

ITU WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2017
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

11 OCTOBER 2017
5:00 P.M. - 6:07 P.M. LOCAL TIME

MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE AFTERNOON SESSION 2

Services Provided By:

Caption First, Inc.
P.O. Box 3066
Monument, CO 80132
800-825-5234
www.captionfirst.com

This text is being provided in a rough draft format. Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings.

>> MODERATOR: Ladies and gentlemen, panelists, let's begin with the second session today. Let's take our seats and let's get started.

I invite everybody to join us in the main room, and to of course, take your positions. Get ready for the next chapter in today's discussion.

I welcome you to the second part of our event today. This is the second Ministerial Roundtable. This time the focus is on the digital economy. This topic of course, connects intimately with our previous discussion, and of course, we have a number of speakers that could not address us before, but will do so in this event.

I encourage everybody to let us know if they want to speak after our keynote speakers now, by raising their placard. Drawing my attention or the attention of the staff around us. Thank you very much. Got you.

Right now it's my turn to introduce to you His Excellency. He will address us as our first keynote speaker today. Sir.

>> Thank you Secretary-General, Commissioner, Excellencies, Delegates, ladies and gentlemen. I'm privileged to speak to you about the topics that I'm really keen about, and we work hard in Slovenia, because we believe that the digitalizations and all the opportunities that brings can really help to improve the quality of life, of citizens and the business opportunities.

I've been asked the best technology with biggest for the future. 5G, block chain. These are technologies that have to interlink between themselves. I strongly believe the most impact we will have in the future in the field of cognitiveness, because all those technologies can predict and learn what we need, and they can support our life, our work, and our decision-making.

Today's challenges that we have, cyber security, free flow of data, data protection, big data, synchronizations, can become the opportunities of tomorrow. And I think that the biggest opportunity that we have with the digitalization is on very political level.

It's the opportunity in the field of trust. Because trust in government is necessary if we want to have a support. And if we want to gain trust again, we can react based on digital technologies, more reliable. We can respond faster. We can act on more data. We can open data, share procedures, because it's easy to share it with the digital resources we have. We can do better decision-making, we can use big data that can support us, that our decision-making is really evidence based.

Because the data is something that can really help us, that we decide more wisely. And we can act also with better integrity, with better transparency, which will gain trust of citizens and also businesses.

Digital economy of the future is the economy of the future because there is no economy that is not digital or dependent on digital processes. There's no economic process that is not digital. But we have to understand there are two main opportunities.

One is that we can improve the internal processes of our producers, processes companies. That we with the digital technology are more effective, more efficient. We do better what we do, and maybe we find new products that did not exist before.

The second very important opportunity in the digital economy field is global market, which is not accessible basically to everyone. If we use the communication tools, we can buy, sell, and compose our businesses globally.

Today it's completely natural what was maybe 10, 15 years ago, just a dream. But today we can do our business immediately globally.

Because of that globalization, we are facing also opportunities and challenges of so-called sharing economy.

We can share resources, we can share partners, we can share markets. And in that field, I also strongly believe that block chain technologies will have to be very serious in place, because this is the only technology which can globally solve

some problems like measuring added value. Like taxation. Like insurances.

Because this is the only technology which is not dependent on separate decision of government, but can be spread over the Internet, sharing economy, like everything is based on Internet.

I'm optimist about the future technology.

There is always the question will this ICT have a human face in the future. Of course it will.

Because any technology that we build, we build. People build technology. And we build it for our purposes. We build it to support our businesses; we build it to make our lives more comfortable. So definitely it will have a few human faces, because we will build these technologies for our needs.

And if we build trust. If we act more smart using data and data-based decision-making, it's very important, and this is also the topic today, mentioned frequently, we have to be synchronized. If we don't synchronize our processes, data will not flow. If we don't synchronize our platforms, we cannot share software solutions. So synchronization is something, what is important task of every government. And I strongly believe it's important task of every government to synchronize the processes with other governments.

So this is why we need platforms like ITU, which is wonderful platform for synchronization of our processes that we can share what we build. We can trade. We can travel. We can even protect together by the threads that are common with digitalization.

Slovenia is just a little more than 25 years old country. We decided to be green reference country in digital Europe. Because we find single European market is something that is of vital interest also for Slovenia. This is why we are not seeking for new inventions, for new things that are not already been thought about.

We are seeking for assistance solutions based on new technology. This is new added value.

If we can measure the blood pressure and blood picture and prevent stroke, it's OK. We all know that this works. But how to put it on the system level? You have to change the law, the financial motives, you have to educate the doctors. You have to promote it to the citizens. This is not technology. Technology is just the product that we have to learn to use it.

This is then a system change, and only then, the whole country, citizens and businesses can benefit on what are technological possibilities.

We say also that we changed our processes that we digitalized them. No paper, now it's digital. Then we made them mobile. We can do whatever we do whenever we are. Today,

here from Argentina I can do all the work as if I would be in the office.

But smart and synchronized is something that is really in front of us that we can do it more efficient.

For any international organization, I strongly believe we have to be important. Have to have influence. Have to be a platform. Platform of a corporation.

And have to be useful for the members. And I find the ITU is organization. That it's aligned in these attributes, and I strongly believe that in next 25 years it will be even more important organization, better ground for collaboration, and needed solutions from our members will be better shared between the members.

So I would like to congratulate for the 25 years of the ITU development sector and wish many good years of common work. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much Deputy Prime Minister from Slovenia.

It is now my turn to call another speaker. This man is Majed Al-Mazyed, he's Deputy Governor at Communications and Information Technology Commission. The CITC, from Saudi Arabia. And of course your country is the sponsors of the ITU-D 25th anniversary event.

>> Thank you. Excellencies. Ministers. Secretary-General of the ITU. Dear brothers, dear sisters, I'm very pleased to speak to you during this meeting.

Related to the digital economy. I would like to congratulate the ITU and the development sector for all the achievements as well realized and carried out in the last 25 years. We look forward to more achievement in the future. Especially in the connectivity and giving access to all those deprived of the ICTs. The digital economy has become the substance of the new economy.

It's the main engine of development. The society as a whole has become dependent on the ICTs. The technical market and the telecommunications have become the wealthiest and the biggest market. It's also the smartest markets. Humanity can no longer forget about ICTs, because ICTs will help us to make our life happier.

We have now smart TVs, smart cars, smart engines. We have the artificial intelligence. We have more and more power thanks to the programmers. We even have young people who have become programmers.

We have experts sitting with us who have become engineers and software and programs. Saudi Arabia has understood very quickly the importance of their digital economy.

We have adopted a framework for resources of welfare and for development for our society.

Saudi Arabia is playing a major role in the world economy, especially in digital economy. We have become a member of the G-20. Saudi Arabia has put in place a special service for the digital transformation, including many ministers. Among them the communications minister. The health minister, education minister, the Minister of finance, the Minister of trade, the Minister of rural wealth. Among the functions of this service is to develop ICTs in Saudi Arabia. Ladies and gentlemen, Saudi Arabia is very happy to be on the side of the ITU and finance, and this shows the importance of ICTs in order to enable all members to profit from the ICTs, especially in developing countries. And we plan to have more and more successful partnerships so that all humanity can develop. Thank you very much for listening to me. God bless you all.

(Applause)

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much Deputy Governor, Communications and Information Technology Commission from Saudi Arabia.

My next speaker is probably, I'm sure he's the youngest, at least speaker in the room. He is a software and artificial intelligence developer with IBM.

His name is Tanmay Bakshi, and 13 years old. Definitely the youngest person addressing us in the room. Please.

(Applause)

>> Thank you. Good afternoon and hello everyone. My name is Tanmay Bakshi, I'm 13 years old and I'm from Toronto Canada. I'm an algorithmist and author and cloud adviser. Before I begin I would like to say a big thank you to ITU-D for inviting me to this amazing event and I would like to congratulate them on their 25th anniversary. They do a lot of hard work and their contributions mean a lot to the entire world.

Today I'm here to talk about the next level of the digital economy. In fact, due to the growth and development of the digital economy itself, institutional organizations in fields like education, health care, business, security, and cyber security are being forced to turn into fully-fledged tech companies. And I believe that the technology they're using is currently undergoing a massive shift to the next level.

AI.

And I believe that this next level can empower them to do things that they never could have dreamt of before. And that's why today, I'm here to talk about the next level of the digital economy itself, which is I believe, most certainly, artificial intelligence.

And to show you an example of how AI is already impacting our digital economy, I'd like to take up the example of a project of mine that's very close to my heart. And it's called the cognitive story.

It's an example of AI being used in health care. And through the cognitive story, we're trying to help a quadriplegic girl who suffers from a syndrome and lives north of Toronto. We're trying to give her artificial communication ability.

Even though she can't communicate naturally. That's right. We're giving artificial communication ability to people who can't communicate naturally through the power of AI.

So as you can tell, AI is already playing a very critical role in our digital economy. And we can only expect it to get much bigger from here, because not only can artificial communication complete tasks no other human and no other algorithm can, but in fact AI eliminates many of the mundane tasks that today's workers are faced with, in order to free them to innovate and work in other areas that require them the most.

Such as AI. But as with all good things in life, even AI has a few of its own challenges. One of which being privacy. Now privacy is a mostly solved problem within the field of AI itself. However, users are still very concerned about their privacy of course, and that makes it difficult for people like me to work with AI.

Because neural networks, which are specialized AI techniques require a lot of data to be effective.

And so, some of the brightest minds in the field of AI came together and innovated to come up with a lot of different ways to solve this problem. An example of which being differential privacy, which tries to mask user identity through artificial mathematical noise in the data. And encryption to ensure the data remains secure. And one-time use because artificial intelligence is special. It doesn't need its training data once it's been learned so you can discard the data once it's used to train your AI systems.

This brings me to the second challenge which is the main concern for AI in general and that's the misuse of AI. AI is incapable of this type of activity. Why do I say this?

While humans may set the intent of AI to do something negative, this has been done with every technology that has ever existed and is being done today. We're still combating against it and we're not stopping technological progress. Instead, what we're doing is we're accelerating it. So why do we stop here just because of AI?

But AI itself cannot change its own intent. It cannot change what it was programmed to do, because its objective function, is completely constant. Which is why it is completely

safe for governments, economies and companies to completely integrate with.

And to conclude, I'd like to share this with you. I started my journey into the world of coding and programming computers when I was at a very young age at 5 years old. From there I used books and the Internet as learning resources and at the same time created a YouTube channel and authored blogs and books so I could share what I learned with the rest of the world.

At this point I realize there is a huge knowledge gap in the world. So what I did is I made a resolve to reach out to at least 100,000 aspiring beginners to help them learn and along their journey of programming. I'm glad to see I've already reached around 5,000 people. However I don't want to stop at 100,000 and I realize it's impossible to make the bigger change alone.

Because the digital economy requires systemic change and the support of all stakeholders involved. Which is why I also believe with mark Anderson's vision, which is that in the future there will only be two types of jobs. Those in which people tell computers what to do, and those in which people are told what to do by computers.

So out of everything that I've said today, I believe there are two things that governments need to do to sustain the growth of the digital economy. Number 1. Governments need to support the programs that foster digital skills development in the youth.

And they need to do this so that are future proofed for the era in which AI is the dominant part of the digital economy.

And so that, we can nurture the computational thinking in our youth. And number 2. Governments need to invest really heavily in the research and development that we're doing for AI now so that we can build a foundation and the base for the future of the digital economy and start leveraging it and using it to our advantage, very, very soon.

Thank you very much everyone for your time today. And we, the youth, count on your support.

(Applause).

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Developer and AI activist. 13 years old. The youngest person in the room at least mathematically.

If you we move on to the interactive part of our session today.

We'll be hearing interventions by Ministers deputy Ministers and they will be followed by C-level executives.

Just a quick reminder, we're looking for as diverse a collection of views as possible.

So please, please, please try to keep your intervention to 3 minutes tops. Again, in case I have to interrupt you, it's just my job. I have to try and make this part of the conversation as profitable as possible.

Again, please, please wave your placard so we can see you. Some members of the ITU staff or myself, we can see you and we can continue adding you guys to the list.

Remember that we have three guiding questions today. Our discussion is going to be just orientated by 1, what are the emerging technologies that have the potential to drive digital transformation while fostering sustainable growth of the digital economy?

How can the digital economy turn today's challenges into tomorrow's opportunities?

And number 3. 25 years from now, will we be able to maintain the human face of ICTs and how? We already have a number of requests for speaking.

Our first representative in the list is now representative from Azerbaijan. Minister representative, the floor is yours.

>> AZERBAIJAN: Distinguished chairmen, ladies and gentlemen, I join to this very interesting and fruitful discussion on topic sustainable development goals and digital economy and to contribute to the discussion. Especially the young researcher who mentioned about artificial intelligence, which is very important for not only to digital economy, for our future life.

I won't mention it, but I think more than little bit more, 30 years ago, when I was student in the university, I worked on this research. I had some research of artificial intelligence, and during this 30 years, I think were each results when we spoke about the power of artificial intelligence for some of our purposes oriented on sustainable development goals. But before that, our meeting is dedicated to 25th anniversary of ITU-D.

Taking this opportunity, I can congratulate all of our such tremendous. Now I want to attract your attention to our activities for Sustainable Development Goals. As dynamic, Azerbaijan has set key priority for key developments, increasing the potential for ICT sector.

Digital economies considered an integral part of national economy policy and has made big progress in this direction.

Creation of the digital economy has been set forth as one of main goals according to national strategy for development of information society, which adopted in 2014. At the end of 2016, the government of Azerbaijan has developed 12 road maps for key sectors of national economy including road map on development and communication and information technologies.

All this road maps correlate to SDG and include many tasks. The development ITU and innovative development state policy.

Remarkable results on implementation of ICT. Today around 80% of population of broadband user, services are used for public services to citizens and businesses.

ICT model apps and e-services are little companies from government, business and citizens.

In our activity, global development, cooperate with many countries and give high attention to European based practice. Minister from Slovenia, where with this task force --

I would like to take this opportunity to greet vice president of European commission who chair this meeting.

About ICT social role in achievement of SDGs, we believe that the action aimed at prioritization of ICT will ensure development of all countries. Thank you for your attention.

(Applause).

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much Minister representative of Azerbaijan. I will like to move on Minister representative from Poland. Sir, the floor is yours.

>> POLAND: Ladies and gentlemen, I'm a deputy minister of digitalization. And with respect to the first question posted for our discussion, I would like to say that there's actually one common element for all high tech technology solving relations and come up to the data.

All the new intelligence is mentioned here so vividly a few months ago. What I would like to stress is the fact that today our companies regardless of the size depend on data flows.

And data transferred between countries. This is something essential for trade and production. Before the global nature of current economy is the fact that they're just the supply chains, span across geographics.

And the importance of data transmission of course will go further with the technologies like AI and all others.

And the data flows are expected to become so important that we in as Poland are calling for the free movement of data as being the fifth freedom. The fifth human freedom alongside the freedom of goods, services capital and people.

Poland has succeeded so far in making the free movement of data a high priority in European Union. So we are really happy that we attracting here more and more support from both the European Union commission and European Union countries and would like to initiate also the discussion about at a global level. Because we think that the free flow of data would be one of the fundamentals of the long-term development of the emerging technologies. Thank you very much for your attention.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much, sir.

(Applause)

I would like to invite our panel to share with us some thoughts on the two representatives who just spoke to us. Do we have some thoughts on the free flow of data?

>> I agree with Polish speaker. Trends not in the European Union, but globally is quite bad. Number of laws pushing on forceful data utilization is increasing. Just in the European Union 56 different rules in 21 member states dealing with forceful data authorizations.

And as we all know, if you had to cover those states just from some small territories, then most likely somebody else who will be able to collect data from bigger markets, 300 billion healthy customers, or 1 billion customers will be able to reach those new and higher-level software efficiency much sooner than those 28 relatively small countries.

So in the European Union we launched a proposal with allowing free data flows across borders, across the European Union will be sectors of rule. And it means forceful data authorizations will be prohibited.

But we have to deal with those issues also when talking about ITO for example. I'm happy that a year ago when we had the G-7 ITU ministerial meeting, then in this final declaration we stated it very clearly free data flows. It has to be as a rule, also talking about G7. The countries. Now in Argentina, we have to remember that Argentina will take very similar role in G20. And once again, countries agreed with principal to low data flows also when talking about G20 conference.

So it's easy to say we have to set this as a principal to low free flows, but at the same time there will be some people that say none are.

We have to keep data inside of our beautiful countries, then our people, they will get the jobs. We have to process those data inside of our countries and not to move those data out of our countries.

So I would like to say those free data flows, those exactly about summaries of our people. If we will set restrictions on free data flows, then most likely those who are producing some kind of equipment, they will be not able to compete anymore globally. And it means those people will lose their jobs.

So to be more concrete, we don't have time, but Rolls Royce, airplanes, they're getting information directly from engines and on basis of this information, they're able to provide an advice about maintenance, but also about altitude, speeds.

We can say it's connected with free data flows and it's a really green solution. It helps to save energy. It's good solution.

Machines produced in one company, in Spain I know for example where they started to produce automatic car versus machines. But very soon all of the others, countries started to produce car versus machines.

And then the producers put (Inaudible) into those machines. And they're getting directly information from those sensors and in this way, they don't have to state just that you have to change some parts of every 500 hours, working hours. But they can say that this part, we have to change up to 700 working hours.

But in some other cases, maybe 490. So they don't have to stop those car wash machines anymore, just to wait for some kind of spare parts, just in time. Service car will provide those parts and then will fix the problems.

It means once again, I'm talking about free data flows. We have to talk about our competitiveness. We have to talk about our jobs and our salaries of our people. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Please go on. Take it.

>> All right. I have something to add here, which is that's an amazing idea as a fifth human freedom, to have data flowing freely. The reason I believe so is because you think about it, techniques are really algorithm driven. However now days we have things like neural networks who are not just algorithm. But without data you're fought going to go anywhere. They're extremely data driven.

For example the self-driving car, the Tesla is not going to check every single condition on the mode to say if this condition, then this. You're going to offer a data-driven approach which means you're going to take hours and hours of human driving and feed it into a neural network and see what it thinks.

That's an amazing idea. At this point we're so hungry for data, it's becoming practically a natural resource at this point to the point that for example, startups are actually paying Uber drivers, Lyft drivers to put sensors in their cars and collect data for them.

So again we're really hungry for data to be able to train AI systems. And once we're able to get that data, it's just a matter of finding out what types of models work better than others. It's just a matter of the actual algorithms before we're able to see some really impactful stuff. Especially in fields like health care where we can really save lots of human life, just by for example, allowing the data to flow freely. Able to take data according to cancer diagnosis and treatment, using AI, that can again save so many people's lives.

>> Thank you so much. The turn of deputy prime minister.

>> Thank you. Just shortly to add to the discussion. The commissioner talking about free flows. So we have a lot of data. We have fast communications and Internet.

We have a lot of possibilities what to do with the data. Data at home. This is extremely important and I would offer the analogy that use it often, it's like if we would have \$1 million in cash and you put it under the bed. Logical that you bring it to the bank because it's the safest there. But how we act in the field with data, it's like keeping the money under the bed.

Because we want to keep our data in our servers and not to share it in the secure way. But we have algorithms, we have all the necessities, but maybe we are lacking trust. Because you bring the money to the bank which you trust. So this is why we have to cooperate to share the services to understand how we transfer the data, how we use it and reuse it. That we start to trust each other, because technology is there, and it's technologically logical and possible. I strongly believe that's the question of trust, and this is necessary to share the data, especially when it comes to the sharing secure data or personal data that you have to be especially protected. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Currently we're running out of time. Where of course his intervention echoed the data collected by MA370 engines, the airplane that was lost and recovered extensively as journalists. As importance of the stuff we're talking about now data, the economist addressed it as oil of the session.

Our translators. We're running late. We're talking about really important things and sharing important ideas. I would like to make sure and confirm you would be OK staying with us for a few more minutes helping with us the translation as we run a little late.

>> Yes. Certainly.

>> Yes.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Much appreciated, your effort in these very important deliberations.

I would have to move on, and I will have to invite the minister representative of Thailand to address us. Sir? The floor is yours.

>> Thailand: Thank you very much. I try to answer your question, maybe I try to add more questions.

On the display instead. I am -- actually yesterday try to focus on how we can commit the people who are not connected to the Internet broadband. That's why Thailand decide to follow up to every (Inaudible).

But the question is that fiber optics, broadband is the first step to collect them. But this big question. What people can do with the fiber optic, with the broadband.

That's so -- our thing that maybe -- the most important for the first one, try to show them, this can help them to increase the income. E-commerce. This is the e-commerce. But maybe people -- the first step of e-commerce is buying, not selling.

So the currently try to think about how we can build a relationship to sell that product.

Very crucial for everybody is the health care. But the health care, big screen, high definition consulting matter. Very complicating.

I think this is the way to try to solve.

The question is how we can best practice to try and solve. (Inaudible).

When we try to survey the literature, we can find many literature tell us that these are (Inaudible) the big company, the big organization. But how we can touch on the (Inaudible).

The second one maybe (Inaudible).

I personally try to (Inaudible). Try to ask them what (Inaudible) the next generation. (Inaudible).

I would like to learn how we can try to solve the (Inaudible) to the next step.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you. Minister of South Africa. The floor is yours.

>> We decided to do realizing we need to make sure that people participate effectively in the industrial revolution, was to first identify a niche for them. The first thing we did was to say we have to build something that can build the digital revolution and the first step was to make sure we establish an institution that will help empower them with digital literal skills.

And then partner with the universities that identify where it was missing in the market, to say yes, we're going to for the fourth Industrial Revolution. We need to make sure that South Africans are not left behind. First thing was to say let's get them connected and therefore after the connected, let them express themselves, let them share their stories of the villages they come from with entire South Africa. By doing that they were able to derive an experience. Exposing them to connectivity and making them part of the global world.

Second thing we said, we can do it alone as government. We need everyone to come (Inaudible) Internet for all. Invited all the big players, actually both big and small players in the (Inaudible).

Let's work together. You have to make profits and ourselves and government have to get votes. The only way is expose my people as the policy maker of the products you have as a company looking at profits.

Seen great improvement because everybody start deploying at least maximum number of resources. Therefore exposing a lot of people, not just for them to consume, but say what role can we play. If I want to make an example with where I come from, the province is very rural and big on agriculture. First thing we did was ask the committees what are the changes we're experiencing here. First thing they told us was the experience took (Inaudible) and ask people to come up with a solution. Make sure that we leverage technologies to address the challenges we're facing. Came up with great innovations, apps to track the cattle that went missing.

We've seen great improvement. Government were to make sure that the statement to (Inaudible) showing that they participated e-commerce level.

We're to say let's digitize, let's make sure our people bring whatever skills that are there, and ours is to make sure it will promote and incentivize them. That has helped us and we believe working with yourselves here as part of the ITU, most of the strategies that you will employ will help South Africa go forward. Thank you match

(Applause).

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. We have very, very little time left. We go to Bangladesh for one minute please. We're very tight on time. Thank you.

>> Bangladesh: Thank you Chair and Moderator. Artificial intelligence, foster digital economy, and digital economy will ensure sustainable economy, inclusive economy and also growth and GDP. Bangladesh has observed a massive boost in financial services but we are facing a big challenge there. That is the regulator in a mobile financial service is a central bank where the network use is of that of operators, which is regulated by the Bangladesh telecom regulatory commission. We are asking for joint regulation as the license that is given is by BTRC, and the permission for the MFS is given by the central bank. The network is regulated by BTRC and the transaction regulated by the central bank. For me does not make any sense, but it is a challenge we want to have general regulation on this.

And infrastructure is also a challenge. We have made 70,000-kilometer of optical fiber and we have locally, produce optical fiber too. We have to (Inaudible) cable connectivity 98% geographically covered.

But the problem is to ensure speed of broadband, connectivity and make it affordable too. And I would agree like anything with our Secretary-General, that Bangladesh is not least developed country. It is not a developed country. So our investment is from the world organizations and the organizations which would provide (Inaudible) decreasing. The finance

ministry, as I would agree with the Secretary-General, thinks as a quick fix and to get their target of financial return, it's better to invest in ICT. But without telecommunication network, actually ICT is like a mobile phone without network coverage. That is something to be taken care of by all the finance ministries.

And operators, they think that it is profitable to go and serve in areas where it is densely populated. So I think in this case, we have to have operators, the sentiment to serve, not always to make profit, but also the mindset to serving. Cyber security took a back seat because we wanted digital Bangladesh to go, this concept to go ahead and to implement.

So I would ask all the member countries that we should work together to secure the cyberspace and lastly, I would like say that Mr. B. the cloud manager of Toronto, I need your intelligence desperately, which is not artificial, but real. Thank you.

(Laughter)

Thank you thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. We have one more last speaker for today. Minister representative from Canada, please join us. The floor is yours.

>> CANADA: Thank you very much Mr. Chair. We have been following the discussion on digital economy with much interest. Noting that today is international day of the girl, we would like to get the distinguished panelists views on SDG/5, about empowering women and girls as a catalyst for the implementation of all other SDGs because Canada recognizes that supporting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is the most effective way to reduce extreme poverty, challenge inequity and bring a more peaceful, inclusive and prosperous world. Food for thought. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. We're very short on time. So we have to continue. And now I have to invite to the podium Mr. Oscar Gonzalez, chair of the WTDC17.

>> OSCAR GONZALEZ: Good afternoon. Good afternoon everyone. Today we have some excellent addresses on the importance of ICTs in our daily lives and the development of our societies. Furthermore it has been very interesting to note the book launch which has been presented.

In the second session we heard some keynote speeches on the digital economy. If you would allow me, I'd just like to share with you a few ideas, from a personal point of view and not as chair of the conference. But a personal point of view.

Firstly, I would like to mention the issue of gender equality.

With regards to the importance of ICTs and the new economy, these have to do with access. And what I mean by this, not only access to infrastructure, which of course is a very important element to ensure that our citizens can access the benefits of ICTs. But also I'm referring to access to education by using technology. I think it is here, this is a really pivotal part in order to eliminate the inequality. These are both social and economic, but also gender inequality. Access to networks.

But also access to education and training and information to ensure that people can harness the ICTs. And the other point of view I would like to bring to you. I wanted to come back to something the Secretary-General mentioned in his opening speech with regards to access to leave no one behind.

Millions of people are still unconnected. They don't even have access to digital education. The other point I'd like to bring to your attention is quite simply that I understand that we are not going with the digital economy, but we're actually at the moment, in all of our countries in particular, those developing countries and those least-Developing Countries, we have a real opportunity here to empower ourselves with the technology.

We must not only see it as a threat, our economies are sometimes weakened by this. But on the other hand we must really harness the opportunities given and the challenges which the digital economy can give us. We must see the digital economy as a new way of production and to generate wealth based on knowledge-based society.

Not only in primary and industrial materials. The digital economy lends an enormous tunes for our society.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all the panelists, speakers and to all those who have asked questions this afternoon. On behalf of the Argentina Republic I would like to thank all of you for your time. Thank you

(Applause).

>> MODERATOR: Chair of the WTDC-17. I would like to invite to share with us his conclusions and ideas to the director of the ITU telecommunication development bureau.

>> I think that this is the most difficult task. To try to summarize, search inspiring interventions. It's quite difficult.

In front of the digital situation, ought to take the easiest battle, which I will just share with you, my personal, takeaway for me from this discussion.

And we have the opportunity to listen and to hear about various experiences coming from least-developed countries, emerging countries, developed countries, and the countries in special situation.

As we can see, through all those ICT is an equalizer. Equalizer, because through ICT we can change the lives of people. In developing countries, because developing countries issues are in developed countries, because our develop countries' issues are at the end of the day, it's just about people.

We also discuss about the issue of chicken and egg between technology and people. So I think that we should maybe choosing between eggs and chicken. I would like to suggest that if we first as a chicken, let's make sure that you get an egg out of a chicken.

At least we first have an egg, let's make sure that it become a chicken.

What I'm trying to say here is that it is an interactive process between technology and urban development.

We also encourage that synchronization of broadband platforms and processes are key for the digital economy.

Because digital economy is about sharing. It's about saving resources for better life. So synchronization is a key.

And we will all, I'm sure, I'm talking about myself. I'm sure you're agreeing with me.

We're all shaking out of our comfort zone.

(Inaudible).

13 years is telling us you guys, you have to change the way you have been looking at the world. Telling us don't continue look at the world tomorrow with the eyes of yesterday. Telling us also that the next level of digital economy will be about artificial intelligence and then government in this room here and private sector will need to develop detailed skills. We need also to develop social development.

And gives that to the young people for the betterment of humanity. We also know that data, big data, data is today digital economy. Or the public good, should become a public good. But at the same time, we also learn that these new technologies in the connected world, for example, free data flow is now questioning our economic system and our economy groupings.

We also learned that in every single thing, we need trust. I think that this is one of the foundation of what will happen. We talk about the issue of privacy. After all, private to me, I can share it with someone I trust.

So then privacy will be linked with trust. Trust is one of the pillar of the digital economy.

We can all agree with Canada, that no matter -- I say no matter what we're doing for gender equality. I would say women empowerment. Why do you stop at equality? Let us empower them.

No matter what we're doing, we're not doing enough. We should be doing more.

And finally I take it from the Minister of Slovenia, we've been talking and we're talking about national strategies, national e-strategy, national whatever. What he's telling us is that national strategy is a continuous collaboration at national level and international level.

These are my takeaway. I hope also your own takeaway. Please when you leave this conference, bring back to this room, three takeaway and make sure that you use them to change the life of your family, of your community or your nation.

Thank you very much. And thank you all of you for joining us. We have distinguished panelists here, and you can see this is a proper setting of special panel. And finally let me also say the result of the ITU and academia. The book is available on the website. Feel free to communicate to all the people who are interested and not here. Feel free to publish this book so people can use it to make a difference.

Again, I hope you excuse me if I forget something important to summarize. But it is just not easy. I thank you.

(Applause)

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Director of IT and Telecommunication Development Bureau. Thank you for your closing remarks.

Before I continue, I remind you, you are invited to attend tonight's dinner walking distance from here. If you have special needs a bus will depart at 6:45, 40 minutes from now. The end of the gala dinner at 1030, which there will be return shuttles to the official hotels.

It is my turn to express my pride, my joy and my pleasure at being a part of today's exchange, deliberations, extremely enriching. Thank you very much.

Thank you every single speaker today and every single panelist. Thank you very much for being a part of this very important deliberations. We should also thank very much our interpreter friends who have actually made possible that we could all talk to each other in our languages. So we should say probably thank you. Gracias. (Saying thank you in several languages) I believe I have most languages covered there. Or, merci. I'm so sorry. French is my weak point. Terribly sorry for that.

(Laughter)

Thank you very much.

(Applause)

We have to close this event. We'll see you later at the gala. Thank you very much. It's been a pleasure and an honor.

And now ladies and gentlemen, it's time to head to the gala.
Enjoy. Have a good time. Thank you.

(Session concluded at 6:07 p.m. local time)

This text is being provided in a rough draft format.
Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is provided in
order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a
totally verbatim record of the proceedings.
