

ITU WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2017
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>> CHAIR: Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the 6th
meeting of this conference.

I would ask you please to take your seats so we may begin.

While you take your seats, I'll ask the secretary to make
an announcement.

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

Because of some problems in the wi-fi network, right now we
have two IDs, it is the same password that you have about this
previous SSID. If you want to connect to wi-fi, please access
the meeting or the SSID Hilton meeting or Hilton Honors with the
same password. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Before we begin, I would like to begin by saying
good morning to the interpreters.

>> Good morning, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: We'll begin with our first item on this morning's
Agenda which is the approval of the Agenda.

I present to you document ADM/12-E for consideration of
adoption. Please raise your hand or flag if there are any
comments on this.

I see no comments, so the Agenda is therefore adopted.

Point 3 relates to a report on implementation of the Dubai
Action Plan contained in document DOC/2. I would ask the
Director to introduce this document.

You have the floor, sir.

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

Distinguished delegates, it is my great pleasure to present to you the report on the implementation of the Dubai Action Plan. Before I go to the presentation, let me mention to you that for the first time in addition to the PDF format we have also an electronic version for Kindle and Android, as for iBook, iPhone and iPad, this report is fully accessible and will be available and accessed by the visually impaired users.

The Dubai Action Plan has guided our work of ITU since WTDC-14. It has five objectives supported by 15 outputs in line with the ITU result-based management. It also encompasses our activities in the facilitation of the WSIS action lines and since 2015 when the Sustainable Development Goals were adopted ITU aligned the SDGs in its work shortly after.

We have touched peoples' lives in many ways through our various activities, initiatives and projects to mention a few. As of today, we have a portfolio of 59 projects covering more than 130 countries. Let us now browse through the report objective by objective.

Objective one, fostering telecommunication on the ICT development issues: In this framework we organized 6 regional preparatory meetings, IPM, that were held from November, 2016 to April, 2017. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for hosting those IPMs. The development advisory group has been instrumental in advising on the implementation of the Dubai Action Plan and also further prebuilt solutions ration of the WTDC-17. Document 5 will be introduced by the Chairman of TDAG.

We welcomed a total of 4,000 participants, more than 1300 documents were considered and concluded with 18 final reports and guidelines in all six official languages. Details of this report and the report of the work of the study groups will be presented to you by the it chairmen of Study Group 1. Objective two, enhancing the policy, legal, other issues.

We have organized our work regulation events, including the symposium for the GSR and under the period of review GSR was more than 2,000 participants. We produced policy and regulatory tools, and I would like to mention the global ICT regulatory outlook report, the ICT integration toolkit, the ICT regulator and tracker and the training in telecommunication reports and the ICTI. Since the management of the MSM for DC, we have helped Developing Countries manage efficiency and is now using more than 40 countries around the world, at the same time we assisted more than 40 countries in the transition from digital broadcasting. The interactive terrestrial transmission maps continue to be used and today this tool presents more than 400 operators networks and other 27,000 to a special link in over 18,000 nodes. Recently innovation has been embraced to foster

digital transformation and to help develop digital innovation.

National activities include regional and global Outlooks and WSIS innovation tracks and we're also introducing -- conducting vision and review in a few countries you can see the marks on the map and we're helping to bring digital innovation framework and roadmaps.

Objective three, the work of ITU-D has been key in supporting members in digital trust and confidence in the rules of ICTs. In 2014 and 2017 we used the global cybersecurity index. 68 assessments and 18 servers will cover a number of countries and they're being helped and assisted to countries to strengthen the capacity and to incorporate and implementation of the cybersecurity indexes in their plans.

ITU and the World Health Organization organized for the first time a meeting between ministers of ICTs and Health to discuss our views for health coverage. At the same time, we have one of our flagship projects and initiatives that will expand in many countries in the world both in developed and Developing Countries.

On agriculture we worked with the World and Agriculture Organization to develop an eAgriculture Strategy Guide to help Member States to adopt a strategy approach in the making best use of ICTs developed in agriculture.

On education, we organized with UNESCO the joint ITU UNESCO policy forum that brought together ministers of education and ICTs to discuss mobile learning and how it can help achieve the SDG on education. As you can see, we started implementing the ICTs.

Objective four, we have to bring capacity building through the ICT academy that's a main umbrella for the ITU capacity building, including materials for, ITU-T, E and R. With the new center of excellence strategy more than 2078 people are being trained. We have helped members to make informed decision based on the high quality, international comparable ICT data and statistics. Statistics products include the measure of the Information Society, report the yearbook of statistics and the ICT development index. We have participated actively in the work of the partnership of regional ICT for development and correlated the production of the final WSIS targets review. The world telecommunication and the ICT indicator symposium has continued to embrace a healthy dialogue between the ICT data producers and users and the awareness and capacity needed by countries to produce statistics.

We'll continue to work to foster detail inclusion to promote telecommunication ICT accessibility. Our activities and products include in this area materials on public procurement, accessible ICT products and services, training programs on web

accessibility and ICT accessibility report.

In the framework of the global initiative on jobs for youth we have learned, together with others, a campaign for a digital skills for young people and with the objective to train 5 million young people globally by 2030. We have also produced a report on the solution for youth unemployment and a concluding outcome. The international girls, they have empowered more than 300,000 girls and young women from all over the world through 1,000 events held in 166 countries. To ensure that nobody is left behind, we provided assistance to 31 countries through our work on policy and integrating framework, informed emergency communication, gender equality, spectrum challenge and climate change adaptation.

Going to the last objective, 5, focusing on the enhancement of the protection and mitigation and disaster management efforts, I would like to show you a video to you now.

Go ahead with the video.

In the past few years, we are assisting 17 countries to rebuild their telecommunication networks and we have deployed emergency telecommunication equipment to countries effected by natural disasters. Over 200 mitigation adaptation, we have organized events, attracting more than 1500 participants installed early warning systems and had a global statistic partnership.

The Second Global Forum on Emergency Communications Saving Lives held in Kuwait in January of 2016 highlighted the important role of ICT in implementing the Sendai framework and made recommendations on the ICT to support the countries in achieving the SDGs.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like as I present the final objective to thank all the members and partners for being part of this successful story. We have long work together for that to happen. This would not have been possible without the support of the membership, the members, Member States and other partners. Today we are diversifying our membership of our sector members, 145 academia and 200 associates, and we continue to strengthen our multistakeholder collaboration. By the way, over the year, we have attracted more non-traditional players by the quality and relevance of our work, including MasterCard, Walt Disney and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundations and we continue to enhance public and private sector collaboration.

Let me use this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General of the ITU, the Deputy Secretary-General and the two directors for their support, trust and collaboration. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the great work of the ITU staff and particularly the staff in the headquarters and field.

Over the years we have also continued to increase communication, transparency and accountability with our membership. We continue to keep our membership informed so dissemination of the ITU-D eFlash every three months and the quarterly report on implementation of the Dubai Action Plan that you find on the website to be informed in what we're doing.

This was the overview of the activities, new doors are opening here and the action plan, we're going to adopt here will build on our achievements for greater impact on our future and Sustainable Development Goals.

Now I would like to have a short documentary that I'm very sure will make you feel further inspired, empowered for what we achieved together.

Video, please.

>> Around the world, information and communication technologies or ICTs are empowering millions of people helping to secure a brighter future for all. ITU telecommunication development sector or ITU-T is working with global, regional partners to fundamentally improve people anticipate lives through ICTs. This vital work is essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development.

Here is a glimpse of life-changing projects around the world. The trees with many branches, they connect a school related to a project has improved Internet access as well as their communities. Teachers are trained in ICTs and in turn teach others how to use computers and the Internet spreading their knowledge far and wide.

No one needs to be left behind in the digital age which ITU has created a center where children with special needs learn to use ICTs. This bolsters their confidence and knowledge and improves their future job prospects. Small and medium sized enterprises drives prosperity around the world supporting Entrepreneurship with a focus on young people, we're working hand on hand with local organizations and start-ups to help transform our world into a knowledge-based community.

>> We bring more into the market. We try to meet the traditional businesses with the new ideas in order to create a link and to be an intermediate around the world.

>> ITU's support of global Internet centers makes working and living here easier. This strengthens people's technology skills and helps small businesses in remote communities prove themselves creating new commercial opportunities.

The commitment to education has helped to establish with ITU support tell centers in the number of schools across the country. These 21st Century technology problems allow students to connect to the world and all things digital.

Supporting the digital and physical health, ITU has helped

to provide Internet access to schools in Rwanda. This enables communities to find innovation faster and conduct business much more dynamically.

>> Without the Internet, it used to be different, access to the Internet has made it possible for the health center to communicate with other health institutions more easily. For example, when I need to send medical files to health institutions I can do it now with my computer.

>> Teams to enable and support economic and social development, ITU's telecommunication development sector is committed to strengthening the essential role in the global effort to create a sustainable and inclusive Information Society. Today and for the future.

[Applause].

>> DIRECTOR: Thank you very much! Thank you very much!

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Director.

I would now ask you whether you have any comments or any questions on the report. India, you have the floor.

India, did you ask for the floor?

>> INDIA: Thank you, Chairman. There is a problem with the mic.

Apologies for that.

Good morning to all of you.

We really appreciate the difference made by the development sector using ICTs and the developing and other countries. We acknowledge IT membership and all the partners for their active role in supporting and ensuring the initiators have been successful and taken to the people, making a difference. India expresses its support and solidarity to collaborate with ITU and other countries to solutions of the India program spoken of yesterday in the high-level segment. Once again, we thank ITU and leadership for the extraordinary initiators and support and success they have caused in the last four years.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much to the Delegate from India.

I now give the floor to Brazil.

>> BRAZIL: Good morning, everyone. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor.

Brazil would like to congratulate the Secretariat for a very comprehensive report of the activities carried out for the implementation of the Dubai Action Plan. The original initiative on capacity building to engage in global ICT policy with special focus on improving cybersecurity and Developing Countries' participation in the existing governance institutions have achieved good results through actions devoted to cybersecurity especially and Internet governance in the Americas region. Further, a similar initiative, I must remember, is

enlisted as an outcome of objective 4. However, this report does not show any activity to implement the outcome to the Dubai Action Plan related to the outcome to enhance capacity building of membership in Internet, international Internet governance. The report mentioned training activities on Internet governance is starting in 2017 with the first of a series of regional workshops held in Brazil in July, 2017. We would wish to be informed what's planned for the other regions in order to implement this action line. It must be remembered that the inclusion of this outcome was discussed at length and in respect to the 2014 we would appreciate ideas from the Secretariat towards implementation of the outcome accordingly.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you to the Delegate from Brazil.

I now give the floor to Saudi Arabia.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Chairman.

Good morning. At the outset, Chairman, we would like to sincerely thank the development sector, particularly Mr. Sanou who reviewed all of the efforts made in the implementation of the Dubai Action Plan. And supporting the development of the development sector, we have an offer of hope in this and we hope this conference will allow us to further support this work during the next period. This would allow Developing Countries to benefit from the latest developments in the ICT sector. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will continue to provide all of the necessary support and to do its utmost to implement the different development sector plans.

We hope that all the efforts at this conference will be successful.

Thank you, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you to the delegate.

I now give the floor to the Delegation from the Russian Federation.

>> RUSSIA: Thank you very much, Chairman.

I don't want to take up much of the time of this meeting. We do want to offer our gratitude for a detailed report and offer our support for all efforts in this direction.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much to the Russian Federation.

I would now like to give the floor to the director of BDT for additional comment.

>> BDT DIRECTOR: Thank you very much, Chairman.

Chairman, delegates, thank you very much for your comments with regard to our joint work.

Coming back to the question raised by the Distinguished Delegate of Brazil, I would like to say that it is quite difficult to present three years of work in just 10 minutes.

Sometimes you have to just give an overview.

The work on Internet governance was one of the major initiatives in the Americas region. Great work has been done. I think the Delegation could approach the regional representative to learn more about that. It is difficult to go into that in 10 minutes that's why I gave an overview. Sometimes when one summarizes we do run the risk of losing very important information. Due to our time restrictions I wasn't able to take an hour to present the report. You do have further information in the report. I would like to say that the report will be available and the accompanying video will be available on a USB key that will be available at the end of the meeting so you will be able to see the report. It is document number 2. You will also be able -- given a USB key with further information.

Thank you, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Director.

I hope that this was a satisfactory response to the question from Brazil.

That being said I would ask you to take note of the document. If there are any further comments we take note of the document.

Thank you.

The next item in our Agenda relates to document 51, plenary document 51. I would ask the Chair of the Committee 2 to give her presentation of the document.

Mozambique, you have the floor.

>> MOZAMBIQUE: Thank you for giving me the floor.

This is my first address, I would like to thank you from the country of Mozambique and the conference for supporting me Chairing Committee 2, budget control. I hope to serve you to the best of my capacity and knowledge.

I would like also to take the opportunity to thank the Government of Argentina for the friendly welcome to this beautiful city Buenos Aires, and for the facilities provided to all of us since our arrival.

Having said that, Chair, I will present the document 51 that was discussed yesterday in the first Committee meeting of the budget. There was a request to present to this plenary. The note is document 51, it is there, in order to enable Committee 2 to fulfill its responsibilities and the terms of reference indicated in document DT2 with the initial indication that may be entitled by the execution of the decision taken by the Committee I will request the Chairman of all Committees to provide as soon as possible all indications and information and concerns, resolutions, and all or any other conclusions of the conference that may have financial implications on revenue or

expenses. I take this opportunity today, again, the orientation of the conference to Article 22 of the constitution of the International Telecommunication Union, 142, which stipulates that -- here is number 4 -- telecommunication development conference shall not produce financial acts, the conclusions shall take the form of resolution, decisions, recommendations or reports. This conclusion is in all circumstances, it must be in conformance with the Constitution, the Convention and the demonstrative resolutions. When adopting resolution and decisions the conference shall take into account the foreseeable financial implications and should avoid resolutions and decisions which may give rise to expenses in excess of the financial limits by the plenipotentiary conference.

I also draw the attention to the conference of Article 34 of the convention on the International Telecommunication Union, number 408 and 409 which stipulates that the full adopting proposals while taking decision with financial implication, the conference of the Union shall take account all of the units budgetary, provisions with a view of ensuring that they will not result in decisions which the council is empowered to authorize. No decisions of the conference shall be put in to affect if it will result in direct or indirect increase in expenses behind the credits that the council is empowered to authorize.

The attention of the conference is drawn to resolution 72, Bussan, 2014 which stipulates in the resource to instruct the Secretary-General and the directors of the bureau, page 4 and 6, to assist Member States in preparing estimates of the cost of their proposals to all conference and assemblies of the unit.

In number 6, to provide the conference and assemblers the necessary information from the full range of the financial and planning mechanism available in order to have the estimate of the financial implications of their decisions to be made, including to extend cost estimate matters for any proposal to all conference and assemblies of the Union taking into account the provisions of Article 34 of the ITU Convention. Chair, having said that, I submit for discussion the document 51.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I now give the floor to Germany.

>> GERMANY: Thank you. Good morning.

In addition to the congratulations to the Argentine host with regard to organizing this conference I would take this opportunity at this very morning to congratulate Argentina for having qualified last night to be in the World Cup in Russia next year.

[Applause].

Of course, I extend this to all of the other South American countries who achieved the same.

Now, with regard to this document, it was Germany yesterday that requested to have it here at the plenary. Mr. Chairman, unfortunately in parallel to an official Committee meeting, Committee 2 meeting yesterday there was another event and as a consequence of that, only a handful of delegates were in the room. We consider that this document 51 and its content is one of the most important administrative documents for this conference.

As mentioned by the chairperson of Committee 2 there is a financial responsibility of this conference and historically sector conferences have not always taken care and consideration of the provisions of the constitution of the convention of the International Telecommunication Union. The problem which I would like to explain very short is that the budgetary provisions for the next two years, that means 2018 and 2019 are really laid down in the financial plan approved by the last plenipotentiary conference. In addition, this budget has been approved by council earlier this year.

The budget is balanced. The budget is balanced for several reasons, one of the reasons is that the ITU, 70, during the last three years, the budget is balanced in anticipation of potential savings this year and in the following two years. However, there is not much maneuver for additional expenses that this conference may wish to decide on in their decisions and resolutions, and as decisions and the work programs, the actual plan of the BDT. Therefore, we have requested to have this document presented here to make the conference aware of the scarce resources of the union both financial and in resources and in order to remind the conference to take reasonable decisions, taking into consideration the situation.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you to the delegate from Germany.

I wish to share with you the fact that in the coordination Committee meeting and in meetings running up to the conference we have all been very aware of the need to adopt decisions which correctly reflect the budgetary position but we do appreciate your intervention.

I have a request from the floor from Canada.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Chairman.

Dear colleagues, I will be very brief: Mr. Chairman, I think that the document itself has presented Chairman of Committee 2 and the very well-articulated points of my colleague from Germany are enough.

I would just like to add, Mr. Chairman, this is an issue that we already visited and went through at the WTSA and we have

to do our best effort to ensure that the provisions of the legal instruments are taken to consideration, particularly, Mr. Chairman, in the discussion of any activities or programmatic activities that would result in the ITU in the implementation of the SDGs, we'll call for the attention and caution of all the delegates because we need as the Director articulated by our colleague from Germany to remain within the budget as approved by the plenipotentiary conference in 2014 and further on by council in May.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Canada.

For the purposes of additional clarification, I would like to ask you to give us additional comments.

You have the floor.

>> ALESSANDRO: Thank you, Chairman.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

I don't have any particular comments to make, but I would just have the comment that's been made by Canada and Germany on the provisions of Article 34 of the convention, particularly in paragraphs 488 and 489. I would like to confirm that the available resources are very limited and scarce, so I would remind the conference that if it takes decisions or resolutions it should bear in mind the available financial resources which were approved at the last plenipotentiary meeting for 2016 to 2019.

Thank you, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much.

If there are no objections, I would like to move on to the next item on our Agenda. I see no objection. We'll move on.

The next item is document 4, and I would like to ask the Vice Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau to introduce this document.

You have the floor.

>> VICE DIRECTOR OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, on behalf of the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau I have the honor to present the report of regional preparatory meeting, RP Coordination Meeting which took place in Geneva 8, May, in conjunction with the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group, 2017. The meeting was Chaired, present National Telecommunication Commission from Paraguay. The document provides the main conclusions of the coordination meeting.

Section A provides information on regional initiatives agreed by each RPM. The regional initiatives are intended to address the specific telecommunication ICT priority areas through partnership and resource mobilization to implement

projects. Under each regional initiative project will be developed and implemented to meet the country's needs.

Section B provides information on the ITU-D contribution to the ITU strategic plan for 2020 through 2023, ITU-D action plan and the 17 declarations. The Secretariat provided clarification on the amended process to offer members more time for considering proposals and facilitating the preparation for WTDC-17.

Section C provides information on rules of procedure of ITU-D WTDC-17 resolution 1. The next is the streamlining of the resolutions.

Section E provides information on proposals for new and revised resolutions. RP coordination meeting exiles the input of RPMs and agreed that resolutions are the new or revised considered at the RPM meetings be the subject of draft resolutions to be submitted directly by members to WTDC.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

Any views and comments you would like to raise on this report?

In that case, I would ask the plenary to take note of the document.

If there's no objection to that, we'll take note of the document.

Thank you.

We'll now continue on to the next item on our Agenda which is DOC/5. I would like to ask the Chair of TDAG to introduce this document to us.

You have the floor, sir.

>> CHAIR OF TDAG: Thank you very much, Chairman.

In this report we have a brief review of the work of our group 2014/2017 under Article 17 of the Convention. We present a report to WTDC on specific issues and to the past conference, Resolution 24 was also adopted where we were instructed to consider a number of specific issues in a period before the next conference. In the work period we worked with the Chairs of the study Committees and approved the staff and appointed new Chairs. We represent six regional organizations, and some replacements and others.

During the period covered by this report, TDAG conducted four meetings, the main issues which we considered were the conclusions and work established by WTDC-14, resolutions PP14, AR15 and WTS16 and 15 partly concerning ITU-D, the strategic considerations on the implementation of the Dubai plan of actions considering the implementation of strategic and operative sector plans including resolutions WTDC-14 and PP14 concerning ITU-D and regional initiatives, issues concerning

Study Groups of ITU-D and the contribution of ITU-D into the WSIS plan of actions and the 2030 Agenda, the four year slating operational plan of ITU-D including the TDAG groups' plan, the correspondence group, work on the budget, the working efforts of the TDAG and study groups including the correspondence group of TDAG, cooperation with other sectors which includes the report on the work of the enter sectorial groups and the report of the group on capacity building initiatives, the GCBI, the list of members, partnership relations and issues related to innovation, reports on other forms of activities by the ITU-D and preparation for the with, TDC-17, of course.

TDAG created correspondence groups on the strategic plan on the operational plan of the sector and declarations under the leadership of the doctor under resolution 1 on procedural rules and on bringing order to WTDC resolution and also worked with other correspondence advisory groups, inter-sectorial group on issues of mutual interest.

The procedural roles of ITU-D held three meetings on changing the text of resolutions and adjusting certain items. Some additional changes were introduced by correspondence, a document was presented as a contribution at all six regional preparatory meetings.

The group on the strategic plan held a meeting on a new contribution to the strategic plan for 2020, 2023, and also a draft plan of action after online consultations. These three documents were presented to all regional preparatory meetings for consideration, and TDAG decided to adopt them as a foundation for preparing proposals at the WTDC, the famous documents 7, 8 and 9.

The group on resolutions for WTDC held a number of meetings. On the basis of proposals, we compiled an aggregate text on resolutions to bring order to a number of different resolutions. Reports on the work of these groups were considered at the meetings of TDAG, and at the last TDAG17 there was a recommendation to use the materials produced to help members of ITU-D to prepare the contributions for WTDC.

The intersectoral group of major interest groups adopted four meetings and adopted term of reference by consultation with other sector groups and the group confirmed documents compressing of Study Group issues and working with ITU-T and R and also renewed the list of issues of mutual interest.

TDAG considered the request for cooperation between ITU-R and D on Resolution 9 and recommended a joint meeting of the interested parties in Study Group 1, ITU-D and Study Group 1ITU-R which we coordinated a final report on that resolution. TDAG focused particular attention on preparing for this conference. A report on the implementation under Resolution 24

with your permission, I won't go into it in detail, there are specific recommendations of TDAG on all the resolve parts of that.

In conclusion, I offer my gratitude to all members of TDAG, particularly the Vice-Chair and above all the Chairs of the Study Groups and correspondence groups. Of course, I want to express our sincere gratitude to the Director of BDT, the Vice Director of the Secretary of TDAG and the department and directors, and the heads of regional and sectorial sections which we listened to at meetings and also all staff of the Secretariat.

I am personally grateful to the Secretary-General, his deputy, the BDT Director, of course, and the BDTU, the legal advisor. Thank you for your constant attention and assistance of the work of TDAG completing my 12 years of work as Chair. I would like to wish the new staff of TDAG every success and success, will frankly work in the interest of the radiocommunications sector and the ITU as a whole.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much for your report.

Are there any comments? You have the floor.

Kazakhstan, would you like the floor?

Are there any other comments or any questions on the presentation made by the Professor?

I now give the floor to the United Arab Emirates.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, everyone.

Mr. Chairman, at the beginning we would like to congratulate you and congratulate Argentina for now joining the World Cup in Russia, and we would also like to congratulate other candidate teams that will play in Russia. I would like to as well thank Professor Minkin for his wise presidency and chairmanship over more than 12 years at the head of TDAG. We have worked with him for long, long years. We have learned from him a lot really. I would like to thank him on behalf of everyone.

I just took the floor to thank the Professor for his wise chairmanship of the TDAG and our sector for 12 years. I thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much.

If there are no further comments, I would invite the plenary to take note of the document.

It appears there is no further comments and we take note of the document.

I would ask, please, for your applause for Professor Minkin for all of these years of work.

[Applause].

Before we continue with the Agenda, I wanted to remind you that in yesterday's plenary meeting we decided to open -- to begin the last part of the high-level segment at 1030 as we have already gone beyond that time by a few minutes I would like to ask you that we move very briefly to item 9 on our Agenda. This is document doc/18 which relates to the 25th Anniversary of the development sector. If there are no objections? Do you have any comments or objections to this?

Thanks to all of you. In this case, I will ask you to introduce item 9 of the Agenda, and I would ask him very kindly to do it as quickly as possible.

Thank you, you have the floor.

>> Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On behalf of the director of BDT it is my pleasure to produce document 18 on the 25th Anniversary Celebrations.

Section one is the background of the establishment of ITU-D in 1992 by the plenipotentiary conference held in Geneva, Switzerland. Section two, it presents the activities planned to celebrate 25th Anniversary of ITU-T. Ministerial roundtables on ICT for SDGs and the Digital Economy with inspiring and visionary speakers, academia, awards and interactive web-based timeline featuring milestones of ITU-D and a special page with personalities that played a key role in the 25 years of the sector.

Section three presents sponsorship opportunities provided for 25th Anniversary celebrations.

Section four presents a number of promotional communication activities to promote 25th Anniversary such as special 25th Anniversary logo and anniversary booklet and social media as a key communication channel.

Today, Wednesday, 11, October, the ministerial roundtable and the ITU-D 25th Anniversary Gala dinner will be held in the Hotel Alvear Icon.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

Are there any comments on this document?

Seeing none, I would ask the plenary to take note of the document. We take note of the document.

Thank you very much.

We will now begin, therefore, with the fourth high-level segment meeting.

I would invite His Excellency Dumisani Ndlangamandla -- I apologize for the pronunciation of names -- Minister of Information Communications and Technology in Swaziland.

>> DUMISANI NDLANGAMANDLA: Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Secretary General of the ITU, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, warm greetings from Swaziland.

The World Telecommunications Development Conference provides not only a platform to express our views on emerging trends and on matters of strategic importance to the development of the telecommunication, information and communication technology sector, and reflect on developments of the ICT sector in our respective countries, but also provides an opportunity for Member States of the ITU to shape the future of the industry to pave a better future for our respective citizens. The recognition of the information and communication technologies sector as a cross-cutting sector in the desired economic and social transformation agenda, particularly in pursuit to achieve the sustainable development goals is of crucial importance by all of us attending this conference. This is more so currently faced with a mirage of challenges particularly in the areas of basic education, health, agriculture and environmental sustainability, among others, and in dire need of innovative, practical and relevant solutions. In line with the theme of this conference, "ICT for Sustainable Development Goals", ICTs provide an opportunity for member states to accelerate programmes and interventions to address these challenges. The opportunity presented by this conference to explore, at a global level, means and ways to address some of these challenges should be received with both hands.

Mr. Chairman, Swaziland has made tremendous strides in the ICT sector guided by ITU agencies and other strategic partners, particularly in the development of key policy and legislative documents as well as the implementation of developmental programmes in the country. Specifically, the ITU has collaborated and supported the country in the following areas:

Development of the requisite policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks for the ICT sector;

Under the McCaw/ITU partnership, the country is a beneficiary of the wireless broadband infrastructure initiative for connecting rural schools and centers. Also, through the support of the ITU, the country has been able to develop the national broadband plan and strategy.

ITU has also played a leading role in the establishment of the Telecommunications regulator which has since managed to transform the telecommunications sector into a competitive one and realigned it to conform to industry norms and practices. This has immediately resulted in the immediate decrease in communication costs due to competition dynamics and an improved quality of service. The number of internet service providers has also increased by 90% and more Swazis are now connected to the internet and enjoy the benefits of online services.

Distinguished delegates, in line with the understanding

that ICTs are an enabler for economic and social development, the Kingdom of Swaziland has identified and prioritized key ICT development programmes, activities and projects aimed at addressing pressing national issues mainly in Agriculture, Health, e-Government and environmental sustainability. These priorities, aimed at transforming the country into a knowledge based economy, include among others, the following:

Enabling Policy and Legislative Environment: with the dawn of the 4th Industrial

Wherein data and information will be the new currency, it is fundamental that the country puts the necessary policies, programmes and resources in ensuring that the underlying infrastructure and systems are in place to support the "data as a currency" era.

In this regard, the NICI Policy and the Electronic Communications Act and the Swaziland Communications Commission Act form the legislative basis of the ICT ecosystem in the country. The country is also in the final stages of the enactment of legislative instruments in relation to cybersecurity, data protection and electronic transactions.

Universal Access to ICT services: programmes and activities aimed at ensuring that ICT services are accessible and available, at an affordable cost, and the acceptable quality to all citizens of the country. These programmes are primarily focused on disadvantaged and rural connectivity and are being carried out in partnership between the Government and strategic partners, including the ITU.

Capacity Building and Skills Development: Development of the necessary digital skills and capabilities to support realization of the sustainable development goals and the 4th industrial revolution, spanning the entire ecosystem, basic ICT user skills to skills necessary for the development of innovative solutions and systems, entrepreneurship and institutions; ICT literacy should be a key component of basic education, formal and informal, as well as tertiary education programmes

Improving Security, Trust and Confidence on the use of ICT services: Adoption and use of products and services is positively correlated to the general acceptance of that product or service based on trust principles. The country has prioritized Cybersecurity, starting with the enabling legislation and the development of the National Cybersecurity Strategy 2017.

Innovation in ICT Services and Products: Development of technology solutions, e-Services and e-Applications, meant to address pressing national problems and priorities aimed at realizing the SDGs. The Government has set up and commissioned

the Royal Science and Technology Park to lead the delivery of this key initiative, including ICT skills capacity building and ICT start-up incubation.

Reliable Communications Infrastructure: Development of the underlying High-speed Communications infrastructure networks, inter-regional connectivity, to support the requirements to realize the sustainable development goals.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I am also happy to report that digital migration switch OFF in Swaziland was carried out smoothly on the 31st December 2016. This was done through the efforts of ITU who provided the scoping plan that mapped the entire project roadmap. This significant

Development makes available to mobile telecommunications services, which is the most widely used form of communications services in the country, the much needed frequency spectrum resources to achieve a wider reach and coverage of services.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Government and people of the Republic of Argentina and the International Telecommunication Union for the organization of this conference.

Congratulations to Argentina and also those that qualified for the World Cup for Russia.

Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Minister.

Before I give the floor to the next speaker, I would like to remind you of the time limit of 3 minutes for your policy statement in this conference. I would kindly ask you to respect these time limits because we have to finish the plenary so that Delegates can make their way to Committee 3. I hope we can count on your cooperation

And I would now like to ask His Excellency Dembe Ali Jawo, Minister of Information and Communication Infrastructure of Gambia to take the floor.

>> DEMBE ALI JAWO: Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to take part in this very important conference which brings together all stakeholders in the global telecommunication and ICT landscape. Before I proceed, however, I would like to extend my gratitude to the government and people of Argentina for the warm welcome accorded to my Delegation. Also to thank other delegates in wishing -- in congratulating the Argentina people for qualifying for Russia 2018, and also thank you for the hat trick for giving the victory to Argentina.

I would like to thank the ITU for support and assistance to enable I us to take part in the conference. It may interest this organization that Gambia despite challenges have implemented most of the action plans associated with our national information and communication infrastructure. Policies

since 2014 -- sorry, 2004. Which has been guiding the implementation of this. The activities in government until 2015 in view of the policy implementation we have high success rate of 81%, which is attributable to the impressive developments in ICT infrastructure. Such as the submarine cable, the Internet extension point and the network for government connectivity. The area that needs to be addressed is in application development and content generation. In 2016 for instance, a successful policy was formulated and focuses not only on specifically using information and technology communications but creating ICT applications and services for use. This is expected to promote increase private sector participation in foreign direct investments. The policy ends at promoting open access, universal access service, cybersecurity resources and in particularly affordable, secured broadband access. The new policy also intends to promote private investment in the sector to an improved adaptable, harmonizable neutral regulatory environment. In line with this policy, the information of communication and information sector conducted several studies to ensure successful implementation. Along the studies concluded broadband demand and stimulus and study and began a national cybersecurity strategy, a study on infrastructure connectivity options for neighboring countries.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, in Gambia we're cognizant of the WSIS outcomes to build confidence in the use of ICTs, the promotion of local content in our countries. This objective is still far-fetched for developing and Least Developed countries like ours. Local content and application development and availability has become an elusive phenomenon for Least Developed Countries and small island nations, hence our call to promote the development of ICT incubation centers that would provide the requisite environment for innovation and creativity to flourish. We believe the incubation centers will match talents, change mindsets and encourage the youth to harness potential and play their role effectively in the Digital Economy.

The challenge of cybersecurity is in collaboration with ITU as a certain point following the development of the cybersecurity strategy. However, in tackling cybercrime, we request collaboration and collaboration. Distinguished delegates, ICTs is the strategic cornerstone to drive the SDG goals. My Delegation commends the ITU for adopting the ICTS for SDGs slogan and to define the willingness to use this to achieve SDGs. This will help us achieve SDG with the public access information and the fundamental freedoms. To this end, I wish to highlight that the new Gambia is out of what used to be the order of the day until January of this year. The government

wants to ensure that public access to information and freedom of expression is self-guided and facilitated by the social media challenges, however, we're confronted with awareness effectiveness and identity theft which needs to be tackled positively in order to promote net neutrality. On this note, distinguished delegates, I wish to thank you all and wish you a successful conference. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: I would like to thank the Minister of Information and Communications.

The next speaker was -- could not be here present in person, but his text will be available on the website of the ITU.

I would remind you that 3 minutes is the limit for speakers.

I now give the floor to His Excellency, Supa Collins Mandiwanzira, Minister of Information Communication Technology, Postal and Courier Services of Zimbabwe.

>> SUPA COLLINS MANDIWANZIRA: Chairman of WTDC -17, Mr. Oscar Martin Gonzalez, Honorable Ministers here present and Heads of Delegation, The Secretary General of ITU, Mr. Houlin Zhao, ITU Elected Officials, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, a very good morning to you.

The Republic of Zimbabwe, commends the ITU and our gracious host, the Government of Argentina, for their sterling efforts in putting together such excellent facilities and creating the ambience for what promises to be an engaging, progressive and interactive World Telecommunication Development Conference. We appreciate the warmth with which the people of Buenos Aires, welcomed us.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we meet once again under the umbrella of the ITU, to share experiences, reminisce over progress of the ICT Sector for the four years gone by, consider programmes and strategies and ultimately set a trajectory for ICT Growth, Development and Integration, in the next four-year cycle, for the betterment of mankind. This is indeed a noble task for a good cause.

Zimbabwe cherishes WTDC-2017, as a landmark global Conference, as it is the first such forum to take place, after the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is therefore without doubt that, "ICTs for Sustainable Development Goals" - ICT for SDGs is a befitting theme for this WTDC. Zimbabwe will work with fellow Delegates in crafting strategies and action plans that can push the Global Community towards the attainment of the SDGs by 2030 and, in the process, deliver a better-connected world, over the next four years.

Mr. Chairman, as we look towards the next developmental

cycle, we need to cast our eyes into the rear-view mirror and take note of what was achieved under the Dubai Action Plan of 2014. Our own assessment is that, much has been done and milestones achieved, particularly in the areas of Capacity Building, ICTs for Disaster Management and Climate Adaptation, Digital Inclusion, Telemedicine and Spectrum Management, to name just a few. To this end, I would sincerely thank the ITU for the assistance we received for the implementation of a Telemedicine Project involving the connection to each other, of clinics in remote rural areas, district hospitals, provincial Hospitals and, referral medical centers. The project is crucial to Zimbabwe, as it improves access and delivery of medical services to hitherto, underserved remote and rural areas, and moves Zimbabwe closer to attaining Universal Health Coverage and indeed, the SDG goal on Good Health and wellbeing.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Apart from the Telemedicine Project, we have registered great success in the area of access and accessibility. We have installed over 200 Community Information Centers, eighty of them in 2016 alone, at post offices across the Country. These CICs, as we call them, provide local communities with access to high speed Internet, printing and other related services, at sub-commercial and affordable rates. The CICs have brought access to all genders in Zimbabwe, particularly in the rural areas, thereby making progress in bridging the digital divide and ensuring gender equality, in terms of access, in line with the SDGs on Gender equality and the goal on reducing inequalities. We are also continuously implementing the schools' digitalization programme. Currently, we are connecting, one thousand three hundred schools, to the internet. We have noted with delight, that we are on course to achieving the goal on quality education. The high literacy levels in Zimbabwe are evidence of our robust education policy aided by ICTs. These efforts have seen increased use of ICTs in underserved areas by all genders and our people are becoming digital natives. The groundwork has been completed for a major ICT infrastructure project, involving the construction of over 500 units of towers and extension of the national backbone fiber network, across the country. This will result in a massive rollout of broadband to all corners of the Country. With regards to the SDG on elimination of hunger, the ICT sector has partnered with the Agricultural Sector, by conveying information on farming in puts, weather, transport details and offering insurance related applications, for the success of Zimbabwe's Command Agriculture Programme. This has seen Zimbabwe's grain reserves for the staple grain hit the one the million-ton mark and are expected to exceed the usual requirements for the country. No one will go

hungry in the Country. We are leaving no stone unturned, in ensuring that together with the rest of the ITU community, we achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. With regards to the Agenda of this Conference, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are pleased to note that WTDC-17 will consider matters and challenges that are crucial to all regions of the world - Africa included. As emerging technologies, applications and trends including cloud services, Big Data; Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things and IMT 2020, rise up the horizon, it is rather tempting to run with the mill, forgetting to carry along with us, that which we could not accomplish in the last developmental cycle. A case on point, is the need to do more on bridging the gender divide. Indeed, Mr. Chairman, it is true that much effort has been exerted in this area and considerable success has been achieved, but the numbers are not yet good enough. We have to scale up our efforts to connect the remaining unconnected. We believe that there is greater scope for closer cooperation between those with developed economies and those with developing economies, in addressing this undesirable phenomenon. My message, ladies and Gentlemen, is that, in this Global Village, let us join hands in connecting the unconnected. It is our responsibility and our obligation.

Finally, Honorable Ministers, Excellences, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen; the Republic of Zimbabwe is committed to the work of the ITU and will continue to do so in future, by rendering support in the form of human resources and other forms of support, where we have competencies.

Allow me at this point Mr. Chairman, to wish you and the Distinguished delegates to WTDC-17, great success.

If you may allow me this opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to invite all of you delegates to a luncheon that Zimbabwe will host this afternoon just outside the hotel. I have outlined some nice things we're doing in Zimbabwe, there are identifies things at this lunch and this afternoon, including a celebration of the Argentina qualification to the world cup.

I thank you.

[Applause].

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Minister.

As we have come to the end of the time for the plenary, I would ask the interpreters if we can have 10 additional minutes.

>> Yes, Chairman. That's fine.

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

I would remind you of the request for 3 minutes for each speaker. We have already ran out of time.

I'll now ask the next speaker, Syed Ismail Shah, the Chair of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority in Pakistan to take the floor.

>> SYED ISMAIL SHAH: I will try to limit myself to 3 minutes.

Chairman, Secretary-General, ITU, Deputy Secretary-General, elected directors, I would like to congratulate you and the Government of Argentina for the event and for the 25th Anniversary of the BDT.

Ladies and gentlemen, Excellencies, the vision of our government is accelerated digitalization to enable socioeconomic development. We consider ICT as an enabler to achieve transparency, good governance and empower the people. Our focus remains on availability of ICT infrastructure across the country and special emphasis is on marginalized community. We believe in connectivity and digital inclusion. We have the plan to connect the population of Pakistan by 2020 through broadband connectivity. Our policies have won worldwide acclaim and our flagship policies related to the telecom sector that was issued in 2015 have been given many awards.

Right now we are working on the digital policy that will be launched soon that will enable and envision the role of IT and IT enabled services in cross-sector and development. Special focus is on newcomers, health, education and digital financial inclusion.

Ladies and gentlemen, Pakistan was the first country where biometrical identity was, giving us unprecedented opportunity in digital financial inclusion. We not only have the mobile broadband services but we have gained significant growth in the last three years, the mobile broadband subscribers have increased 15 times in the last 3 years and we have approved a policy for 5G testing also in Pakistan.

Ladies and gentlemen, the theme of the conference related to Sustainable Development Goals is of utmost importance and we have launched many programs that look at the Sustainable Development Goals and are pleased to share the details with you later on.

One of the policies that we have come up with is to develop ICT Entrepreneurship and remember the national centers that were led and inaugurated. I'm pleased to report to you Secretary-General that last month we had a competition of SDGs, ICT for SDGs in that incubation center and we invited ITU to Bussan and they won a prize there also.

I would like to mention here that we are talking about collaboration and we need to have the same collaboration in the country, the digital Agenda has to be taken at the highest level. In to the era of technology AI, IoT, shared economy, big data, the services, education, this collaboration, it is very, very important. Simultaneously we need to work together with other countries and with the ITU.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to mention that since 1947 Pakistan has a long history of significant contribution to ITU to promote and implement the mandate of the specialized organization of the United Nations. We have been elected as ITU members for numerous times and the last election in PP18, the next election in PP18 Pakistan will be a candidate. Before I conclude I would like to thank all of you and wish the best of luck and successful conference.

Sorry for the 40 seconds over time.

Thank you.

[Applause].

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Syed Ismail Shah.

I now invite Dr. Ahmed Sako, Deputy Chief of Staff from the Ministry of Communications, Digital Economy and the Post of Côte d'Ivoire to take the floor.

>> AHMED SAKO: Chairman, Chairman of the International Telecommunication Union, Ministers and heads of Delegation, distinguished heads of Delegation, experts, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to thank you on behalf of Côte d'Ivoire and thank the authorities of the Republic of Argentina for the warm welcome they have given us and the excellent working conditions they have provided since our arrival in this beautiful city Buenos Aires. In addition to the environment that's welcomed us here, this 17th World Telecommunications Development Conference will I'm sure be a success.

We will be implementing -- taking the decisions which we will take carefully. We have been a member since 1960 and we're aware of the importance of our countries that have developed and supported a digital, secure ecosystem which gives full trust to stakeholders, investors and users since 2012 the legislation, legislation framework was renewed to support restructuring projects and support further digitalization of our population.

Our fundamental aspirations are I think shared by everyone, they relate to the well-being of our populations in order to develop a Digital Economy which will allow further knowledge to improve the well-being of our populations and to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

We will therefore congratulate the ITU for all of its efforts in this area and for its contributions to the implementation of structural projects in their respective countries. For the last two decades in Côte d'Ivoire we have been making progress and making substantial progress over the last five years. I want to give you some indicators to show you how much we have ahead of us.

24 million citizens, we have now 14 million who are connected, with mobile connections and in 2011 we even had 250,000 Internet is subscribers and we now have 2 it million,

this is a very high penetration and many have said before me, we're now waiting for implementation of online services and development of local content because we have decided that this is the best way to achieve the development goals for our country in ICTs.

In conclusion, because I have already gone over my 3-minute time limit, I want to say that Côte d'Ivoire is fully involved in the work of the ITU, in all of its sectors. We have participated actively in the development of standardization declaration and in the preparatory work for the WTDC and our commitment to the regional, national, international level leads us to be involved actively in all major meetings of the ITU and in the activities of sub regional organizations, I can ensure you that Côte d'Ivoire will continue its development in this area so that it be a beacon in this area.

We do all of this bearing in mind the interconnected world we live in and we pay particular tribute to the initiatives of our brother countries. In this context, we would like to serve this noble institution and contribute to ensure that it can be a success story for the whole of the ITU community. We share this commitment with all -- with everyone as we did in 1998 and we would ask for your support for Côte d'Ivoire's entry into the ITU council. We reaffirm our commitment to the ITU. We're completely devoted to the values of the ITU which is committed to connecting the world.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Ahmed Sako.

I am now asking Mr. Godfrey Mutabazi, executive director of Uganda communication commission to take the floor.

>> GODFREY MUTABAZI: The Chairman, your Excellencies, Honorable Ministers, Ambassadors here present, the Secretary General of the ITU, ITU Bureau Directors, Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Republic of Uganda, I congratulate Argentina for hosting and I join the other speakers in congratulating Argentina for qualifying for the World Cup next year. I wish also to commend ITU for organizing this conference which enables governments to discuss and identifies in which important global issues can be achieved through ICTs.

Mr. Chairman, this theme under the Sustainable Development Goals emphasizes, ICTs as a strong actor with further action with the SDGs from words to deeds. Uganda recognizes that the greatest resource the world has is humanity. We are the host to many refugees. We have found ourselves in a situation that has required us as a nation to welcome our brothers and sisters fleeing from conflict. It will be unfair for me, not to underscore the importance of ICTs in alleviating the dire

situation in resettling the refugees hosted in Uganda.

Uganda realizes the immense benefits and opportunities that ICTs have created for the economy and its citizens. ICTs form an integral part of the Country's Development agenda.

I am pleased to inform you that through partnership with the private sector, Uganda has made great strides in extending ICT services all over the country.

Distinguished delegates, broadband offers our emerging economy the opportunity to leapfrog and connect our productive rural and mainly young population to the immense opportunities around the world. In essence, we are striving to increase our rural broadband connectivity as the new generation infrastructure that will support both developing and developed economies. We, however, like any emerging economy, continue to grapple with gaps in critical areas like cost of broadband delivery. Uganda as a landlocked country can only achieve 100% accessibility to affordable broadband through an all-inclusive infrastructure plan. That includes both satellite and terrestrial options as complimentary for broadband delivery. We however recognize that satellite services, though strategic, are in essence still costly.

In this, we call upon ITU and other global stakeholders to make deliberate efforts to further lower the cost of satellite services. This, Mr. Chairman, will support the real bridging of the digital divide between rural and urban communities as well as developing and developed economies.

Cost of quality terminal devices, Mr. Chairman, is a challenge we're experiencing. The world is moving from basic voice to data services.

We in the developing economies, however, are faced with the challenge of high cost of terminal devices in this transition. We believe, ITU as a global policy organization together with other industry players, have a role to play to drive the cost of quality smart devices down to increase uptake of data services and further reduce the digital divide. We, therefore, call upon your concerted effort on this matter.

Mr. Chairman, Uganda recognizes that content is the catalyst of the ICT Value chain. As nations, we all have a stake in the creation and uptake of digital content. We, however, call upon ITU, global players and content platforms to consider that the interests of all parties are catered for in data protection, authenticity of cultures and norms, privacy and security.

We welcome the participation of various partners from the private sector, civil society, and development agencies in achieving this call.

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, we commit to ensuring that

our policy and regulatory frameworks address emerging technological and industry trends. This we believe will bridge the digital divide.

I look forward to interacting with other distinguished Delegates on various topical issues that we shall be discussing during this conference.

Lastly, let me address you on the issue of Uganda's candidature for re-election to the ITU Council. We believe our record at the Council has been satisfactory. We also believe that having been in the Council, our re-election shall provide the continuity that is needed to strengthen this organ of the Union.

With that, I thank you for your attention.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Godfrey Mutabazi.

I invite Majed Al Mesmar, Deputy Director General of the Telecommunications Sector of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of United Arab Emirates to take the floor.

>> MAJED AL MESMAR: Chairman of the conference, Secretary-General of the ITU, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, may peace and the mercy of the Lord be with you. We congratulate you, Chairman, upon your election to the head of the WTDC17 and wish you, Chairman, every success to you, your bureau and this conference. We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for the Government of Argentina.

Thank you for agreeing to host us.

Thank you for the warm welcome we have received in this city Buenos Aires, which already received us. Amongst the priorities and strategies, Chairman, amongst the program submitted to our program, including the Sustainable Development Goals we believe that we will be able to navigate the path to a clear plan of action for the next four years. This plan of action to be called the Buenos Aeres Plan of Action will be the dual foundations of the work of ITU-D in the upcoming period and they'll have a great deal of influence and repercussions for our work.

The United Arab Emirates is confident that under our leadership and in working with our people we'll be able to build a great future. 25 years of work at the ITU-D has demonstrated that we are capable of a great deal. The Government of The Emirates has established a very clear goal, including the well-being of our people across all of our territory. We focus particular emphasis on women and young people as well as other categories of our society, but those two categories that contribute the most to the growth of our society. Government contains a ministry for young people and a ministry for well-being. We're also working to support tolerance. We have the youngest Minister in the world in our government.

Across government and society we have seen rapid movement there in technology, but there's a need for careful planning for the future. We place particular importance on providing governmental services as we transition to smart eGovernment approach, large open data, mega data and electronic government are key areas. We will be boosting government's activity with the use of Artificial Intelligence to ensure that government tasks are implemented in record time. Next year, United Arab Emirates will host one of the most significant conferences in this area, our own plenipotentiary and I have the honor of inviting you all to participate in this conference which will be hosted in Dubai. The treasure of the Gulf.

We'll do everything possible to support achieving the consensus and solutions that we all want to see.

I wish you every success throughout this conference.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much.

I'll now give the floor to Mr. Hector Huici, Secretary of Information and Communication Technologies, Ministry of Modernization. I would ask you kindly to stick to the time limit of 3 minutes.

>> HECTOR HUICI: Chairman, authorities, Ministers, vice Ministers, delegates, ladies and gentlemen, a very good morning to you all.

At the outset I'm very honored by all of the thanks that's been expressed by the various speakers towards us as the host country for this conference. I would like to thank you on behalf of the Government of Argentina.

It is an honor for us to host for the second time in 25 years this ITU development conference to discuss ICTs for Sustainable Development Goals. These goals adopted by the United Nations at the end of 2015 constitutes the Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030. In Argentina, this Agenda is being addressed and coordinated through the highest level of government through the national council for the coordination ever social policies which is under the president and we ensure we can follow-up and achieve our goals by 2030. Two years after the launch in July, 2017, Argentina presented to the U.N. high-level political forum a voluntary national report on the progress made. Telecommunications and ICTs are a cross-cutting enabled tool that contributes to a socioeconomic cultural development of our societies, with this in mind, in Argentina we're working on a daily basis within our sector to improve living conditions of our inhabitants and in particular we are looking at the issue of convergence and revising our regulatory framework to promote investment to foster competition, to introduce quality of service requirements, to protect users and

provide connectivity that's required.

Of course, they are also addressing the new Agenda presented by big data, the Internet of Things, the issues with data privacy and cybersecurity and this example of providing connectivity to those that are not connected is covered by our federal Internet plan. When this is complete it will lead to a fiberoptic network of more than 22,000 kilometers for 1,300 towns and areas around Argentina which up until now has not had such connectivity or only at a very high price. This work is governed by the state modernization plan which was presented on Monday by our Minister. This focuses on 7 areas, open governance, communication plan, digital inclusion plan, digital country plan and smart governance. Internationally and particularly within ITU Argentina has been a very active Member State showing commitment to the urn and all members contributing through its best experts and organizing events and presenting proposals for integration and opening such as the incorporation of the academic sectors and new category in the ITU which is proving to be very beneficial. In the same way, we also promote the involvement of small and regional sized companies in the ITU because we're convinced that the contribution that companies make to the work of the union and what they make within our countries and boosting the economy, creating jobs, fostering innovation, therefore we wish to reiterate our commitment not only at this conference but also to the other two sectors of the ITU and above all as members of the ITU council. We hope that this conference which asks us to reflect on the importance of ICTs for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals will help us also to think about the role and responsibility that we have as a sector in a world which is changing towards a digital ecosystem, which changing the way in which we consume and interact and we must not forget that connecting, the connectedness is a fundamental moral commitment.

Thank you, and once again, welcome to our country.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Mr. Hector Huici.

After some delay, we have come to the end of our high-level segment and also to the end of this plenary.

Argentina has asked for the floor. You have the floor.

>> ARGENTINA: Thank you, Chairman.

Good morning to everybody. We would like to take this opportunity if you could please give us a minute to pay tribute as you know between -- we had a Secretary-General and we would like to present a plug for the International Telecommunications Union and if we can, we would like to take one minute so that plaque can be presented.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Argentina.

As you know, we're very short on time.

If we could do the presentation in one minute, that would be fine.

Please go ahead.

>> ARGENTINA: I would like to thank the Chair of the conference. I thank the Secretary-General of the ITU, I would thank the members of the Bureau.

I would like to pay tribute to the man that was Secretary-General of the ITU from 1954 to 1958. He was the only Argentina to occupy this high-level position and it was as source of pride for all in Argentina to be represented at such an important organization for the development and advancement of everything related to telecommunications. Therefore, it was decided nationally to pay tribute to him today to name the information center on his behalf.

Thank you very much.

[Applause].

>> Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I'm very touched by this very special gesture from our Argentina host, this, one of these predecessors, he's been involved since the 1950s and you remember that 1950s, we came out of World War II and allowed citizens to be restarting, to be redeveloped and this division, this data, they allowed us to deal with the challenges of that period. This project, it is also in our entrance of the ITU and we also consider your gesture to remind us of his contribution to ITU.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Thank you to the Secretary-General as well.

This brings us to the end of our meeting. I just wanted to tell you that the Secretariat and the Chairman has received a question from the Working Group of the plenary asking us -- asking for more time to work on the issues under their mandate.

We understand that the most important thing we need to do here at this conference is to make progress on substantive issues, therefore we have decided to grant more time to the Working Group of the plenary to look into the substantive issues before they present it to the plenary. Therefore, the plenary meeting planned for Friday at 9:30 will be a very short meeting to allow us to try to carry out all of our activities and also to ensure that the Working Group of the plenary can continue in its activities.

The meeting is adjourned.

Thank you very much.

[Applause].

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