success you want to achieve. Thank you very much for listening.

[Applause].

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Almashakbeh Al-Ansari.

Before I bring in the next speaker, I would like to once again ask that you try to keep your speech within the 3 minutes allocated.

Now I would like to invite Shola Taylor, Secretary-General for the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation.

>> SHOLA TAYLOR: Excellencies, colleagues, friends, officials of the ITU, let me take this opportunity on behalf of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation to congratulate you on the 25th anniversary of the sector.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank the Government of Argentina for hosting this conference in this beautiful city, Buenos Aires, and a very warm welcome that's been accorded to us since our arrival. Especially for the fantastic reception we had yesterday.

The member countries of the Commonwealth of Nations with a population of 4.2 billion from developed, developing, developed countries. 60% of the population is below the age of 30 and this diversity makes the Commonwealth the biggest group of countries in the world which also covers 4 of the six regions of the ITU. Most of the countries are members of the CTU. According to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Developments the spread of ICTs and global interconnectivity has potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies let me quickly highlight some

activities that we have been engaging our members over the years and I'm pleased to inform you that most of the activities within the mandates of the ITU-D sector and this is why we have collaborated extensively with the ITU in our work.

Top of our Agenda is cybersecurity. We saw great interest to many countries, in fact, every country. The issue is dedicated to encouraging and fostering a culture of cybersecurity and effective governments through the establishment of cybersecurity frameworks, standards and guidelines. We believe that in order to develop trust in the sector and ensure the communities and countries can benefit the ICTs and service space that there is a need to invest heavily in resources in cybersecurity as well as effective collaboration. In 2040 the Commonwealth ministers adopted Commonwealth governance model which lays down principals to guide practical action and involving our members and in our service space. On the model, we're further developing a model for national cybersecurity strategies which has been used extensively to facilitate development of cybersecurity strategies in a number of countries and with the kind support of the UK governments.

This includes Fiji, Mozambique, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda. We have made tremendous progress in the countries and of course, I mention that the Department of the ITU, assisting the Government of Swaziland to develop their own national cybersecurity strategy. This will extend our reach beyond the Commonwealth providing assistance to the Government of Senegal through partnerships with the Dutch governments, this is to facilitate the Government of The National Cybersecurity Strategy for Senegal. We also are committed to developing capacity building within the sector and we also put in a lot of efforts to tackle cybercrime and we have worked with Bangladesh and Nigeria and we have plans to conductivities in Pakistan in this light. We're pleased with the outcome and engagements we have had with the young people of Bangladesh on the use of ICTs under the guidance of Honorable Minister which shows the successful events. We're working to develop the capacity of small and medium enterprises which understand a focal area of the framework to protect themselves against criminal cyberattacks through the implementation of cyberstandards. Given that SMEs is 40% of national income in emerging technologies, we believe that there is a good value in this product for members. We have recently conducted some activities in Uganda and next month we'll go to Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica to offer supports. In the increase of threats of the cyberspace, cybersecurity, the council met last month and passed a resolution to bring issues to the attention of the Commonwealth, heads of governments next year.

Your Excellencies, as part of our strategic goals, we support members and initiatives, particularly on universal affordable, high quality broadband activity via implementing policies and other measures which will facilitate the rapid rollout of broadband infrastructure. We believe that broadband access in rural and remote areas cannot only encourage developments, allowing grid access to educational, professional sources and also increase issues of inclusion, social inclusion. Issues such as access, efficient use of spectrum, quality of service, those are key elements that were considered when providing assistance to members, neutrality as well as environmental protection. We're pleased that this is in line with the work of the ITU-D and in fact the issue has partnered with the ITU in developing the national development broadband strategy. Distinguished Delegates, we believe strongly in collaboration and in a multistakeholder approach to all activities. I therefore arrange all here to continue to work together and share strengths and experiences as a commitment to this topic which only results in a better future for us all. This issue stands ready to support the approach of this conference.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Shola Taylor.

Now I would like to invite Peter Pitsch, the Global Executive Director and Associate General Counsel of Intel Corporation.

>> PETER PITSCH: Honorable Delegates, hosts, ladies and gentlemen, I'm delighted to be here.

In the interest of time, let me incorporate by reference all of the many thank yous well-deserved that have been put forward by proceeding speakers. Let me start with one admission and two insertions,

The admission, I was a senior official at the FCC for eight years in the 1980s, and we made plenty of mistakes. On cellular, I think that's all we did was make mistakes. Buyer beware.

Now for my two assertions: One, broadband is a key driver for the digital transformation and economic growth. It will play a fundamental role as a component in next generation technologies like 5G. I could cite very big numbers here involving billions and hundreds of billions of dollars from private analysts and the world economic forum on the impact, the revenues, so on but I'll spare you all that.

Two, broadband is deployment and subscribership, it is going to occur where and when companies and consumers think they'll benefit from it. Policymakers can have an enormous impact on where and when that is. First, they can create an attractive investment climate and adopt enlightened anti-trust

and spectrum policies. If anyone doubts the significance of those factors, consider the enormous remarkable increase in cellular subscribership in Latin America, Africa, India, so on all within a space of a few years in this last decade. It is the most remarkable telecom success story in my 36 years of watching telecom policy.

Second, policymakers can address areas where broadband is unprofitable, either because of cost or income and then there are special areas where they have roles in infrastructure, security, training and education and so on. Often it will be the case that market-based solutions, public-private partnerships will be the most useful way to proceed there. If you're interested in this, I encourage you to look at a report recently released by Intel and others on the IoT strategy dialogue.

One final word: 5G, why it is relevant to Developing Countries. Consider 90% of mobile broadband users in Developing Countries are mobile broadband users and the surprising affects that had in many, many cases, the remarkable example of course of mobile banking. 5G will surprise us in much the same way. It won't happen all at once or everywhere the same way. There will be many surprises.

For example, will it be the case that low frequency, low bandwidth width applications for agriculture will save lives or smart uses for sustainable water management or high and mid band frequencies which will make possible more reliable data services which will bandwidth or make possible remote, rural health applications, remote monitoring, so on in ultra-rural areas or in cities, urban areas, autonomous vehicles, again, saving lives. These are things that may be possible when these things start unfolding in developed world, the equipment being depreciated and the uses attractive which brings me back to where I began.

Policymakers can have an enormous impact on where broadband and next generation broadband will be beneficial. To get that benefit, we're going to need to get the big things right and focus on special roles. If we do that, we'll get big and special benefits.

Thank you very much.

[Applause].

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Peter Pitsch.

Now I would like to invite Professor Fabricio Gomez Mazara, member of the Board of Directors, Dominican Institute of Telecommunications, Dominican Republic.

You have the floor, sir.

>> FABRICIO GOMEZ MAZARA: Distinguished ministers, Secretary-General of the ITU, Chair of the conference, dear

friends, on behalf of the Dominican Republic Delegation I would commend my gratitude to the Argentine republic for hosting this conference in this beautiful city Buenos Aires.

We value the commitment of ITU at this world conference to achieve the SDGs and the role of ICTs to do this. We hope we'll be able to be successful at this conference and these outputs will have a global impact. Digital technology brings solutions in order to broaden coverage in education, health, education of natural disasters, just to name a few.

In this vein, I will offer to the commitment taken by the Dominican Republic to enter into this new digital era which is an essential point in the developing of new policies and government, the national development strategy of the Dominican Republic in 2030 placed a commitment to include ICTs as a cross-cutting issue across all sectors in order to achieve this commitment we have a short programme plan to boost our population to use ICTs and productive processes through four pillars. These are education, computers given to students, training programs for all education areas and free access to the Internet in public schools.

The second pillar: Access to have a natural fiberoptic cable to extend connectivity to all districts. The pillar of development, especially for small, medium businesses, to ensure that this business area is connected to all, to ensure that the world is open, and we're committed with our government to ensure we're more transparent and accountability and to bring better services to the people. This programme has cross-cutting issues such as cybersecurity, looking in particular at the areas so that these are not left behind in this plan.

Furthermore, we're looking for enabling conditions to increase economic growth investment and development through public-private partnerships integrating Civil Society, academia and people.

In the Caribbean which have different developing Stages, it is a real challenge to put in place this Digital Economy and ICTs such as 5G, of course, we have many challenges in the connectivity, these new technologies have the opportunities in a framework of the economic and social development, the 2030 Agenda, there is a real opportunity to convert ICTs into strategic alliance for development and this what's happening in the digital programme.

Also with ITU, through the strategic plan which will be adopted at the conference. The resolution stemming from this really must stress the collaborative nature of work amongst all stakeholders to promote creativity, innovation and the commitment in order to achieve the development goals which would improve the quality of people's lives now and in future

generations.

Thank you.

[Applause].

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Professor Gomez.

I would like to invite Charles Zoe Banga from the Central African Republic.

>> CHARLES ZOE BANGA: Thank you, Chairman.

For me, it is a great honor and immense pleasure to align myself with the figures that have preceded me to speak to you on behalf of the Central African government and congratulate you for your election of the chairmanship of this conference.

Your election demonstrates international recognition of your qualities and your use of your reputation to facilitate the achievement of our noble goals. I can assure you with readiness of my Delegation to support you in this noble mission.

I would ask you to transmit from me to the Government of Argentina representatives, the authorities and residence of this beautiful area our gratitude for the welcoming to us here. Ministers, heads of Delegations, participants, Delegates, Honorable guests, ladies and gentlemen, since the first conference to this, how much have we achieved? It is historic in the history of humanity that we have achieved so much and we could not have without support from the Member States and certain members and we would like to thank all of those that have worked so hard and with such determination over the past 25 years. After 25 years we ask the situation what is the situation in the telecommunication development sector because to speak of the development of international telecommunications is to talk about regulation, laws and achieving the goals that have stood before us in 25 years at the BDT. The development of international telecommunications remains a major problem and a political and technical challenge. Challenges still remain to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. They are many and time is not on our side.

We need to ensure that ICTs are developed better with investment, facilitating broadband infrastructure, promoting new services and the protection of private data and to facilitate secure, efficient development of the Internet and the fighting of cyberattacks.

However, in the Central African government, a post conflict government, we're one of the few without international fiberoptic access and the situation is even more so with national connections. As the world moves towards broadband 5G connections, we call on the ITU to put in place a special programme for our country because the absence of fiberoptic access means that we cannot move towards 4G and 5G, national television remains analog. We still have problems from moving

from Internet 4.0 to 6.0, what can we provide for our citizens if we cannot provide broadband access, what's that mean for basic services for healthcare, it agriculture, so on? We have a project to revise key documents and to provide new ways of assistance to our country, a special level of assistance. I would like to invite you to warmly support this project and vote for our proposals. We recognize the key role of the ITU in the development of IC, it's across the world, notably broadband, our meetings should facilitate meetings between decision makers and investors in public-private partnerships to ultimately achieve the Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future built on broadband, not just fixed and mobile networks.

In Africa, we need the ITUs for new regulatory models to update our legislative foundations for development. This can facilitate investment for Sustainable Development and to better share the benefits of future growth. For this, we welcome the effort of the BDT.

Chairman, Secretary-General, ministers, heads of Delegations, Delegates, participants, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am confident that the solutions to the questions of the development of ICT telecommunications are laid out in the statements we're hearing. They are numerous, clearer, constructive and complete. We need to develop a true plan of action which will allow the BDT to achieve the noble goals set before us.

I thank you for your kind attention.

[Applause].

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Charles Zoe Banga. Before continuing, as we have reached the end of our plenary session, I would like to now ask the interpreters if you would be able to grant us a further 10 minutes.

>> We can, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much to the interpreters.

We'll go with an extra 10 minutes.

The reason for this, at 1630 there was a meeting and therefore I would like to invite two further speakers to address us now and then we'll continue with the rest of this session at another time.

Now I would like to invite Patrick Nyirishema, Director General of the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority.

You have the floor, sir.

>> PATRICK NYIRISHEMA: Mr. Chairman, Excellency ministers and heads of Delegation, ITU Secretary-General, other elected officials, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Rwanda Delegation, I would like to thank the Government of Argentina for our warm reception and hospitality.

Mr. Chairman, as we gather here in Buenos Aires, the global

technology landscape is rapidly changing bringing with it new challenges but also great opportunities. We are all here due to a shared commitment towards developing the ICTs and to help obtain Sustainable Development Goals and benefits to all of humanity.

Since the year 2000 the Government of Rwanda has established institutions and mechanisms to create an enabling environment for ICT development. There is no single sector which has not been positively impacted by this efforts. We have seen tremendous improvement in healthcare indicators, education outcomes, government service delivery, youth and women empowerment among others. Today, about 70,000 refugees who are living in Rwanda receive food aid from our food programme are receiving it electronically. Each household has a card where the programme sends money for food, this for the programme, it cuts out all of the middle men and administrative overhead in procuring and delivering food while refugees are given a choice and a sense of dignity. This shows that when the infrastructure exists and people have access there is almost no limit to applications and services and there is no excuse to leave anyone behind.

Rwanda as a country has benefited from the visionary leadership of His Excellency Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda who not only has driven digital transformation for our country but together with other Heads of State and government across the continent established it the transform Africa Agenda since October 2013, this is being implemented through the smart Africa initiative under the able leadership of Dr. Toure who is here with us here. The objective is to build a single African digital market and to break barriers that exist today across the continent. Mr. Chairman, I would like to highlight an area that I receive is not receiving as much attention at a policy level as it should. The ICT industry continues to produce great innovations changing the way we live, interact and transact. Big data, IoTs, AI, machine learning, other areas, they're moving at a very fast pace. Alec Ross in his book industries of the future says who owns the data is as important a question as who owned the land during the agricultural age and who owned the factory during the industrial age. Data is the raw material of the information age.

If we view data as a raw material for the information age the question of data ownership, access and utilization is very important. Policies need to be developed to help democratize ownership and use of data. If we don't address these issues now the future will bring a much bigger digital divide than we have experienced in the past when the digital divide is mostly about connectivity and access. The issues of data of course go beyond

economics and there are matters of privacy and security as well. There is a need to address policy issues around data, especially Artificial Intelligence, cybersecurity among others. Finally, Mr. Chairman, let me conclude by recognizing ITU leadership for their support to Member States especially the area of development through BDT. I look forward to a productive conference here in Buenos Aires.

I thank you. I thank you very much for your attention.

[Applause].

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Patrick Nyirishema.

I would invite the last speaker for this afternoon, Aruna Sundararajan, secretary of the Department of Telecommunications and Chairman of the Telecom Commission from India.

You have the floor.

>> ARUNA SUNDARARAJAN: The Chair, Secretary-General, Excellencies, delegates, our host, ladies and gentlemen, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development together we expressed our commitment to take bold, transformative steps which are urgently needed to shape the world on to a sustainable, resilient path to development making sure no one is left behind. The ITU world telecommunication development conference is one of the most significant opportunities we have to define our programs, set the Agenda on ICTs for development to accomplish the SDGs and to review the WSIS outcomes in 2025. I thank the ITU for providing India for this opportunity to the share India's achievements in the growths of ICTs and their applications for development. I would thank the Republic of Argentina for hosting this historic jubilee summit.

India, the world's most populous democracy is in the cusp of a momentous transformation. The digital India programme under the leadership of the prime minister aims to transform the country with over 1.2 billion people, 1 billion phones and 450 million Internet users in a forward looking economy. The three pillars are digital infrastructure, governance and services on behalf and digital empowerment of its citizens. India's vision is to connect 250,000 village clusters with broadband highways by 2018 and I'm glad to mention that over 100,000 village clusters have already been connected through fiberoptic broadband even as we speak and we expect this will bring in 100 million rural citizens online.

India's unique biometric digital ID programme, it is our foundation, has enrolled already over a billion people in the country and is today being extensively used for targeted delivery of financial and other benefits.

Today over 206 million people in India receive their financial entitlements directly into their banks accounts. 30 billion entitlements are being transferred directly through

this mechanism. India is also working to expand programs for regional development so that television, DTH, state education, medicine, disaster management support, mapping and deeper connectivity are available not merely to Indian citizens, but to also the regional -- to the regional enablers. India is executing a number of capacity building programs from Developing Countries through the ITU center of excellence at the ALTDC. As part of regional initiatives India is also implementing various projects in collaboration with countries in Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia. The Government of India's public sector unit for telecom consulting of India limited has executed the pan African eNetwork project which is successfully delivering healthcare and other services to different countries of Africa since 2009. India has supported the regional projects which set up an information highway in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal through high-speed fiberoptic networks.

India has always stood for making other countries as well self-reliant. On this occasion, I would like to reiterate India's willingness to extend necessary support to other Developing Countries jointly with ITU and the other international organizations in the developing ICTs. India would be happy to share low-cost technologies developed for rural areas and the latest platforms for various solutions, including smart city solutions.

India supports the ITU to be in the forefront in the U.N. technology bank engagement in the ICTs for Least Developed Countries while acknowledging the role of ITU and its vision in furthering the WSIS mandate, India would like to ask ITU to develop a blueprint for effective international cooperation in building a genuine trust framework for the safe and secure use of ICTs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your active support and partnership to India and the world as the current council member and to seek your continued support and mandate for ITU in the next council.

At to end, I wish the conference all success and wish productive outcomes through dialogue which will address the concerns of all people, particularly those who are not here, but who need ICTs the most in bridging the digital divide.

Thank you.

[Applause].

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Aruna Sundararajan.

Now to conclude this high-level session that ends today, as we stand so that we are aware, there is still a number of speakers that still haven't been able to address the floor. In the plenary session tomorrow, we're going to allow 30 minutes of that time so that to the remaining speakers can then address the

floor.

For the high-level segment we will allow these presentations between 10:30 and 11:00 tomorrow morning. In this vein we'll therefore begin at 9:30 tomorrow morning, we'll begin our plenary session tomorrow morning at 9:30 but at 10:30 we will continue with the high-level segment. I would like to ask you once again if you can please keep your addresses within the 3 minutes allocated time in order that we can finish on time.

Having said this, we're seeking the indulgence that the Coordination Committee will kindly be able to coordinate this for tomorrow's plenary session.

Thank you very much to all of you.

Before closing, I would like to give the floor to the secretary to make some announcements.

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

The Government of Burkina Faso is asking you all to a cocktail this afternoon. Buses will be available from 5:30 outside here from the hotel to go to the venue.

The Agenda for the next plenary is published as ADM12 and the plenary starts tomorrow at 9:30.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Secretary.

Therefore, tomorrow we'll begin at 9:30, which will be the next plenary session while clarifying that at 10:30 we'll continue with the high-level segment in order to finish that session at 11:00 tomorrow morning.

Thank you.

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