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June 8, 2022

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>> Hi, Sillia can you hear me?
>> Hello. Hello. Can you hear me?
>> Yes, would you like to -- (large echo)
>> Yes, just for your information you have some echo. I'm setting it up now. Give me a second. I need to put it slower at 50%. Okay.

All right. I'm going to test it now. Okay. So I -- when I test it I can't hear anything so you just shout or put a message in the chat to tell me that it's working.

Did you hear it?
>> Yes, I can see the timer
>> See, yes, but did you hear the sound. For some reason --
>> Because in the room it's very hard so what happens is that
your mic recovers --

(captioner standing by)

>> In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, ITU has redoubled efforts to help countries rapidly expand connectivity to reach the 2.9-billion people who are still offline. In coordination with the Office of the Secretary-General Envoy on Technology, ITU estimates that 2.9-billion people have never used the Internet, this means no access to a world of knowledge, opportunities, and resources.

But how can we connect the 2.9-billion people still offline? The Partner2Connect Digital Coalition known adds P2C is helped to to 30 and win the SDG race. Through the focus areas. P2C provides a global platform to mobilize and announce resources, partnerships, and commitments for universal and meaningful connectivity. Focus area one, connecting people everywhere. P2C aims to achieve affordable, resilient, and trustworthy connectivity for all by addressing key issues like infrastructure, coverage and usage gaps, affordability and accessibility of devices and data, technologies, and reliability of service.

Through a collaborative multistakeholder approach, P2C aims to find answers to these issues, define specific gaps, and create an overview of the required interventions, policies, and pledges to bring 2.9-billion people meaningfully online by 2030. Are you ready to help us bring digital transformation to the hardest-to-connect communities? Join P2C. Be part of this global effort. Pledge for connecting people everywhere, or for any of the other focus areas of the coalition. Visit wwwITUint/partner2connect or email at partner2connect@ITU.int.

MODERATOR: Welcome to Day 2 of the Partner2Connect Roundtable where there has been enormous energy in a lot of very innovative pledges and partnership discussions, and I know we will continue with that today. I'm David Kirkpatrick of Techonomy and I'm the host for today. I'm going to start by telling the interpretation channels for the translations, number one is English, two is French, three is Spanish, four is Russian, five is Chinese, and six is Arabic.

We are going to go right into our first high-level panel with some really interesting pledges from all over the world, and in order

to bring that to you, let me introduce Kate Wilson, CEO of the Digital Impact Alliance who will be our moderator for the session. Kate, the floor is yours.

>> KATE WILSON: Good morning, everyone. I'm excited to be the moderator for today's session. I was reflecting after the conversations yesterday led by Doreen Bogdan-Martin and the President and Minister and how transformative digital technology has made the experience for Rwanda and for so many countries around the world. Digital transformation is a journey that we are all on, and we are each here to learn from one another about the meaningful aspects of digital technology, capacity development infrastructure investments that we are making, and how we can work together to learn from one another on that journey.

I'm very inspired both to be one of the moderators for this panel today, but as to be one of the high-level panel chairs for the Partner2Connect Initiative. In that, we're focused on how we're going to build digital ecosystems, and I want to turn it over to my colleagues here to talk to you about the pledges that they are making today on this journey, both to connectivity as well as digital transformation.

I first want to start with Minister Zerbo Aminata. Minister?

>> ZERBO: WTDC-21 Chair, Secretary-General of the ITU, Excellencies, Distinguished Ministers, Distinguished Ambassadors and representatives of international organizations, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Government of Burkina Faso at the outset, I express my deep gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Rwanda for the warm welcome extended to us and the excellent working conditions provided as part of this WTDC.

I also congratulate and thank the ITU for the opportunity given to us to meet and discuss and move forward together regarding our contributions to developing telecommunications for the benefit of all. Distinguished delegates and guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is also a privilege and an honor for me to take part in the first edition of Partner2Connect which allows us to take strong commitments to develop our networks and services in the upcoming cycle of 2023 to 2026. This is with a view to ensuring that the unconnected are connected.

I would like to take this opportunity to turn to Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, the Head of the BDT, and to express my deep gratitude to her and her team.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, since the liberalization of the telecommunication's sector at the end of 2000s in Burkina Faso, our country has made significant progress in terms of developing electronic communications and services. However, significant challenges remain, and we need to find the right responses to them so that we can build an inclusive information

society.

Therefore, in keeping with our national reference plan adopted in 2018 called the National Strategy for Developing the Digital Economy, our country has committed to developing the telecommunications sector on two main pillars; namely, accessibility and promotion of investment. This platform allows our country to reaffirm its commitment to continue its efforts along these two lines.

Regarding accessibility, this means continuing and strengthening smart collaboration and synergy and action with the private sector to expand infrastructure on the basis of the plan adopted in 2018 and to reach provinces which are still unconnected, and thereby increase the number of users to cover wide regions and the remotest areas, and to ensure that vulnerable persons have access to services as do those living in high-security and challenged regions. This is to ensure universal access.

Regarding investment promotion, Burkina Faso promises to strengthen the trend of building a conducive environment, which is attractive and safe for investment, to develop the digital economy. This will be done by constantly adopting legal and institutional frameworks which keep up with the rapid development of the sector.

Distinguished delegates and distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, we now all recognize that telecommunications are at the heart of growth and competitiveness for businesses and nations. These are the main drivers that will allow us to achieve the SDGs. I therefore understand the responsibility that we have as political decision-makers, as do other stakeholders in this sector to make good on our commitments. I take this opportunity to reaffirm solemnly my country believes in the ITU and international cooperation and remains available to contribute actively to the life of our organization. This is why Burkina Faso informs you of its candidate for a new term in the ITU Council. In this regard, I very humbly request your support during the elections to take place in September in Bucharest.

Distinguished delegates and guests, in conclusion I express the wish that the outcome of this WTDC will meet our expectations and will reflect my country's will to contribute actively to building a global information society, an inclusive society which contributes significantly to sustainable development for all. Long live international cooperation, long live the ITU. Thank you.

>> KATE WILSON: Thank you, Minister. Now, moving from Burkina Faso to Europe, to Finland, I would like to introduce Mr. Aki Enkenberg.

>> Aki Enkenberg: Thank you, everyone. I'm happy to be part of the panel. I'm Head of the Finnish Delegation to Kigali and to introduce the pledge we have a message from the Minister of Transport and Communications. Mr. Harakka.

>> TIMO HARAKKA: Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to take part in this roundtable and announce Finland's pledge related to the Partner2Connect. Digitalization holds great potential for accelerating progress toward Sustainable Development Goals. However, the benefits of Internet and mobile technologies remain very unevenly distributed. Lack of meaningful and secure connectivity is a critical bottleneck which we must tackle.

Digital development is a long-term focus area in Finnish development policy. In line with the Agenda 2030, our goal is full participation in the digital sphere for everyone. We place particular emphasis on bridging the gender divide and supporting the green and digital transition of the African continent.

It is clear that current efforts for expanding digital infrastructure and connectivity in developing countries are not sufficient. We especially need to look at new ways for mobilizing private capital for this purpose.

The EU's recent Global Gateway Strategy forms an important framework for mobilizing investments, for improved cooperation between the EU and developing regions. Finland operates in the Team Europe framework and the Digitalization for Development Hub to implement this ambitious strategy.

Finland pledges to co--fund regional Team Europe initiatives with 9.3-million U.S. dollars.

These initiatives will relate to improving digital connectivity, digital governance, and innovation ecosystems to support human-centered, inclusive digital transformation.

Finland's support will have cross-cutting emphasis on gender equality, non-discrimination, and climate sustainability. Investments into green and secure digital infrastructure and innovation partnerships between the EU and Africa are priorities for Finland. This is why we work closely with our national stakeholders and international partners to take this pledge forward. Thank you for this possibility to announce our pledge from Finland at this High-Level Panel. I wish you all a very successful World Telecommunication Development Conference 2022.

>> KATE WILSON: We are truly moving around the globe today, so now it is my deep pleasure to invite the Minister from Nepal, Minister Karki to offer his pledge to Partner2Connect.

>> GYANENDRA BAHADUR KARKI: Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, warm greetings from the people and Government of Nepal. On behalf of the Government of Nepal and my delegates, I wish to thank ITU and the Government of Rwanda for inviting us to WTDC. This year, the team connecting the unconnected to achieve sustainable development is most appropriate in the context of Nepal where we have challenges of difficult geographical, poverty, and digital literacy. I feel that the ITU Partner2Connect

Digital coalition roundtable is to reduce the digital divide and enhance people's digital capability.

Nepal is on the verge of digital transformation after the harmonization of digital Nepal framework 2019, the Digital Nepal Framework is a blueprint that provides a roadmap to how digital initiatives can contribute to economic growth, find innovative ways to solve major challenges in spite of small resources and identify opportunities for Nepal. to participate in the global economy. It encompasses one nation, eight sectors, and 80 digital initiatives out of which most of the activities at present are focused on laying digital foundations. The Government of Nepal aims to integrate all activities to be implemented digitally by 2025 with reforms and formulation of new legislation. On this roundtable discussion, I Bahadur Karki of Government of Nepal am pleased to inform citizens to digital information and further our Government is committed to connect the unconnected by using universal service obligation fund in order to improve the capacity of individuals to engage in digital economy, and to enhance the foundation for digital government. I want and would like to thank the ITU and Government of Rwanda for organizing such a excellent event. I wish all for a successful conference. Thank you.

>> KATE WILSON: Thank you, Minister. Secretary of State, would you like to provide remarks from Romania?

>> Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates, on behalf Romanian Government I am happy to treas such a distinguished audience. We're happy to be part of the Partner2Connect digital roundtable and bring our contribution to the initiative. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the Government of Rwanda for hosting this milestone event that has a critical attention-oriented approach in advancing universal and meaningful connectivity for people. Last but not least, allow me to on behalf of the Romanian Delegation to express my deepest gratituded to authorities of Rwanda for the warm welcome and impecable organization of the conference. This landmark development event that charts the course for the next four years of ITU's development sector.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are experiencing a period of rapid technology change with great impact on every area of our lives. As the future of society around the world is going to be a digital one, there needs to be a greater coordination across areas of competence. For us to shape the way current generations align to the future requirements of a digital first environment. We acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic has created an unexpected opportunity to accelerate digitalization. It has emphasized the importance of digital technology in laying the groundwork for a long-term economic recovery, including building resilience for the future. The digital transformation has led to changes in everyday life and work

environment and the technology evolution based on innovation is reshaping both society as a whole and the future of the workforce of the.

The pace of change will never be slower than today, and it is essential that we keep pace with the digital revolution, which is unfolding. Romania has major objectives, the development of a current and integrated digital infrastructure at the level of public administration that would offer the possibility to access high-quality digital services to both citizens and companies. The surge of digital skills and digital education for citizens and workforce to keep up-to-date with rapid technological advancements, and also the development of a digital ecosystem education to reduce the gaps and provision of frameworks for cybersecurity, data protection, online safety, and IT ethics. We are committed to act firmly and consistently to a new trajectory for how future generations will be better prepared and more competitive from this perspective. The digital mindsets start from the early step and should take advantage of progress in connectivity, widespread use of digital devices, and latest communication tools. A priority for Romania is improving accessibility to digital service to encourage employment among young people and most important social groups and at the heart of the investment in digital technologies, it's a plan to elevate digital skills of educators and development of digital competencies of teachers is critically important for digital society. The Romanian government is involved in creating new steps to enhance policies to boost the digital education. We accelerate progress on digital learning and digital skills promoting policies that led to eliminating barriers. We support advanced digital education for women and girls, and discourage any form of discrimination or digital divide. As ITU Member, Romania stands ready to contribute to the future collective efforts in support of better policies for improving quality of life, overall well-being and prosperity of our citizens. Thank you for your kind attention.

>> KATE WILSON: We'll turn now to Indonesia. Her Excellency Minister will not be here in person but joining virtually for remarks. Minister Tayyiba?

>> MIRA TAYYIBA: Excellencies, distinguished speakers, ladies and gentlemen, greetings from Indonesia. In the era whereas almost every aspect of our life becomes digitalized, the development of ICTs has become not only a necessity but as a journey that every nation needs to pursue. In such spirit, Indonesia is striving to accelerate our national digital transformation, which encompasses four areas; namely digital infrastructure, digital government, digital economy, and digital society. Undertaking strategic measures to realize Indonesia as a truly digital nation by fostering the digital ecosystem to be more inclusive, empowering, and sustainable for all.

Against this background, we are of the view that the digital infrastructure and digital society areas of Indonesia's digital nation roadmap are linked to two Partner2Connect focus areas; namely access and adoption. Pertaining to the access focus area, through the deployment of digital telecommunication infrastructure with diverse technology ranging from backbone, middle mile, and last mile, Indonesia pledges to provide accessible digital connectivity for all through deployment of 4G connectivity to cover our nation with a total of 83, 218 villages in 2022.

This is a vision of an all-embracing digital transformation that will connect the unconnected and leave no one behind. With regard to the focus area on adoption, we are also exerting ourselves to nurture the nation's digital talents so the people would be able to use, adopt, and develop digital technology in a productive, safe, and responsible manner. Henceforth, we pledge to provide digital literacy program to 15-million people by 2024 and digital talent program to 300,000 people through various digital upskilling programs at the basic, intermediate, and advanced levels to capitalize on our demographic venue and cater to the need of 9-million digital talents.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, on this important occasion, allow me to convey that Indonesia has submitted its candidacy and would highly appreciate all Member Countries invaluable support for Indonesia's membership of ITU Council and the candidacy of Dr. Meti as member of the Radio Regulations board for region E during the elections at the forthcoming ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022.

Lastly I would like to extend my highest appreciation to ITU for conducting this Partner2Connect or P2C Digital Development Roundtable that provides Member States and other stakeholders valuable opportunities to share their pledges. I thank you.

>> KATE WILSON: From Indonesia are to licten stein I would like to introduce you to Dr. Rainer Schnepfleitner, Director of the Regulatory Authority Offers.

>> RAINER SCHNEPFLEITNER: To use my first name. Good morning, everyone. I have a really good one for you today. Imagine a very brutal neoliberal approach but as to an awful lot of good. Sounds like an oxymoron, doesn't it? Let's go into it. I just love that thanks to the ITU, we have internationally a level playing field where also small countries like Liechtenstein can contribute on a global level to change and to improve lives. As a regulator authority, we have filed for 600 low-earth orbit satellites, that's not special in itself, but it's special that the operator Rivarta firmly believes that in creating affordable connectivity through local entrepreneurship is key to sustainable digital development. Typically satellite operators provide capacity at a fixed cost per month. This business model is very different and based on two

pillars. The first one is the bulk of the capacity will be sold to, I would call it the usual suspects, government, mining, shipping, and so on. The second pillar of the business model is the very interesting one. Capacity will be auctioned off very similar to electricity markets. Enter and the second pillar, the auction platform has three wonderful side effects. The first wonderful side effect is that connectivity will become affordable in low-income and remote areas. The second wonderful side effect is it's only selling B2B and no B2C and this encourages to provide the very end customer services to the local constituency.

Thirdly and very important, this is not charity. There will be no worry about annual financing rounds. It's part of the business model. So this business model with this open-access market platform means that wholesale buyers locally will be able to bid on what is affordable, which is the market clearing rate, which again is the affordable rate.

Bravata has pledged 112-million U.S. dollars towards creating this equitable marketplace for satellite capacity so nobody is left offline. Complete global coverage should be achieved by 2028. Thank you so much.

>> KATE WILSON: Thank you so much, Dr. Schnepfleitner. I would now like to turn to Australia and Ms. Kathleen Silleri who will introduce Australia's pledge.

>> KATHLEEN SILLERI: Thank you and good morning Distinguished Colleagues. Firstly let me say how inspired I am by pledges made by the government and private sector in the Partner2Connect. This initiative provides action-oriented tangible outcomes, critical to connecting the unconnected in ensuring that we all benefit from digital transformation. I commend telecommunication's development bureau and Doreen Bogdan-Martin for placing these goals at the heart of this conference. Let me also give a tremendous thanks to the Rwanda hosts for going above and beyond to make WTDC and Youth Summit a success and ITU for ensuring this event takes place in Africa for the first time.

Today, we pledge to continue working hand-in-hand with the ITU, the ITU regional office in Bangkok and Member States to bridge the global digital divide. Our annual voluntary contributions exemplifies our pledge. Australian-funded multi-year projects under the Connect to Recover initiative tackle the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic by fostering sustainable infrastructure and enhancing digital connectivity in Asia and Pacific. We are also supporting innovative activities in our region under the ITU Smart Islands and Smart Villages Framework.

A safe online space is another priority for us. Via the Australian funded ITU Child Online Protection Project we are strengthening children's online safety across several Asia Pacific

countries. Our flagship cyber and critical tech cooperation program with a total value of more than 74-million-dollars supports the Pacific partner countries to benefit from the digital technologies and statement strengthening cyber resilience. The program was complemented in 2018 and renewed in 2022 by an Australian New Guinea memorandum of understanding on cybersecurity cooperation.

Under this partnership, we are working closely with poppa New Guinea to reinforce cyber resilience to establish a cybersecurity operation center and differing technical training and mentoring on incident response. So far over 400 professionals have been trained. Australia remains committed to bridging the gender digital divide and building a more inclusive ITU. We are proud to support youth and women delegates from the Pacific to attend WTDC and the Youth Summit and we pledge to continue supporting the participation of regional members in key ITU events.

We have also sponsored an ITU training course to bolster the meaningful participation of women in the upcoming Plenipotentiary Conference. As part of our commitment to gender equality, Australia is sponsoring a Network of Women breakfast on 15 of June focusing on the implementation of resolution 55. We look forward to seeing you there. Thank you.

>> KATE WILSON: Thank you, Ms. Silleri. I now turn to Her Excellency Deemah Al Yahay, the Secretary-General of the Digital Cooperation Organization.

>> DEEMAH AL YAHYA: Thank you. Good morning, everyone. ITU Secretary-General and ITU -- is it working? Okay. I can't hear it.

Good morning, everyone. ITU Secretary-General and ITU Telecommunication Development Director of Telecommunication Development Bureau, distinguished members, representatives, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Digital Cooperation Organization and the countries that we represent, we would like to thank the host, the Republic of Rwanda, President, and also Honorable Minister of ICT and Innovation Her Excellency Paula for giving us this opportunity and demonstrating and believing in the power of collaboration to bring in digital impact and prosperity which is exactly the values that we stand of as DCO.

Also, I would like to thank the ITU for their relentless efforts to close the digital divide. We truly unite when it comes to our values and our vision in believing in the future in which everyone has the potential and the right for an opportunity in the digital economy.

We have come a long way, but the journey is set -- we have a long way to go as well. Two-thirds of the -- two-thirds of the future workforce is still not connected at home, and we look at 40% of SMEs in developing countries are online. And only 19% of women

in LDC countries are still not connected. So our pledge today is that the Digital Cooperation Organization commits to bring in digital leaders, innovation catalysts from all over the world, and also all segments of society for a series of roundtables discussing and focused on the greatest digital development challenges we are facing today.

Through multistakeholder agreements and collaborations, we will co-create and co-design actionable, inclusive, and locally relevant policy recommendations to strengthen the global digital ecosystem. All will start here from Africa, our roundtable will start in Rwanda today. A continent making a tremendous strides in digital development and inclusion, the DCO was established to empower people, everyone to harness the opportunities and digital economy and digital ecosystem.

We have grown our DCO Coalition to more than 600-million people. We work around the world, all over the world, bringing in public sector, private sector, and Civil Society together to impact either policy, research, innovation, and also initiatives to impact our digital future.

We really believe that together we can enable a digital economy for all. Thank you.

>> KATE WILSON: Thank you, Secretary-General. I would now like to turn to Mr. Micky watt kins the CEO of World Mobile Group Limited here in the United Kingdom. He promised a short pledge earlier today so.

>> MICKY WATKINS: Like Zoom the same you forget to press unmute. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. All protocols observed. My name is Micky watt to knows and CEO of World Mobile. We pledge to connect 1 billion people by 2030 using our mobile network. We also pledged to invest 350 million dollars inside the African continent which we have already begun in tens of billions of dollars in Zanzibar. World Mobile is a new economic model, a new kind of network, utilizing infrastructure, hybrid balloons, assets, aerial assets and ground assets, but most importantly a sharing economy in which everybody wins.

The World Mobile Network has a cost factor of 12-to-1 compared to existing mobile networks. Together, united with the help of the regulators, with the help of partners, with the help of everybody, there is a chance to connect the world. The global growth of connectivity has only come to 2% in the last two years, and much of it is due to COVID. Much of it is due to the legacy business models and legacy practices which has left all of us in a box unable to reach out to the rest of the world, which ultimately has left the rest of the world offline. We have approximately 3-billion people offline. This means that every 1 in 2 people cannot speak to each other. This means every 1 in 2 it people are not able to communicate like we are today and tune in and be on this panel.

This is not right. This is incorrect. It is very important collaboration, telecom only works with collaboration. Together we can change the world, and together we can begin now.

Talking is great, but action is just as important. Thank you very much.

>> KATE WILSON: Thank you for that inspiring pledge. I would like to now turn to Aaron Boyd the Managing Partner of Welchman Keen from Singapore.

>> AARON BOYD: Good morning, Directors, excellencies, distinguished colleagues and friends, the rapid pace of ICT development made rapid connectivity a development for most of the world. 2.9-billion people remain unconnected. Efforts to close the gap progress, and it is important to do so responsibly ensuring the policy regulation planning and investment truly address the needs and requirements of the people we seek to connect. Welchman Keen a global advisory firm and ITU-D sector supports public and private stakeholder in effective and sustainable and secure connectivity policy, ensuring right-size technology policy and solutions intended to truly benefit new digital citizens. To that end, Welchman Keen developed assess network to evaluate ICT projects across six dimensions where as ICT should be accessible, sustainable, suitable, ethical, safe, and secure.

Inspired by the Sustainable Development Goals and ITU's own best practice guidelines, the objectives of the assess framework is to ensure our work across both private and public sectors always adheres to these principles. As such, Welchman Keen provides meaningful assistance to ITU and membership in areas that truly make a difference. In line with the cyber for good initiative and under the access focus area of Partner2Connect, Welchman Kee in pledging cybersecurity capacity building to be made available to Member States on immediate basis. We have engaged with stakeholders to curate a suite of specialized training content resulting in over 50 available modules tailored specifically to meet the most pressing cybersecurity capacity-building needs of developing countries. These trainings cover areas such as critical national infrastructure protection, privacy and data protection, talent retention, and modernization of national cybersecurity strategies. The market value of this effort amounts to \$480,000 U.S. dollars, it is our hope that our contribution will be an impactful first step in helping countries foster a safe and secure online environment. We are honored to support Partner2Connect and pledge our continued support and commitment to ITU's thematic priorities as we work together to realize digital transformation and promote effective policies to securely and responsibly connect the unconnected. Thank you.

>> KATE WILSON: And now I would like to turn to Ivan Suarez.

>> IVAN SUAREZ: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, everyone.

I want to talk about something that I haven't heard enough during this conference, which is climate change. And I'm pretty sure that everyone in this conference, it's a way that our world is changing. It's a bit unsafer. It's unsafe because of natural disasters. Natural disasters are just the result of the climate crisis.

Now, the unfortunate part may be that we're not using all the tools available to us to fight climate crisis. Our pledge at Access Partnership a long-term ITU family member, I will say, and also committed to be the anchor between the private sector and the public sector who want to keep providing the information and the expertise that governments and the private sector require to address climate change and the climate crisis with one specific type of technology for this pledge, which is satellite connectivity.

I want to talk to you about facts. Some of you may have a piece of research, and in that research you find a couple of interesting trends. The first one is the upwards trend of annual natural disasters in every region. Now, let me give you a number. 37%, not in 2030, not in 2040, but in 2025. If you don't realize, that's 2.5 years from now. The sad part of all of this is that low-income and middle-income countries are the ones that suffer the most because of geography, preparedness, economic factors.

Another piece of interesting data provided in the research that you have there, the economic impact of natural disasters, and this is on a positive forecast, will be 97%, which in simple terms mean doubling the current economic impact, and just to give you some context, 0.5% of our global GDP. For even more context, that's the size of Denmark, the size of Singapore, or the size of Columbia as individual economies.

Now, if you look at the research, I'll tell you something else. There are a couple of scenarios. One of them is what we call the business as usual, right, where we don't do anything from an engagement point of view, policy, or regulatory change, creating modern changes or modern policies that assist the growth of the satellite industry.

Now, once again in that scenario, low-income and middle-income countries get hit harder. Now, on the contrary, we have a chance to do this, and if we allow from all stakeholders a connectivity revolution, a satellite connectivity revolution, satellite connectivity is widely used in all of its forms, technology agnostic, everywhere, for the only will it save lives, which is the important aspect of this pledge, but as it will save money. Look at the data. 148-billion dollars. That's a lot of money, excuse me, Chair, that's a lot of money that can be put to work elsewhere. Our pledge is quite simple. One life lost is one too many. It is our responsibility not just as humanity as a whole but from this conference to make sure that we save as many lives as possible. Thank you.

>> KATE WILSON: So over the last 40 minutes we've covered the globe. We've talked about multiple sectors that have been affected from climate change to education, and we've talked about the challenges that are facing digital transformation taking place around the world.

At the Digital Impact Alliance, we view one of the key aspects and requirements as being a focus on digital public infrastructure enabled by digital public goods. Digital public infrastructure is complex and it is more than connectivity but connectivity is first and most essential as we talked about. It's credibility people have a way to authenticate and ensure payment so people have a way to participate in transactions increasingly moving online, including even entering Rwanda yesterday, and it's a focus on data exchange to ensure that all data flows can move seamlessly and controlled by people themselves.

However, focus on this infrastructure is not complete without giving equal weight and attention to how digital platforms are governed and how the data generated on these platforms is secured, protected from misuse, and importantly leveraged to benefit people. This is why DIAL is so invested in initiatives like Partner2Connect and we're thrilled today to be one of the few joint pledges that are invested in this, and we together with our partners, GIZ, UNDP, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID, Swedish international development agency, GPDA Secretariat and GitHub to make a joint pledge to P2C, our organizations together are committed to increasing advocacy and mobilizing financing for digital public infrastructure through the introduction of a charter for digital public goods.

This charter for digital public goods is not developed solely by our organizations or by anyone. It's a movement of all of us. The benefits of this charter are to build over the next year a shared global vision on how we can expand and strengthen a digital public goods ecosystem that supports all of our digital transformation journeys. By the end of 2022, we commit together input on the charter framework through a consultation process that includes at least 50 governments and I invite all of you to participate today, and conduct additional outreach led by international and local Civil Society technology companies and nonprofit organizations to shape our future.

To that end, I really want to thank our panel and P2C for gathering these critical stakeholders together around an opportunity to advance the growth of DPIS in the most ethical and efficient way possible to achieve the SDGs, and to make partners together where we are all collaboratively and collectively building the future that we believe in. Thank you all so much for participating in our panel this morning. Thank you so much, panelists, for participating. Your pledges were inspiring to me

and hopefully to our audience.

MODERATOR: Thank you. Thank you, Kate. Thank you, panelists. As we transition to the next high-level panel, I just have to say that what Kate was just saying is so impactful and I'm so struck by the unanimity of the crisis we face of leaving so many unconnected thus far and how much action is planned to address that. So let's get to the next panel to continue this impressive series of statements and pledges about taking real action on this global crisis.

So, to all of you panelists who are going on stage, I just want to make a couple of quick comments for you. Please do lean into the microphones when you speak so we can hear you clearly, and to reiterate, there is a 3-minute time limit for each speaker. The timer is displayed on the screens and the annoying digital bell that you hear is to indicate that the 3 minutes are up. All of you, do lean into the microphones, you speakers on stage.

To get us going I would like to introduce the moderator of high-level panel number had, Naria Santa Lucia digital manager for digital inclusion at Microsoft, so Naria, take it away.

>> NARIA SANTA LUCIA: Hello, everyone. Welcome. Thank you so much for being here this morning. I just want to especially thank the ITU and Director Doreen Bogdan-Martin for leadership in bringing all of us together from the private sector, the public sector, Civil Society, all to meaningfully connect 2.9-billion people around the world.

So I know that we've heard a lot of wonderful pledges yesterday and this morning, and I'm very excited about this distinguished panel of guests and how they will add to our work to provide access, increase adoption, create value, and accelerate investments. So, panelists, we talked about this but like this, it feels so close, this is how it should be. (Laughing).

And then there is of course a 3-minute intervention time. There were dings, so let's not get a ding because that would not be good. We want you to get your whole pledge out. Finally, I will try my best with your pronunciation of names and please extend grace. Thank you. All right. So we're going to start with His Excellency Honorable Dr. Jenfan Muswere, Minister of ICT postal and courier services in Zimbabwe.

>> JENFAN MUSWERE: Thank you so much. It's a pleasure being part of this session of the WTDC in the Partner2Connect Session. Greetings from Zimbabwe. My name is honorable Dr. Muswere Minister of ICT Postal and Courier Services, representing Dr. General -- the Minister. Indeed Zimbabwe is humbled to be part of this August session as well as the entire conference and many thanks to the ITU as well as the host country for such organization.

Ladies and gentlemen, in terms of universal connectivities,

my pledge is to deploy network coverage to currently uncovered rural and remote areas of Zimbabwe through deployment of 500 sites of multi-operator radio access network that will be shared by a minimum of 3 mobile operators, each site includes access roads, towers, security fencing, equipment, offshore funding is required to make this, and of course imports or other expenses can be funded from the universal service fund to expedite the project.

The project is intended to benefit more than 1 million 700,000 people in Zimbabwe that reside in areas currently uncovered. The estimated budget for the project is 400-million U.S. dollars and stim bob way through the universal service fund is able to invest 200 million for the project and require financial partners for the rest.

Zimbabwe offers to sponsor a session on availability of service delivery in digital literacy, emerging technologies for smart sustainable cities, cybersecurity, smart health, and other systems to the tune of 500-million U.S. dollars annually over the next years. We also pledge and encourage the private sector and other countries in the region to carryout similar ways for help in such areas. Whereas the first 500 U.S. dollars is raised and the remaining 1 billion will be required from partners that we work with.

Zimbabwe is so committed with the work of the ITU and lastly, let me say it is indicative of such by candidate of our Dr. Zavazava for telecommunications development bureau. I thank you.

>> NARIA SANTA LUCIA: Thank you so much. What an amazing comprehensive approach to cover 1.7 million uncovered people. Next we have Idriss.

>> Saleh Bachar Minister of Hosts and Digital Economy of Chad.

>> IDRISS SALEH BACHAR: Thank you so much. Ministers, heads of delegations, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the delegation I would like to take the opportunity to express our gratitude as well as congratulations to the Rwanda Government for the organization of the WTDC, which has been superb and express the gratitude to the authorities as well as people in Rwanda for the warm welcome we have received and the excellent concessions we've had since we arrived in the peaceful City of Kigali.

I would also like to address the peoples in the governments of the countries who are present at this WTDC and express to them the sincere friendship of the Chad people. Distinguished delegates, Chad is heart of central Africa. It is 1, 284,000 kilometer square and we decided to take the opportunity to diversify the economy. In 2014 we adopt add legal arsenal allowing us to implement laws on electronic communication on personal data and security. We created three agencies, one for development, one for cybersecurity as well as (?)

We've implemented the fifth regional initiative for Africa

adopted in Dubai in 2014 and it's called creating confidence and security in the use of ICTs. We have political and legal framework which has been adapted to our country and we have adopted a digital Chad plan for 2017 to 2021.

This has allowed us to also create another plan going up to 2030, and we have created a national fiber optic backbone of 2100 kilometers and also launched a project for fiber optic cable system of 1600 kilometers, we launched a project for the trans-saharan backbone that will allow us to reach the Mediterranean through Algeria and this has allowed us to provide coverage for the population at a rate of 86%. Our current Internet usage percentage is 21%. The contribution of ICTs to our GDP has now gone up from 3% to 8% in 2020. As I said, we have a strategic plan which has various different objectives, six different objectives, and it is allowing us to take advantage of the synergies of as the President of Rwanda said at the opening ceremony, everyone needs everyone else to ensure development. We would really like to ask for everyone's contribution so that Chad's strategic plan and other plans can be implemented. Thank you so much.

>> NARIA SANTA LUCIA: Thank you very much, and again what an amazing and comprehensive approach.

Next a video address from His Excellency Dr. Amr Talatt Minister of Information and Communication Technology from Egypt. To introduce the video is Mr. Amar Manager of African organizations from the Minister of ICT. Remember the microphone very close.

>> Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. Dear Ministers, I have the pleasure to present Mr. Dr. Amr Talaat's speech, the Minister of Telecommunication in Egypt about the initiative. Thank you very much.

>> AMR TALAAT: Ladies and gentlemen, I have the pleasure to participate today in the World Telecommunication Development Conference warmly hosted by our sister one of Rwanda. I would like to talk to you about the descent life initiative which we present as Egypt's pledge at the national level in its modern history. Descent Life initiative was launched in 2019 and it targeting nearly 60-million citizens and 4500 Egyptian rural villages to improve their living conditions, including social and health care services. The initiative comes in the view of concerted efforts by Egypt's national institutions, private sector, Civil Society, and development partners.

The initiative integrates Egypt Vision 2030 with Egypt ICT strategy and directly addresses most of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Our role as one of the executive arms of the initiative is to establish infrastructure networks to support the delivery of telecommunication, digital, and postal services. And in addition to building digital capacities to promote the concepts and applications of digital transformation, financial inclusion,

and government digital services. The pillars of work of the Egyptian ICT sector include the development of telecommunications infrastructure to improve the quality of services provided to all targeted Egyptian villages within the initiative as well as both governmental and private organizations. We also seek to provide high-speed broadband Internet to facilitate access to digital services. We also plan to expand the construction of shared mobile towers to cover all villages in subordinate areas where it's difficult to install fiber optic cable networks.

We also aim to transform post offices into outlets to provide e-government services, and to promote human development through digital literacy and digital capacity building.

In this context, I would like to highlight the concerted efforts among all responsible national institutions to continue implementing the initiative to achieve a descent life for the Egyptian citizens. I would also like to stress the importance of cooperation with relevant development partners and supporters of the Egyptian initiative to achieve the global Sustainable Development Goals. I thank you very much.

>> NARIA SANTA LUCIA: Thank you. That approach also shows how interconnected all of the digital skilling and literacy and all of the connectivity and postal services and government services really need to be. Thank you so much.

Next we have Her Excellency Ms. Agne Vaiciukerviciute Deputy Minister Ministry of Transport and communication Lithuania.

>> AGNE VAICIUKERVICIUTE: It is my honor to address commitments by Lithuania in this event. My 2025 my country will improve connectivity in remote and rural areas and boost digital innovation in Lithuania, support countries in Africa and Asia in empowering communities and building digital ecosystems, assist Ukraine in rebuilding their telecommunications sector, as well as contribute to the development of cybersecurity, incident response ecosystems in Africa, Caribbean, and European countries.

High-speed Internet access for everyone is a challenge everywhere across the world. The Lithuanian government together with the private sector will invest around 350-million U.S. dollars into the deployment of the necessary infrastructure.

I'm also proud to announce about the development cooperation strategy for Africa, where for the next three years which was approved by Lithuanian Government and private sector is ready to implement it by organizing training programs in Africa and Asia. Private sector is also ready to share innovations, solutions, and best practices in using ICT in order to build digital ecosystems in sustainable mobility and road safety.

12 countries worldwide are being selected to be covered by these activities. I would like to manufacture sides that around the cybersecurity ecosystem it is critical. Lithuanian private

sector company, Energy Cybersecurity is a leader in this field has submitted the pledge to the Summit to provide on-site training opportunities on the establishment of national governmental and sectoral cybersecurity, incident response teams. They are ready to contact 15 countries in Africa, Caribbean, and Europe in this regard.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to use this opportunity to invite you all to our reception this evening half past 5:00 and engage further about how we could all make sure that this great organization continues to be fit for the times we live in. Thank you very much.

>> NARIA SANTA LUCIA: Thank you very much. Wonderful approach with the rural communities in your country as well as extending a hand to other nations and the cybersecurity component is especially important for all nations. Thank you very much.

Next we have Mr. Seong-gyu Kim Director-General of the International Cooperation Bureau ministry of Science and ICT for Korea. The floor is yours.

>> Ladies and gentlemen, the unprecedent COVID-19 made us recognize importance of ICT and seriousness of the digital divide again, and against the background the WTDC is very timely and meaningful conference. The rapid digitalization came with undeniable benefits, but as marginalized many parts of our society. This is why the rapid ICT development of years, the international communities are still making joint efforts to connect the 2.9-billion people who remain unconnected.

As you must be well aware, Korea has made an active policy efforts and investment in ICT. This has led to nationwide broadband coverage and helped the citizens not only have access to ICT services but as use those services easily. Also, in April of 2019, Korea became the first country in the world to launch commercial 5G services, and Korea has total 5G subscribers now covers over 20 million.

Furthermore, in February of this year, the Government of published the 5G + strategy implementation plan to continue efforts to foster world-class 5G ecosystem.

Korea also recognizes that it's important to build a well-organized safetynet to leave no one behind in the digital world and ensure benefits for all. To this end, a draft bill for the digital inclusion act was published and is in the legislative process. The digital inclusion act is aim at establishing legal grounds for enhancing digital capacity building for all citizens and ensuring better access to digital services for digitally marginalized groups, such as elderly and disabled people.

The act will also designate and nurture inclusive technologies and services to use digital technologies for supporting social minorities. Korea is carrying out diverse

projects to share Korea's development experience and achievements in the field and ICT sector and conducting joint projects with the ITU since 2008.

I'm confident that these projects will play an essential role as we navigate through digital transformation and global change accelerated by COVID-19, while leaving no one behind.

I would like to thank all ITU staff, especially Director Bogdan-Martin of the BDT for supporting Korea to make these projects to produce successful outcomes. Korea will continue to be devoted partner of ITU and its Members and supports the global efforts to improve the connectivity. I pledge that Korea will contribute to achieving SDGs which will be built on improving the connectivity by participating in joint projects with ITU through voluntary contributions and partnership with other Member Countries. Thank you for your attention.

>> NARIA SANTA LUCIA: Thank you so much. Congratulations on the 5G deployment, we can all learn from that and also on the digital inclusion work as well. Next we have a speaker join virtually, we have Ms. Zlatina Nikolova, Head of Information Technology Directorate Ministry of Transport and Communication, Republic of Bulgaria. Please proceed. I think you're on mute potentially.

>> ZLATINA NIKOLOVA: I'm unmuted. Thank you. Thank you all distinguished excellencies, distinguished participants, dear organizers, ladies and gentlemen, first let me congratulate the Rwanda Government for the great event and the organizers of the WTDC for the initiative of Partner2Connect which is a step toward promoting the accelerated digitalization of businesses and societies.

It is an honor for me to present the Bulgarian pledge. It is a small country, so for us the digital transition is a key to strengthen social and economic resilience and sustainable -- the COVID-19 crisis accelerated trends toward digital transformation by reinforcing the significance of digital infrastructure, online education, and SME digitalization. Broadband access has become an increasingly important factor not only for the competitiveness, but as for supporting social inclusion while simultaneously expanding the opportunities for development and use of digital services, including e-government services.

Of course, the deployment of high-speed connectivity can lead to significant increase in gross domestic product, employment, competitiveness of national economy, and increased quality of life. Bulgaria recognizes the broadband element of digital transformation, and nondiscriminatory and safe and effective Internet access must be provided as a service in the public interest so that everyone can participate in economic and public life.

In this regard, we will heavily invest until 2026 in the

deployment of broadband infrastructure which should provide affordable services to all. The focus is set on rural and sparsely populated areas as we strive to effectively bridge the digital divide, not only in the geographical sense but not social sense. The investment covers the passive infrastructure and we expect the businesses to invest in the last-mile covering the maximum number of people.

The Bulgarian Government recognizes that favorable investment environment is crucial for promoting connectivity, and to have the best network as well as support the development and protect the interests of citizens. This is our second pledge by having digitalizing administrative processes and guarantees access to information and infrastructure we promote access to networks with very high capacity due to crucial importance for continued economic growth. Thank you for the opportunity to present today. With this initiative, we are given the opportunity to exchange good practices on really global level. We have a long way to go, but we are walking in the right direction. Thank you. Thank you again. Congratulations to all.

>> NARIA SANTA LUCIA: Thank you so much, it's so important to remember access to have that meaningful access to make the connectivity affordable is very, very important.

Next we have Mr. Ahmad Norhad Zahari.

>> Undersecretary Communications Technology Division, Ministry of Communications and multimedia Malaysia.

>> AHMAD NORHAD ZAHARI: Thank you, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, good morning. First of all, I would like to congratulate the Government of Rwanda for hosting this important event of WTDC-22 and host. Also to the ITU for the excellent arrangement and organizing Partner2Connect.

Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, Malaysia commits to boost digitalization and advance technology towards building a high technology based economy. This reason undertaken through advancing the digital economy, mainstreaming digitalization for inclusive development, accelerating research and development, commercialization and innovation, and capitalizing on the potential of advanced technology.

To achieve this, and in connecting the unconnected in Malaysia, access to fixed broadband services in Malaysia will reach 9-million premises with 100% of 4 G coverage in populated areas and mobile broadband speeds of up to 100 megabytes per second on average by 2025. Furthermore 5G is targeted to reach 80% of populated areas by 2034.

Additionally envisioned that approximately 1, 080 digital economy centers will have reached out to 800, 000 micro entrepreneurs leading to an average uplift of income by 30% as well as providing much access to digital economy opportunities to Malaysia citizens.

Moving forward, Malaysia envisions an ITU which will be sensitive to the varied development needs of members, be responsive in coming up with fit-for-purpose strategies and action plans to meet those needs, and to be innovative in offering solutions in addressing future challenges faced by its membership in a dynamic and fast-changing sector, even as we strive to connect the -- to connect the unconnected to achieve sustainable development in the world. With that, thank you very much.

>> NARIA SANTA LUCIA: Thank you very much, and bold ambitions around 4G and 5G and the microentrepreneurship focus is wonderful as well.

Next, we have Mr. Joao Cadete de Matos, Chairman of ANACOM, the national telecommunication authority of Portugal.

>> JOAO ANTONIO CADETE DE MATOS: Good morning, all of you. It's my pleasure to participate in this panel, and it is really a privilege to have the opportunity to speak after my friend from Malaysia because Portugal, we have all with Malaysia and we can see the same if I look to my dear friend the Chairman from Mozambique because Portugal was able during our past centuries to construct connections between Europe and all the other continents. And talking about other continents, a special word complement to Doreen, thank you to be here with us. We can count with our support, and we are sure that we will also count with your help to implement the commitments that we are assuming here today.

And the commitment that I would like to share with you based on this experience of connecting different continents is the importance of the development of submarine cables, smart submarine cables, and when I talk about the smart submarine cables, it's important because I don't know if you all are aware that today, we celebrate the World Ocean's Day. It was a United Nations decision some years ago and it's important to see the contribution that smart submarine cables could give, and we are working on this direction to use smart submarine cables to help not only for a great connectivity but as to the preservation of the oceans, improving the world cooperation against climate change.

This is one of the main ideas. The projects that we are developing in Portugal concerning the connection through submarine cables with others also in the middle of the Atlantic association but as countries, America hitten cable between Brazil and Portugal and linking, Cape Fear and so all of these submarine cables should be used not only to improve the connectivity, are but as to introduce new possibilities, namely the use of sensors that could be very important for environmental and seismic detection and a lot of service to the scientific community.

And so, we can benefit of early-warnings of Tsumamis or earth wakes to the population and this is really important development. We develop the economy-oriented innovation and we match that our

projects are to the ITU activities and match our commitment to cooperation with other stakeholders in implementing them. Thank you for your attention.

>> NARIA SANTA LUCIA: Thank you very much. Thank you for the innovation with the submarine cables. And you were right on time. (Laughing). Wonderful.

Next we have a pledge from the private sector, and we'll turn to Ms. Magdalena Brier, Managing Director ProFuturo Digital Education Program. You're presenting virtually.

>> MAGDALENA BRIER: Thank you very much. Distinguished members of the ITU Development Sector, I am here to present Telefonica's pledge for the Partner2Connect coalition the digital education program, a program created with the name of narrowing the education gap in the world by improving quality of education including in vulnerable environments. To do this we combine use of technology to prevent the digital gap from worsening by using innovative teaching and learning experiences. Since 2016, we have had a program implemented in 40 countries in Latin America, Caribbean, Africa and Asia, and it has directly an indirectly benefited 24-million children. We have managed to train around 1.2-million teachers.

As I said before, we focus on the most vulnerable, including in the most poor areas, disconnected schools and refugee population. Our work focuses on key -- four key priorities that have a direct impact on education. First, teacher training and support, where teachers are the key to the program. They trigger the learning process in children, and they play a vital role in achieving a significant change in quality of education. proFuturo provides teachers with professional development and professional tools to enhance digital skills and to include technology in classes.

There is a full program that consists of a teaching platform which functions both on and offline where necessary. We also, in addition to this, we have a full catalog of educational itineraries allowing the learning experience in the classroom to be transformed. We also developed skills for the 21st Century including in primary and secondary school.

Fourth, we focus on data collection and monitoring and evaluation. We constantly monitor and evaluate the project to see how we can improve it, and we help teachers to improve their practice. We were established in 2016, and we will continue our work to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Thank you.

>> NARIA SANTA LUCIA: Thank you very much, Ms. Brier. That is a very comprehensive program as well and I think the focus on teacher capacity is wonderful, and there are probably many people in the room that would like to find out more about that program.

Next, also from the private sector, we have Mr. Marc

Vancoppenolle, Vice President Head of Government Affairs International Nokia.

>> MARC VANCOPPENOLLE: Thank you. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for the opportunity to talk at this highly relevant WTDC Conference. Let me start by saying that connectivity is not a luxury, it's a right. And yet the digital divide continues to disadvantage people both socially and economically. As we know today, roughly 2.9-billion people remain offline, and among the 4.9-billion who count as Internet users, many only get a chance to go online infrequently via shared devices or using poor connectivity speeds.

This digital divide needs to be addressed urgently, and there are good arguments for it. As the World Bank states, raising the Internet penetration to 75% of the population in all developing countries could create more than 140-million jobs around the world.

To shrink the digital divide, we need to act together; hence, the criticality of the Partner2Connect Program. Close collaboration between the public and private sectors, both on the supply and demand side, like pooling investments for connectivity, focusing on delivering the necessary digital skills for people. These can make a huge difference.

At Nokia, we create technology that helps the world act together. We provide the critical networks that enable digital access. Our broadband solutions bring connectivity to households, community centers, hospitals, and libraries, and provide access to health care, education, employment, and public services.

Looking ahead, Nokia has set a target to improve the lives of 1.5-million people by the end of 2025 through socially-driven digitalization projects, digital skill building, and connecting the unconnected or underserved.

At Nokia, we are proud to be part of the Partner2Connect Program. Let's work together to make it happen. Thank you very much.

>> NARIA SANTA LUCIA: Thank you very much, and yes, connectivity is a right and thank you for highlighting the need for continued public/private partnership as well. Our final speaker before I get to do a small pledge is Mr. are Michuki Mwangi Distinguished Technologist, Internet Growth, the floor is yours.

>> MICHUKI MWANGI: Thank you. Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, the Internet Society would like to take this opportunity to thank the ITU for this forum and for leading the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition. The Internet Society our work for the past 30 years has been anchored to our vision and belief that the Internet is for everyone. However, there is still a long path to that vision. Today, nearly 3 billion people remain unconnected. Among our key focus areas are initiatives that provide connectivity to people in remote, rural,

and underserved areas. These are the places where there is a greater need for the development of digital skills and innovative connectivity solutions, such as community networks that have proven to be successful in complementing the work of traditional operators. In the last two years, we have supported over 50 community networks globally and there is a need to do more.

It is for this reason that the Internet Society is pledging to support the deployment of 100 complementary connectivity solutions and train 10,000 people to build and maintain Internet infrastructure by 2025. In addition, the Internet Society Foundation pledges to triple its funding to provide 3-million-dollars for digital skills development through its skills program and to expand it to reach 6 additional countries in Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

The Internet Society Foundation also pledges to award 1-million-dollars to support innovative solutions to connect the unconnected through its bold program. Our plenls today will scale up our work considerably. It is a decision that we must all make to put our experience, expertise, and resources into action for the common goal of universal connectivity. We know that no one organization can do this alone. We are therefore pleased to have the expressions of support for our pledge from organizations such as Connect Humanity, the Association for Progressive Communications, APC, Mozilla Corporation, Partners in Education in Ethiopia, and Barda Institute of Technology. To conclude I invite you to reach out to myself and my colleagues here at WTDC to explore how we can join forces to make sure that the Internet is really for everyone. Thank you.

>> NARIA SANTA LUCIA: Thank you so much and a very bold pledge to scale your work. Excited to hear more.

Finally, I wanted to just turn your attention to the cameras, we're going to have a brief message from Microsoft's President Brad Smith versus Vice Chair of the Board of Directors who will be introducing Microsoft's pledge.

>> I'm Brad Smith President and Chair of Microsoft and thanks for a moment to share with you today. I want to say how pleased we are to be part of the Partner2Connect initiative, how proud we are to be part of something that I think has moved forward so well. Just two weeks ago, I had a chance to sit down in person with Doreen Bogdan-Martin at the World Economic Forum, it was a reminder, frankly of the power of her persuasion because she's the one who made the case successfully to get all of us at Microsoft leaning in and pushing forward on the engaging communities pillar and really to do more than frankly I think we ever envisioned to advance skilling.

Digital skills as so many of you know as one of the causes and needs of our time, and thanks to this program, we have committed

to reach 10-million people by 2025 to bring them digital skills, and believe me when we make that kind of commitment, we deliver. We will. And I look forward to seeing what all of these people of talent will do.

>> NARIA SANTA LUCIA: So, Brad, who is one of the leaders of focus area 2 of empowering communities there talked about our pledge to train and certify 10-million people within demand digital skills by 2025. I'm also excited to note that we have a few other pledges at Microsoft that we're committing to the Partner2Connect network. First are Microsoft air band initiative which seeks to advance digital equity through access to affordable Internet devices and skills. That team is focusing on reducing the gender gap, and they're collaborating with the hunger project in Malawi and will are expand broadband access for 70,000 people while also providing training and jobs in ICT.

We have also pledged with U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID to continue our public/private partnership that brings improved Internet access to women with the aim of expanding economic opportunities in Guatemala, India, Ghana, Columbia, and Kenya.

And finally, GitHub, the Global software development platform and part of Microsoft since 2018 has made two pledges. First, it will support the creation of three Open Source program offices in the United Nations system by 2025, and it has also added its name to the group pledge to launch a charter for digital public goods.

As you heard Brad say, Microsoft is so proud to be a member and we're going to deliver, and I have 5 seconds and I want to say thank you to this amazing panel and distinguished guests for their great pledges.

(Applause).

It's really been an honor to be with you to today.

MODERATOR: Congratulations to all of you about being so good at sticking to your time. We now have a break until 11:30. We are right on time, so Narria, excellent work on the timing. See you all back here promptly at 11:30.

(break).

>> DAVID KIRKPATRICK: Okay. Welcome back. For something a little different, we're going to do a spotlight session now on the secret ingredients to last-mile connectivity. So congratulations on resisting the Nigerian coffee and coming to the substantial part of the program. You won't be disappointed.

So, basically, the challenge for so many places, so many parts of the world, is how to finance getting Internet to everybody who needs it, and the three speakers that we have here are experts on that, they've done a lot of work in that area sometimes together, and certainly are going to tell you some interesting things that they've accomplished. So I'm going to immediately ask Andile

Ngcaba Founder and Chairman of Convergence Partners Invest and part of the Partner2Connect Digital coalition and also with a pledge.

>> ANDILE NGCABA: Good morning, everybody. Thank you again for hosting us, the Government of Rwanda. Thank you to Doreen and the team for the great event and Partner2Connect since last September. Convergence Partners is a private equity fund in Africa, basically 20 years now investing in submarine cables, satellites, last-mile connectivity, and really I mean we are really happy to be here and we've been active since last week participating in with the youth. Africa will have 2-billion people I mean 15 years from now so a lot of work has to be done.

We're really happy to announce this morning that 250-million dollars we're putting into digital infrastructure over the next 5 to 7 years. This is again to --

(Applause).

-- to make sure that last-mile fiber, wireless, you know, is connected into different parts of the continent in schools, you know, in business, you know, in hospitals and making sure that we can make sure when we get into that 2-billion people, who the majority will be youth, most of those young people will be connected into the digital infrastructure. So we're really excited to be part of this event. Thank you.

>> DAVID KIRKPATRICK: Fantastic, Andile. We'll come back to you. We'll have a little discussion here after we hear from our speakers. Chris Burns the Chief Digital Development Officer and Director of Technology Division of USAID has a pledge to make.

>> CHRIS BURNS: Thanks, David. Good morning, everyone. In the interest of time, I'll get straight to the point. There is a 40-trillion-dollar global infrastructure gap out there in the world that can only be addressed through collaboration and cooperation with governments, with the private sector, and with Civil Society organizations.

And to close that gap, it's really going to require new models of public/private partnerships, and to address that specific challenge, the Biden Administration is prioritizing infrastructure for the developing world, and in doing so we're committed to values-driven, high-standard, and transparent infrastructure development. U.S. Secretary of State the Blinkin announced last week the broad U.S. Government Partner2Connect Pledges and I would like to focus on one today for this panel, our new Digital coin Invest Blended Finance Program part of the Biden Administration initiative. Digital invest is going to use grants to mobilize the private sector to extend connectivity including ISPs and digital financial services to the most underserved and marginalized populations of the world, particularly women. Through the U.S. connectivity and cybersecurity partnership, we're providing 3.5-million dollars in Digital koich invest into a series of grants

that we think will unlock 100 times that amount. This year alone we hope to bring in 335-million dollars of additional private-sector capital to extend that into underserved areas and in doing so we hope to be able to shape the private sector and build their confidence to invest in earlier-stage, higher-potential startups that have higher barriers to entry.

But the U.S. is not just focused on infrastructure alone for its own sake, and through USAID digital strategy that is focused on open, inclusive, and secure digital ecosystem, we work across that entire field of digital development to extend that connectivity. I don't have time to get into that today but I did mention the digital connectivity and cybersecurity partnership that is USG-wide investment and we pledge into Partner2Connect where we have already supported 47-million-dollars worth of technical assistance and capacity building for countries themselves to build out their ICT policy and regulatory frameworks, so I would like to note that we are open for business for any country that is focused on doing just that, please let us know. Thank you.

>> DAVID KIRKPATRICK: That's a good invitation. Thank you. Chris. So Rolande Pryce is Country Manager for World Bank and been involved in this for some time, so react to what you heard and talk about what you've seen in terms of creative investment for last-mile connectivity and what you would like to see more of.

>> ROLANDE PRYCE: David, the one thing I can say is way to start off on high note. \$250-million of private investment unleveraged rural connectivity, focus on gender, all elements of the World Bank Group strategy, and one of the key things that we are focused on --

>> DAVID KIRKPATRICK: Get as close to it.

>> ROLANDE PRYCE: Get as close. Can you hear me? I'm sorry. So one of the key things that we are focused on is the fact that universal connectivity and accelerating digital transformation is what is going to unlock new pathways for growth and shared prosperity, and when we say shared prosperity, we're talking about the bottom two quintiles, bottom 40% of the population. The bank is working in a number of ways, the World Bank Group I should say is working in a number of different ways to try to bring more private sector investment, to try to address market failures, and across the board, to do what is required in the first instance to create an excellent enabling environment for connectivity investments.

There we're working with government at forward-looking broadband policies at regulatory frameworks that deal with infrastructure sharing, for example. You asked me to drill down a little bit on other things we've seen, on other innovative approaches, and one of the key things that we're doing in some countries is, and I can talk about Rwanda, but I'm taking the stage

to say is a little about what we're doing in Africa in general, is this advanced large be financing, long-term financing of capacity for public services, so for hospitals, et cetera. So this advanced large-scale financing is going to enable private sector to come in, because they will have the assurance that there will be payments for the longer term, and it's going to incentivize long-term investment. Of course, there has always been universal service funds, but using those and leveraging those universal service funds, we're working on what we're calling reverse auctions where private companies, essentially, can bid for public subsidies that will help them to move into areas that we make it more viable for investment in unserved or underserved areas and then the usual public/private partnerships through specifically World Bank financing we're able to put the government's stake, and there for example we've done this for underwater sea cables so there are different techniques or approaches we're using and these I think are probably the most innovative.

>> DAVID KIRKPATRICK: Really cool. So Andile talk a little about what's going to determine where that 250 million goes and how you work with other entities to really leverage to the maximum capacity.

>> ANDILE NGCABA: Just on the leverage side, to give an example I mean between us, between USAID and the World Bank, I mean one of the companies in our portfolio called SISQUAIT, together USAID and World Bank, we invested in a cable, a fiber cable, and Liberia is a classic example, this is a classic partnership model that we're looking at of how from a USAID, the World Bank and the private company can work together, basically. So that 250 million, I mean that's one example, and again in other areas we have a similar environment working with the World Bank.

So, that's how we see this partnership in different parts of the continent. So we're really inviting a number of DFIs, we're inviting a number of public institutions to collaborate in investing. I mean I think we must have heard yesterday that no one can do this alone. That is what the Minister from Rwanda said. So private sector, various DFIs, public institutions, we need to collaborate to invest to address, I mean, this gap of 2.9-billion people that need to be connected.

>> DAVID KIRKPATRICK: Great. So, Chris, talk a little about how 3.5 million can unlock 300 million, and also if you would address what countries in this room ought to do to be most able to take advantage of that kind of capability.

>> CHRIS BURNS: Sure. So the 3.5 million, and we're going to invest another 2 million the coming year, so 5.5 million in total will initially go out to five private fund managers who will basically then work with investors and help them to understand how to enter a new market or how to lower barriers of entry, particularly

for smaller and mid-size ISPs, and really you know of course, putting in infrastructure requires a lot of capx and opx upfront so the fund managers will be able to help those investors with those upfront expenses so that they can then drive longer-term vestments so that's how you get 300 million leveraging over. The power of understanding what to do.

In other countries and elsewhere, when you think about the comment about what we've to know together in Liberia, the through line there and this is what should get investors excited about investing in underserved markets. We came in post Ebola so it was a health crises that really needed solid infrastructure to be able to communicate, for example, between Ministry of Health and frontline health workers, so when we wired, we fiber wired Monrovia and linked up ministries and ISPs and building out the backbone around the country, it's really to facilitate frontline health workers and other to do business. Often times we talked about connectivity for connectivity sake. USAID humanitarian assistance. Agricultural production, it's not just within health, and all of this secretarial work that connectivity and payments and digital ID and foundational underpinnings help us to become more effective in all that we're doing and I think the same can be said for national governments as well as we look across their development plans.

>> DAVID KIRKPATRICK: Really good. One of the things that I'm really taking away from the conference so far is the very healthy integration of ideas that are all necessary to bring to bear at once in order to really connect the unconnected, and it involves health care, it involves education, it involves climate resilience, and a lot of other things. So Rolande, I know for the World Bank, those sorts of things really matter and when local authorities and governments understand the potential of what connectivity can bring to those areas, it can help unlock funds, so talk a little bit about how you think about that.

>> ROLANDE PRYCE: Well, there are lots of different elements, as you say, David, that will essentially unlock this growth potential that we're talking about, that will incentivize the investments that are needed.

And I think one of the key things for us is that it's not just about coverage. It really takes into account, we have to look to see what are some of the constraints that are not incentivizing individual citizens to adopt this new technology, and we actually have -- the World Bank has an ongoing program in digital acceleration. In Rwanda it's 100-million of IDA. It's another good example of leverage because we were able to, by of course with the support of the government, work with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and we were able to bring another 100-million dollars to focus on many things including digital inclusion. One

of the key things we have found challenging for adoption of new technologies in Rwanda is affordability. Affordability not just of the data packages, but affordability of broadband-enabled devices, but significantly also digital literacy. You get the phones into the hands of these persons, but they don't know how to use them.

A key element of this project under the digital inclusion pillar is training over 3-million people in digital literacy, many of them small businesses so that they're able to use technology to be able to advance their business. It's also setting up, for example, a Device Access Fund and looking at various guarantee approaches to make devices more affordable to bring the private sector in more strongly and make devices more affordable, and it's also working with companies, of course, bringing greater competition hopefully also to get down the cost of data packages in these rural areas.

So, these are some of the key elements, and I mean you mention as well climate change and others, but the very first thing for us is working on getting persons to know the benefit, the potential of technology, and then working with especially poor and underserved to be able to get those devices into their hands.

>> DAVID KIRKPATRICK: Fantastic. Really, we have to help articulate what's needed at the end in order to unlock the money at the beginning, and I think you all are doing an incredibly good job in moving in that direction, so thank you to all three of you, and now we're going to move to our next High-Level Panel and I think we started with some big ideas here. Thank you so much.

I'll move to the other position here, and will the high-level panel number five please join us on stage. Please go right on up there, and if you take too long, I'm going to spend even more time reminding you about the three-minute limitation and the noise that will follow if you overcome it, and also encouraging you to lean into that mic which we're getting better and better at as the day goes on.

And the interpretation will continue with English on one and French on two, Spanish on three, Russian on four, Chinese on five, and Arabic on six.

And helping to get this thing going up there is our moderator for high-level panel number five, and that is Bocar Ba, CEO of the SAMENA Telecommunications Council and so Bocar, I turn it over to you and look forward to hearing a bunch of great new pledges.

>> BOCAR BA: Thank you very much, David, for this short introduction. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon to all of you. And I would like to welcome you to this very important discussion about Partner2Connect. It's a real pleasure, first of all, to be here in Kigali and to join this ITU P2C high-level panel five. I will be the moderator and at the end of the discussion I

will also announce the SAMENA Telecommunication pledge. I'm CEO of SAMENA based in Dubai, and as you new partnership is key and this is exactly what the Partner2Connect coalition is established to do in order to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals, but as the Agenda 2030.

The P2C, just very quickly to summarize, facilitates and catalyzes new partnerships in four areas. The first one is access, which is connecting people everywhere. Adoption, which is about empowering communities. Value creation for building digital ecosystem, and as you know in this digital development, the ecosystem is being more and more complex. And finally, acceleration by incentivizing investment. It's all about unlocking access to capital.

Many organizations have submitted their pledge across these four areas around very much looking forward to hearing the pledge now from our distinguished speakers.

Just very quick formality, I would like to alert our speaker on while they will be announcing their pledge, that each of you have three minutes which will be strictly enforced. There will be some music playing just before the three minutes mark of your intervention which will give you about 10 to 15 seconds to complete that you are remark.

Without any further ado, let me now first of all, I would like ladies and gentlemen, if you can give because we'll be running short time, give one round of applause to all of our speakers, please, welcoming them.

I would like now to call open our first panelist, His Excellency Mr. Dmitri with the Deputy Ministry of digital development communication and Russian Federation. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

>> KIM DMITRI: Thank you Rwanda, thank you Kigali, it's really wonderful. I've never been here but I'm sure he will be here second time. Let me speak from high heart but in Russian, if you don't mind.

Ladies and gentlemen, excellencies, in spite of the broad introduction of services and dissemination has been uneven, some people lack access to the Internet according to the ITU's data, there are 2.9-billion people in this position around the world. Resolving this problem is a priority for the Ministry of Digital Development and Mass Media of the Russian Federation.

Over several days in Russia, we are implementing a program for the digital economy. As part of this program, we have setting a goal to ensure access to the online environment by taking steps to improve connectivity throughout our territory and to digitalize important infrastructure.

In 2021, access to the Internet was expanded by the building of fiber optic cables to more than 5,000 objects, all schools in

our country are now connected to high-speed networks. We have also achieved significant progress in connecting medical centers for maternity clinic, and these are in the furthest areas of our country.

When connecting these, we have to note that they must have their own hub of connection to include all of the nearby population. In this way, we have ensured modern Internet access to most of our country. Since last year, we have been implementing a program to ensure 4G is available in our smallest settlements with populations from 100 to 150 people. This gives them the opportunity directly to access state services.

By 2030 throughout Russia and throughout the world, we seek to have modern satellite network communications. This is why we are modernizing our satellites and launching new groups of satellites called Express RV into high orbit. This allows for constant connection in Arctic and far east. It is long term and multi-faceted. Our priority is to ensure that the entire population has the opportunity to use modern connectivity services and to have sustainable access to the Internet. We, for our part, note that Russia will undertake all necessary efforts and we stand ready to share our experience in terms of integration, unions, and in bilateral channels and other fora. I thank you.

>> BOCAR BA: Thank you, your Excellency, for this impactful pledge targeting other means of connecting the unconnected, and as we all know at the last GSR we have adopted norms with the ITU for technology neutral Internet whether terrestrial or satellite. Thank you for the pledge.

Let me open very quickly Her Excellency Ms. Emma Theofelus Deputy Minister of information and communication of Namibia.

>> EMMA THEOFELUS: Namibia has made strides in providing communication to all citizens since 19 the 5 and during the past 10 years ICT impacted positively on the daily lives of Naibians providing voice and data connectivity involving data and e-government services online tax submissions toll-free help lines during COVID-19 pandemic and various information campaigns to name but just a few.

Today, our telecommunication industry provides 2G and 3G mobile services to 95% and 89% of our population respectively. 4G coverage is provided to 79% made up of 2.5 million. It is therefore necessary to continue expanding 4G networks into underserved and unserviced areas to support communities in building a better future and to contribute actively to the Namibia economy. One such cornerstone is to ensure Internet connectivity at all educational centers to provide learning opportunities for every child and upskill the youth, such as myself and adults, at our primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions through online education. Adapting and thriving in the digital world does not come without inherent risks. To this end the government has a strategy to

enforce ICT services. The strategy will be implemented through promulgation through data protection and cybercrime, establishment of national cybersecurity incidence response team and various cyber-awareness campaigns to create a safer online environment.

It is therefore my pleasure this morning to introduce Namibia pledges in support of the Partner2Connect initiative. Firstly, Namibia pledges to establish the universal access service fund and rollout of services through demand-side management to provide access to secondary schools and clinics in all underserved and unserviced areas in Namibia.

Secondly, Namibia pledges to establish a national cyber and security incidence response team to support the cyber ril sill yens of Namibia and fostering culture of cyber awareness and focus point to cyber incidents as well as primary contact -- as well as a primary contact with national sectoral CERTs as well as interinternational CERTs at regional basis ch the Namibia government is committed to improve lives of citizens and growth of economy through increasing connectivity and safeguarding our Cyberspace. I thank you very much, moderator, for your attention.

>> BOCAR BA: Thank you very much, your Excellency for this very strong pledge and focus on expanding broadband connectivity and on building interest on the net through cybersecurity strategy which will help the education sector and the youth.

Let me now call open His Excellency and I think we will have him online, Mr. Yunming Zhang Deputy Minister of Industry and Information Technology in China and joining us virtually, your Excellency, you have the floor.

>> YUNMING ZHANG: Thank you, Moderator. On behalf of the Chinese Delegation. Can you hear me?

>> BOCAR BA: Please proceed.

>> YUNMING ZHANG: On behalf of the Chinese Delegation I express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the ITU and Rwanda Government for efforts in organizing today's meeting, and my speech is connection for all. In recent years the Chinese Government remains committed to providing its people with accessible, affordable and high-quality ICT services. First, strengthen infrastructure for digital network and improve network availability. Until today, 93% of broadband subscribers are connected with a speed of 100 MPB or above and 156 million 5G base stations in operation. All villages have access to broadband.

Second, promote equality in digital services and ensure affordability. China works actively to help the elderly people with disabilities and others better participate in information society and promote continuously tariff reduction. China's ICT service affordability is among the best in the world.

Third, deepen cooperation in digital governance and enhance trust. China has launched the global initiative on data security

and is willing to safeguard and improve the multilateral government system in Cyberspace through dialogue and communication with other countries. The impacts of COVID-19 and the challenges in economic recovery, all countries should tackle the difficulties together and make concerted efforts to connect everyone. I would like to suggest the following.

First, to enhance capacity for digital development. We need to accelerate infrastructure building and continuously narrow the digital divide. We should also create together an open international environment and build interconnected global networks.

Second, to foster impetus for digital development. We should leverage ICTs to promote digital transformation of our economy and the society to foster new driving forces for our economy and to improve public services.

Third, to create synergy for digital development which should further exchange, expand consensus, and deepen cooperation in view of building a community with a shared future in Cyberspace.

We have long served as member of ITU Council and at the upcoming PP, China will run for reelection of Council Member and will recommend Mr. Jin, Chang to run for membership and we appreciate your support and China is working with all countries to promote coordinated development of ICTs globally. Thank you.

>> BOCAR BA: Thank you very much, your excellency, and we can hear clearly that China is taking very effective steps to ensure that digital development is of the forefront of the ICT strategy, and thank you for supporting the ITU.

Our next panelist, ladies and gentlemen, it's Dr. the Director-General of the telecommunication post regulatory authority of Sudan. Dr., you have the floor. Thank you.

>> Thank you. I will speak in Arabic. Excellency, your Secretary-General of the ITU, excellencies, Directors of the Development radio and standardization of the ITU and excellencies, Ministers and Ambassadors, participants in the beautiful City of Kigali and those joining virtually wherever you are greetings and may God's blessings be upon you. It gives great pleasure to stand before the August assembly to present Sudan's commitment to work with local, regional, and global partners, and especially the ITU to connect the unconnected and not leave anyone behind and to provide the ICT technologies in order to achieve development and prosperity of societies and mankind.

Sudan strives through the universal service project to connect citizens in the economically disadvantaged regions with the communications providers. We do not stop by connecting these regions, but are working to establish societal centers that provide other essential services that facilitate the lives much citizens where the universal service fund has carried out great efforts in

connectivity and has an ambition plan for digital transformation, and this is one of our commitments, and we are also providing a successful (?) that can be carried forward in the region.

Sudan is committed to train Arab officials and African official in the near future to make use of the Arab regional expertise at the center in partnership with the ITU in the fields of Internet of Things and the IPV6. And this center was officially inaugurated a few months ago and where the center is also developing national plans to move towards the IPV6 and to put plans that help in making use of the applications of the Internet of Things in the developmental project.

Dear participants, the Sudan is always proud to be one of the most advanced countries in comparison with similar countries in supporting women to enroll in the field of ICTs, and women in Sudan have held the highest positions in related institutions where they're private or public and the percentage of women has increased day after day and the percentage of women has reached 45%, and has even reached 50% in leading positions at the Ministry of Communications and Digital Transformation and Sudan is committed by way of its excellent geographical situation in the midst of the African continent to connect the landlocked countries because it's surrounded by four brotherly countries landlocked and they're in turn also surrounded by other landlocked countries and this gives an opportunity to Sudan to play a great role in enabling and connecting the unconnected and Sudan enjoys 33,000 kilometers of optical fibers extending into neighboring countries. Before ending I have to commend the great efforts and achievements of Communications Development Sector and continuous support of Sudan and I don't forget to thank the State of Rwanda to support us African proud we are and able to be in the world side by side in achieving the expected digital transformation. Thank you for your kind attention.

>> BOCAR BA: Thank you very much, your Excellency, that was a great first track for ending your intervention. Thank you again, and for your inspiring remarks. Three takeaways, yes, leaving no one behind, we have a tendency to forget IPV6 which is mandatory and reaching SDG number 5, gender equality. Thank you very much, Sudan.

Now, I would like to invite Mr. Thembo Nyombi Director of Uganda Communication Universal Access Fund and Thembo you have the floor to make your pledge.

>> THEMBO NYOMBI: Thank you. Friends, the Republic of Uganda is pleased to present at this initiative. Universal service fund of Uganda along with the government has worked this for the past 20 years and outcomes are phenomenon though a lot is yet to be done. Achieving meaningful connectivity walking the whole band of the chain system and xroazing of activity, content, digital

literacy and activity. Uganda broadband population currently stands at 79% and targeted to extend to 90% and started in 2019, state of ICT viewed at 60% of non-internet users digitally I will literal -- we are therefore working to intervention toward sustainable to tackle barriers to connectivity at both community and individual levels. Uganda commitment shall therefore focus on three thematic areas, access, adoption, and value creation.

We therefore pledge a minimum of 6.7 U.S. dollars over the next 4 years as subsidies for establishment of passive infrastructure in unserved areas, and reviews costs of core services to improve affordability and 1 gigaspectrum to facilitate local deployment of radio access network and cooperating with research and innovation.

Our second pledge relates to ongoing implementation of the digital literacy program and Uganda population to utilize the ICT for socioeconomic transformation.

Over the coming 4 years, we pledge to set up this program through committing a minimum of 10 million U.S. dollars for scaling small and medium enterprise, women and girls, person living in poor qualities, and to further supplement our digital inclusion efforts, we are implementing a pilot project that seeks to improve the device ownership among households and third pledge involves implementing a household device project that seeks to address a key challenge of device ownership and we're pledging 4-million dollars in the next 4 years.

Lastly in a bid to strengthen our digital ecosystem, moving to strengthening digital and ecosystem operation and this facilitated development to address -- political and socioeconomic challenges and here we're pledging \$700,000 U.S. dollars to pilot this strategy.

Overall the Government of Uganda pledges to mitt 30-million dollars to the interventions to enhance ICT inclusivity. May I use this opportunity to say and invite our friends with great utmost humility at break starting at 4:00 at Terrace2. Thank you very much.

>> BOCAR BA: Thank you very much for your pledge which will cover access adoption and value creation using the universal service fund, and I would reiterate this invitation this afternoon and will be delighted to join you. Thank you very much for the invitation.

Let me now call open Ms. Celia Reyes and Director, and apologize in advance for my Spanish -- I think I deserve a very good round of applause.

>> CELIA REYES: Thank you so much for trying. (Laughing). (captioner cannot hear English interpreter).

Personally I thank you for inviting me to speak today and inviting me to this wonderful country. I want to say for 2022, Nicaragua has undertaken a number of ambitious goals which we intend

to achieve by 2023. Among the ambitious goals, we have set ourselves, we have the modernization of our infrastructure. For 2023, my country Nicaragua hopes it will be able to adopt legislation on telecommunications, should be modern and in line with international standards and also hope to adopt implementation instrument.

Of course, we will need specific standards which are aligned with this new telecommunication legislation, for example infrastructure sharing which is a very important topic in our country, and there are also standards in terms of transferring numbers as well as telecommunication services and provision, amongst others.

Nicaragua is taking measures for strategic planning and piloting a roadmap in order to implement 5G technology. Recently, our country published and updated a regulatory framework, and that framework is to do with data transfer. We believe that in the upcoming year and over the next three years, we will be able to implement 5G so our citizens can benefit fully from those technologies.

In order to be able to achieve these objectives, we will be pledging 4-million dollars. Thank you.

>> BOCAR BA: Thank you for your excellent pledge. I wish you good luck in the deployment of 5 G. I now call open my dear brother Mr. John Omo Secretary-General of the African telecommunication union. John, the floor is yours.

>> JOHN OMO: Thank you very much, Bocar. Welcome to Africa, the youngest in terms of technology. Now, we are the ITU of the region and so with this sort of disparities in terms of access in Africa, in terms of gender, in terms of youth, we ask the ITU, the ATU I'm sorry is keen on investing on innovation and empowering Africa's largest population that is the youth, and for that reason, at ATU pledges to develop and foster Africa Innovation Ecosystems and Digital industries, and to implement the pledge, the ATU will build a capacity of innovators and expose Africa's talent to potential seed funders and venture capitalists on a sustainable basis.

The ATU also intends to create an innovation portal that will serve as a focal point for innovators and ecosystem stakeholders. We target at least 5,000 talented young innovators from Africa to be the beneficiaries of this pledge.

Connectivity is another significant disparity area, even though the continent is recording a steady increase in Internet usage. Africa is lagging in the migration to IPV6, yet it is increasingly becoming evident that African countries will need more IP addresses to connect objects and devices to the Internet.

The more disturbing issue is that even for IPV resources that exist in the continent, some of these resources are already under

attack by middlemen out of this continent, so we need to sensitize our people working with various registries to ensure that these resources are used for the benefit of the continent. We are committed to accelerating the development, therefore, of IPV6 in Africa, and we have developed a strategic framework and roadmap for that purpose.

So our pledge is to train a minimum of 200 experts, 2 per country, on the migration from IPV4 to IPV6 and also to engage experts in assisting countries in setting up the necessary institutional reforms in our countries.

We will also engage in capacity building in that regard. I thank you.

>> BOCAR BA: Thank you, Mr. Omo, for this great pledge focused on migration from IPV4 to IPV6 and I'm sure it will be essential for accelerating the development.

The next speaker now is speaking from cree yarks and I think we should have him virtually. I would like to call upon Mr. Keping Yao with senior government and public administration expert and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in Korea. Please, Mr. Yao, the floor is yours, you can make your pledge.

KEPING.

>> YAO: Thank you so much moderator, excellency, I'm very pleased to deliver this short intervention on behalf of the United Nations office part of the division for public institution of digital Government of UNDECA. I would like to highlight the capacity development support that our office has been providing for Member States to facilitate digital government development and digital transformation.

Our office is dedicated to strengthening public administration capacity and promoting effective, accountable counties and inclusive public institutions. During our recent capacity needs assessment of top institutions in Asia Pacific and East Africa regions our custom countries are also requesting capacity development support for advancing digital government.

I would like to address three dimensions of our capacity development support in digital government and digital transformation. Firstly, we conduct research and develop training toolkits and assessment tools. Our office has been contributing to the biannual UNe-government survey and this flagship publication of UNDECA presents a systematic invisitment of ICT to transform and reform the sector of trends of digital government and also developing training cool kits and tools based on building block of digital governance and developed a curriculum on governance for SDGs and innovation on digital government for public service delivery and also provides handbook on digital government capability assessment.

Currently we're developing a handbook series on innovation,

innovative local governance for the implementation of the SDGs, including digital transformation in local governance and promoting local innovation for inclusion with people in vulnerable situations. We also developing training toolkits on digital data governance and also capacity for digital government transformation.

For capacity development activities we strive to include digital government case studies, exercise, and study visits for the digital government workshops and also implement technical assistance project at request, and provide advising services to countries at their request, and we also organize capacity-development webinars and digital transformation, leverage ICTs and digital government for innovative solution for pandemic and also introduce study visits.

Our ols has great evidence to facilitate great cooperation, our office has been organizing annual regional symposium in effective governance and digital transformation as platform for policy dialogue and digital government and innovation. Our office is also working closely with other UN agencies including ITU as well as other partners and we also apply a holistic approach to digital government and to transformation and with interconnected focus on strengthening public governance, and lastly, we will continue our endeavor to support Member States in the efforts that accelerate digital transformation events and digital government and also welcome government institutions from developing countries and other countries to send their official requests to the director of the division or the head of the UN department of social affairs for capacity development support. Thank you for your attention. Back to you, Moderator.

>> BOCAR BA: Thank you very much, Mr. Yao, for your pledge. Very important targeted realistic approach for supporting digital government in the developing nation and for the digital transformation. Excellent. Thank you very much. Do we have now on the stage. I would like now to call on the stage Ben Roberts Group Chief Technology and Innovation Officer of liquid Intelligence Technology from the UK. Mr. Roberts, the floor is yours.

>> BEN ROBERTS: Okay. Thank you. I love a technology problem. So thank you to the ITU for putting this event together, and I think it's been very good. I've enjoyed taking part in it and also we've just become the newest member of the ITU-D I think off the back of this workant the P2C summit.

So I've got two pledges to make today. The first is around focus area three of building digital ecosystems and it is our program for hub of hubs connectivity for innovation. Throughout hub of hubs connectivity program, liquid intelligence technologies aims to provide affordable meaningful ultra high-speed connectivity to connect communities of hubs and entrepreneurs to access digital

learning and digital tools and to grow their skills and incubate their innovations.

Furthermore, by partnering with interested organizations such as hub organizations, we aim to assist innovation hubs in smaller towns and cities and focus on those that are manufacturing making products to not just software. So that's how we want to improve inclusivity.

Our second pledge is around focus area one, connecting people everywhere and focus area four of incentivizing investments. That is focus of school connectivity at the heart of the strategy. Liquid intelligence technologies we have a vision for digital Adobe Connected future that leaves no African behind but earlier this year the UN Secretary-General said that since 2019, millions of students have lost months and even years of learning. The reality was that the pandemic exposed the digital divide with education being the most affected area. To date, liquid has deployed 100,000 kilometers of fiber to the first-mile the national backbone, middle mile, and last machine mile wireless access providers and also (?) and allocations. We have connected over 4,000 schools to meaningful broadband across this continent when we've been doing this, but there are very many more that can be connected and many of them are extremely close to high-speed fiber.

Our pledge is to focus on connecting schools to Internet at the heart of our strategy in our rollout strategy using our assets and partnership to deploy meaningful connectivity. By mapping locations of schools, planning backbone networks with school coverage in mind, working with partners like UNICEF on this, and linking sources of financing to large-scale education connectivity projects, partnering with development finance, export finance, universal service funds, et cetera, and then deploy infrastructure and connect schools using our fiber access wireless broadband last-mile ISP partners or satellites for the most remote locations. All of this achieved through global and local partnerships to solve this difficult challenge to make sure that no learner is left behind. Thank you.

>> BOCAR BA: Thank you, Mr. Robert for sharing your pledge. Thank you. Moving on. And especially in the area of education by connecting the schools. Thank you very much.

Now we are coming to our last speaker and I would like now to turn to Mr. Xinhui Wang with Vice President of ZTE cooperation.

XINHUI WANG: Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, first of all extend great gratitude to Rwanda government for the great event and also thank ITU for launching Partner2Connect initiative, that's absolutely relevant. In interest of time, I don't want to screw up our lunch, just here goes. Rwanda official and United Nations which is -- Chinese, thank you.

The Internet and the information technology revolution has

brought us unprecedented changes. As of to date we keep exploring the extreme network performance to better meet the digital transformation in various industries to help build smart cities and to improve the efficiency of governance. In particular, to boost the global economies which have been hard hit by the COVID through innovative digitalization approaches aiming to recovery and high-quality development targets. Meanwhile, there is still 2.9-billion people remain unconnected, and they're excluded from the benefits of Internet in some developing countries, especially the least developing countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing countries, and problems exist as low-presentation of device, inferior, high-cost of network construction, and maintenance as well as lack of professional experts.

Learning from our past successful experience, digitalization is one of the most effective ways to achieve United Nations sustainable develop goals, China is the largest developing country in the world, and the initiative, the country part on multilateral trade cooperation, working together to address various issues under Sustainable Development Agenda, and to promote the pursuit of value in building community with shared future for all mankind. That is our vision. ZTE is world's leading telecommunication infrastructure provider and we adhere to the business philosophy of simplicity prevails and agility makes success. We remain committed to becoming a road builder of the digital economy, we lead by example in sustainable development like low-carbon and environmental protection and also contribute to the global connectivity for field and social responsibility together with customers and partners, and we pledge that we will build 400-million worth of ICT network infrastructure annually for LDCs, LLDCs, and CID countries by 2025 which would be helpful to rapidly realize the digital empowerment and to accelerate the bridging of digital divide. Thanks.

>> BOCAR BA: Right on time. Thank you, Mr. Wang, for outlining your pledge and I would like also to thank again all the panelists who have made pledges during this session across the P2C focus area.

So, very quickly, as I take away what our session itself alone has demonstrated is that the P2C Digital Coalition has really helped bundle some existing and new initiatives together and put the spotlight on the many different ways that partnerships across access, adoption, value creation, and acceleration can help contribute to achieving our targets of universal connectivity and thereby achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. There is not much time left, so before I close the session, let me present what SAMEMA is pledging to the P2C initiative and as part of our own collaborative effort that we're undertaking to ensure digital

economy and societies are inclusive and human-centered and ultimately sustainable, and SAMENA has made official pledge to support and advocate the objective of the ITU's Partner2Connect Digital Coalition across all four focus areas by using its advocacy channels and committing to collaborate with ITU and its P2C Partners.

Our pledge will make officially and launch during our leader summit on May 9, 2022 in Dubai as follows, we pledge to publicly support and promote through major rich articles in SAMENA trend all the objectives laid out by the P2C Digital Coalition and the action framework during 2022. We have also pledged for a period of six weeks during the months of May and June to publicly support those by the P2C coalition and P2C action framework during 2022 and the SAMENA daily newsletter.

We have also pledged and targeted the active promotion of the objective laid out by the coalition, and its Action Framework during the Summit on 9 of May on the session of 360 Degree View.

Furthermore we announce our joint pledge with Smart Africa that targets the implementation in 30 Smart Africa Member Countries of the first recommendation of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development which is broadening the base of contributors in the financing of digital infrastructure. And just very quickly to summarize, that will lead to encouraging mobile network operators to adopt data-driven business models, facilitating the collaboration between mobile network operators and non-network operators in the investment related to the digital infrastructure, improving the taxation models of the government to adopt with the current trends of digital economy, alleviating burdens on the operator with some incentives in the spectrum allocations, and encouraging the implementation of blended finance models where all players can contribute in the investment of the digital infrastructure, meaning using new instruments, and lastly facilitating new contribution models that can go beyond the traditional models which more impact in the ecosystem.

So with that, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, a big thank you to all panelists for the extraordinary contribution to the P2C Digital coalition and I believe we stand strong and can contribute to achieving our goals of universal connectivity and SDGs and Agenda 2030.

With this, I declare the session -- just John one minute that you can take.

>> JOHN OMO: Thank you very much, Bocar. I think given as we sit in this panel, let me take from the continent where we work, that you still get the feeling that the idea around P2C is to put all of this little pieces together so that people work in partnership, even as we sit here, you still get a sense of pledges that are about or around the same thing for each and every person

is making a pledge. And yet working together, I think we could achieve a lot more, so the ITU, the comment that I have is that the ITU needs to probably still work a little bit more to ensure that the ideas that have certain common threads are put together so that the partners that are pledging them work together as much as possible.

And while I have the mic, on behalf of the Gambia Minister inviting you for lunch straight after this. Thank you very much.

>> BOCAR BA: Thank you very much, John.

>> DAVID KIRKPATRICK: That was actually something I was about to say. We have two lunches coming up now. We have one at 12 okay 30 hosted by Gambia, thank you. And second lunch at 1:30 hosted by Thailand in the square tent, so resume here again at 2:30. Thank you so much to Bocar and panelists. It's been an incredibly interesting morning, and I know the afternoon will be also fantastic. See you back here at 2:30.

(session completed at 5:33 a.m. CST)

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