FINAL TRANSCRIPT

ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2014

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>> CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, could you put your headsets on? Ladies and gentlemen, please take your seats. We'll soon begin our Third Plenary Session. I hope you had a good lunch and I would like to thank China and Kyrgyzstan for providing nice luncheon to all of us. As soon as you take all of your seats, we'll begin the Third Plenary Session.

Thank you. The third Plenary Meeting is called to order. We will use the same agenda which we approved this morning for the second and Third Plenary meetings. I hope you had a good lunch, and I just want to say thanks to the hospitality given by the Chinese Government and Kyrgyzstan Government. Thank you very much.

Now as I told you in the Second Plenary Session, we would like to invite Romania, the President of the National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications. Romania, you have the floor.

>> ROMANIA: Thank you, Chairman, Chairman, Mr. Secretary‑General, Mr. Deputy Secretary‑General, Directors of the Bureaux, Your Excellencies, dear colleagues and friends, four years after Guadalajara, I am happy to see and join you all again for the most important event of our organization. It's been a fruitful four years, even though the challenges were neither few nor easy to handle. Humanity faced not only natural disasters, and calamities but also conflicts and man‑driven hardships, yet communications always have made the difference, and I do believe that our works here at ITU has indirectly helped save the lives of millions.

So we come here today wiser, better, and ever more prepared to take the best decisions meant at improving the Telecommunications Sector for the benefit of humanity. As we start this edition of the Plenipotentiary Conference, I beg you to keep in mind that without communications, there are no communities, so there are not any shared values and understanding, compassion and progress.

For Romania in particular, these four years that have passed have a special meaning indeed, as they were a highlight of our nearly a century and a half history as member of ITU. The representatives of Romania were actively involved in ITU's activities, Working Groups and projects, investing time, experience, and passion to achieve the goals of the Union.

Ladies and gentlemen, it's been both a great honor and an important responsibility for Romania and myself to hold the presidency of the Council in 2013, and I hope it is not just me saying that we did a good job. Even though it has not been an easy task, being responsible for the smooth undergoing of the Council allowed us to better understand the synergies that animate the Union.

Today, we are more than ever prepared to take over a new mandate as member of the Council. We are aware of the responsibility that comes with this candidature, and we are ready to fully assume it. We count on your support, and we thank you for the faith entrusted to us along all these years. We shall live up to our promises.

Romania has always been the voice of reason and the balance factor in our context, especially when dealing with sensitive issues as it always stayed true to the principle that guides its steps. We believe in cooperation and good understanding among all nations, but as actions speak louder than words, let me bring to your attention two of the international cooperation projects that are very dear to my heart.

One is the Regional Group initiated by Romania on spectrum coordination issues which is meant at enhancing cooperation between central and eastern European states while the other is the French speaking regulators network FRATEL that I had the honor to Chair this past year.

The Government of Romania is dedicated to deploying broadband Internet and massively invests to this end. As you may know, Romania is among the top 10 countries in the world as regards internet speed, in a top that is held by our host country South Korea. I thank the Government of South Korea, the Mayor of Busan City and the Korean people for making PP‑14 such an exciting and pleasant experience.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is somehow a sad edition of the Plenipotentiary Conference as we say goodbye to one of our dearest friends, Dr. Touré whose contribution to improving the ICT World is priceless. We hope our cooperation will continue no matter what the future holds for Dr. Touré and we are convinced his legacy will thrive as the new Secretary‑General will definitely take it to a whole new level.

The future waits for no one, so we make haste to wish you all a successful Conference, and please remember my dear colleagues that communications build communities, and this is in the end what really matters. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Excellency, thank you for your Policy Statement, and thank you for finishing your Policy Statement in time. Indeed, your contribution actually, as the Chair of the Council, actually was ‑‑ has been widely appreciated by all Member States. On behalf of all Member States I would like to say thanks to you again on your hard work as the Chairman of the Council. Thank you.

Now we will hear from Hungary, followed by Mauritania. So I would like to invite His Excellency President of the National media and information authority of Hungary. Hungary, you have the floor.

>> HUNGARY: Dear distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, let me start by thanking Republic of Korea for hosting this year's Plenipotentiary meeting of ITU. This is a huge commitment and your efforts are truly appreciated.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the honor today to give a short account on some of the current issues in Hungary that are closely related to this event and to ITU's Connect 2020. This year has been unique for us in Hungary. We can say that previous years' hard work of putting the Hungarian economy on the right track has started to pay off.

We set a high standard for our policy goals and recent economic developments seem to justify our vision of turning Hungary to one of the engines of industries of Europe and the European Union. This engine could not be productive without a core element: The infocommunications industry that has showed a steady growth even in the middle of the financial turmoil. The industry has already proven that its competitiveness lies with expanding capacities, fostering digital competencies and integrating SMEs into the world trade market.

Now it's the policymakers' turn to give a clear guidance and to provide an opportunity to keep the competitive nature of the Sector on the long run. This idea enjoys the overall support of Governmental institutions, non‑governmental organizations, the independent Regulatory Authority, and Sector specific advocacy groups alike.

In light of the above we are all proud that two important initiatives related to the Sector have been launched recently: The National infocommunications strategy and the digital nation development programme.

Both strategies are built on four pillars, fully aligned with ITU's strategic thinking. These elements will ensure that the ICT Sector will be at the service of job creation, research and development, sustainable economic growth and social solidarity.

After carefully identifying industry trends and horizontal development targets a series of objectives were defined perfectly matching the four complementary goals of Connect 2020.

The establishment of an ultra fast new generation network infrastructure in every Hungarian settlement will enable overall access to the Internet. This allows virtually every citizen and SME to benefit from the use of Information and Communication Technologies.

Beyond accessibility, we have put great emphasis on the digital convergence of the nation. Decreasing the number of digitally illiterate population is only one part of the job. We have made one step further and with the help of motivational campaigns, educational trainings and digital and media awareness centers conscious use of ICT and media tools are strongly promoted.

In order to ensure a sustainable and healthy digital ecosystem a series of new challenges must also be overcome. The National cyberspace strategy has provided a good framework for protecting users online while further strategic partnerships have helped us fight cybercrime and protect children from the hazards of the digital world. Besides these developments, a wide range of state incubation programmes for ICT startups will be aimed at contributing to similar success stories like those of world famous Hungarian firms of the Sector that have already proven their reason for existence.

Ladies and gentlemen, all these efforts testify that we are greatly committed to achieve the goals of the Connect 2020 initiative and building on these strategic ideas we are bound to have an ICT Metropolis established in the middle of Europe.

Ever since ITU was founded it has played an important role in our life. It's about time to reinforce this bond and help ITU convey its message to every single user in the digital society. Showing what we have done in the spirit of the Connect 2020 targets is like making them tangible and more realistic to people allowing them to identify themselves with this ambition.

I would like to take this opportunity to call your attention to Hungary's candidate of the Region B, Peter Major. I ask you to support him.

With that, I would like to thank you for your kind attention and wish a fruitful Conference for every participant.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Your Excellency for your Policy Statement and my apologies wrongly calling you His Excellency. I have wrong information in front of me. Once again, my apologies.

Now we will hear from Mauritania, followed by Burkina Faso. I would like to invite the Minister of Employment, professional training, new technologies, and telecommunications of Mauritania. Mauritania, you have the floor.

>> MAURITANIA: Thank you, Chairman. I would like first of all to thank you, to thank the Government of the Republic of Korea, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the ITU Secretary‑General, brother Hamadoun Touré, as well as the Chairman of the Director of the BDT for all the work they've done to help us to further the strategic objectives for the next five years. Obviously Information and Communication Technology today is the path to autonomy and social economic development. Under the leadership of the President, Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, we have been working to establish a National strategy 2012 to 2016, to step up development and implementation of digital technology, especially in education, health and services. This strategy is intended to bridge the digital divide and to deploy broadband, and information Communication Technology at affordable prices.

In this context, our country was last year connected to the international telecommunications network through the ACE submarine cable, and we are currently deploying optical fiber networks to connect all of the inland Provinces, and we hope that over 1600 kilometers of optic fiber cable will be connected through cooperation between our Government, The World Bank, and the European investment bank, European development bank.

We've also started to combat cybercrime attacks to protect Internet users. We have also modified our legislation, and reexamined the telecommunications legislation, as well as the electronic communication law January 2013. The new law is intended to foster investment, competition and innovation. We have helped the Information Society Mauritania to build the groundwork through this new legislation. The Government of Mauritania has the objective of developing ICTs as a lever for the overall development of the country.

We are working very closely with employment and innovation departments, the strategic vision of our country, based on our awareness of the importance of this Sector and the importance of ITU's role, has enabled us to aim for participation in this work, and therefore I'm very happy to confirm that our Government has put forward the candidacy of Ms. Fatemitou Mohamed‑Saleck for the Post of Deputy Secretary‑General of ITU. She was the first Minister in charge of the new technologies between the years 2000 and 2004. She has a great deal of experience in this area and also in the area of public administration. She's also international counselor in communications and general solutions and she has a doctorate in applied mathematics. She's an engineer and a University Professor. All of these skills and competencies, as well as her personal competencies, make her imminently suitable for this Post.

We firmly believe the Government of Mauritania is aware of the importance of women in development of society, and we believe that the nomination of Ms. Mohamed‑Saleck to this leadership post would help ITU to promote women's empowerment in general. We believe Ms. Mohamed‑Saleck has all the qualifications to fill the necessary functions as the Deputy Secretary‑General of the ITU. This is why I'd like to ask all of you to vote for her. In conclusion I'd like to thank the Government of the Republic of Korea once again for their hospitality, and the very excellent management of this Conference. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your Policy Statement. Indeed, we have actually two women candidates for this position. And both of them are very well qualified and in fact all 5 candidates are very well qualified for the positions, but having two women candidates for the DS position clearly shows the gender mainstreaming in the work of ITU so I hope that maybe in the next Plenipotentiary we can see more women candidates for all elected posts.

Now we be hear from Burkina Faso, followed by United Arab Emirates. I would like to call upon the Minister of Development, digital economy and Post of Burkina Faso. Burkina Faso, you have the floor.

>> BURKINA FASO: Chairman, Ambassadors, representatives of international organizations, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honor and a pleasure for me to speak before this Conference, and to take part in it. In my own name and on behalf of my Delegation I should like to thank Her Excellency Ms. Park Geun‑hye, President of the Republic of Korea, and the Government and people of Korea for the excellent working conditions they have provided.

Mr. Chairman, you and your Committee deserve our congratulations for ‑‑ and should also be congratulated for your election to the Chairmanship of the Conference. I should also like to thank the leadership of ITU and for having created a climate of confidence within the ITU.

Thanks to you, our Union enjoys an excellent image and credibility across the world, and the history will undoubtedly remember, my dear brother Dr. Touré for your contribution to the world head telecommunications and ICTs. So Burkina Faso would particularly like to salute Connect 2020 which bears witness to the commitment of the ITU to connect the world. The strategic aims of our country are in harmony with that vision and since the reform of the Telecommunications Sector in the '90s, Burkina Faso has got a broad legal framework and has developed networks and services for telecommunications and ICTs. The Government has established a number of infrastructure projects in the area. For example, the fiber optic networks which are to link our rural areas. We have also modernized the public administration through a Government plan.

We've also worked to make data openly available through the open data initiative. I should like to reaffirm that my country is fully committed to our Union, and to international cooperation. In the dynamic of co‑sponsoring of the world agenda for cybersecurity, the President of Burkina Faso, His Excellency Mr. Blaise Compaoré, organized in its 2008 session and the Council of the ITU and also participated in Telecoms Dubai which I think is proof of our commitment.

In order to capitalize on that commitment, Burkina Faso would ask for your support for its ‑‑ of its candidate for Mr. Brahima Sanou for a second term as Director of the Bureau for development. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I cannot conclude without expressing my best wishes for the success of this Conference, and to express our determination to participate actively in the implementation of the Connect 2020 initiative and the building of the world Information Society. In order to implement these regional initiatives, Burkina Faso is committed to make symbolic contribution by giving ‑‑ contributing 100,000 U.S. dollars to the ITU. Thank you very much, and best wishes.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, and thank you for your gracious contribution. As Chair of this Conference, I should be neutral on the election, but because we have only a single candidate for Director of the BDT Post, I would like to express my special thanks to Mr. Sanou for his wonderful work he has been doing for the last four years as the Director of the BDT. Thank you very much, Mr. Sanou. Thank you.

Now I would like to give the floor to the United Arab Emirates. I would like to invite Director‑General Telecommunications Regulatory Authority and a very well known colleague Mr. Mohamed Al Ghanim. United Arab Emirates, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, Heads of Delegation, Secretary‑General, Deputy Secretary‑General, and ladies and gentlemen, first I should like to thank the Republic of Korea, and express my appreciation for their hospitality in the hosting of this Plenipotentiary Conference. It is a country which has always hosted important international conferences, and I would like to congratulate the ITU for having arranged the Conference here as a representative of the UAE, a country which welcomes representatives all the countries of the world, which has permitted us to make unprecedented progress in a very short period of time.

Ladies and gentlemen, our vision for 2021 has allowed us to unite in favor of growth. We have adopted a programme which has allowed us to achieve that vision for growth, and we therefore ‑‑ that has allowed us to play an important part in the world of telecommunications. In 2013, we adopted the intelligence initiative which led us to establish a policy which allowed us to provide administrative services 24 hours a day.

We therefore are in a position to respond to all expectations and needs on a 24 hour a day basis in order to serve our people. We also adopted the happiness index, and yesterday our country initiated a National strategy in order to reinforce creativity in order to ensure our future in all areas. Our own Government has also adopted a Telecoms strategy which is predicated over the period until 2021. Speed, infrastructure, teaching, and creativity are the pillars of that strategy, and each of these elements is linked to a number of initiatives.

There are other elements, including the increasing broadband, and we have also established the notion of the intelligent city, and we have sent miles of exploration satellite. We have been able to enjoy the experience from all countries in the area of telecommunications. We have benefited from the experience of countries like Korea, for example, and have been able to meet challenges, e‑Teaching, for example, e‑Education initiative has been adopted by the other Arab nations during the BDT meeting, the development Conference held last March, in Dubai.

Ladies and gentlemen, we also have adopted a very ambitious programme with a view to better serving all groups of global society. We celebrated the creation of the ITU. We place our experience at your service in order to achieve the future vision of the ITU and allow all people of the world to be connected, and to benefit from the connectivity as expressed through the 2020 vision.

We thank the ITU and its leadership which have allowed us to hold international meetings, which have been successful. We held a number of World Conferences in Dubai, the last of them this year, the world development Conference. This shows that we are reinforcing our position within the Union, and on behalf of my country, I'm delighted to be able to express our desire to welcome the next Plenipotentiary Conference, and I would ask the Conference to support that invitation.

I wish you every success during this Conference, during the coming weeks, and we are convinced that the work will be successful thanks to your able Chairmanship.

We will certainly work to assist you in this. I should also like to introduce the youngest member of our Delegation, who represents our vision for ‑‑ our youth vision for the future, and in behalf of our country, I would like to invite you to dinner this evening at 18:00 and this invitation includes everybody, including members of the Secretariat.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, UAE, for your Policy Statement, in particular your invitation to the next Plenipotentiary Conference to UAE. Now I would like to seek the Plenary's support on the proposal, invitation proposal, made by the UAE.

[ Applause ]

Thank you. Thank you very much. So we will go to UAE in 2018, and because UAE has been decided as the host country of the 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference, this will be reflected in a revision of Resolution 77. Now I would like to give the floor to the Secretary‑General. Secretary‑General, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wouldn't miss such a great opportunity to take the floor and thank my good friend and brother from United Arab Emirates. They've been constantly and consistently supporting the work of the Union from organizing the GSR Global Symposium of Regulators in 2007 to funding the ITU museum, to all the World Conferences. They've organized almost every single World Conference of the three sectors except the WRC, but of course, having chaired the WRC, the last WRC, you're also a part of it. And of course, the Plenipotentiary Conference will be the icing on the cake, and I would like to thank you very much for that.

I truly believe that UAE is one of the few countries that can match the challenge that Korea is putting on us here in doing something equal or better, and I am very much confident knowing the very clever leadership and the ambitious plans that are being met in this country that PP‑18 will be a great success.

So again, my thanks to you, and my special thanks for the very strong support you gave me during my tenure as Secretary‑General of this Union. I had made some big dreams for this Union, and as I said, sometime referring to your great leader Sheikh Mohammed that a leader's first primary job is to dream, and dream big. Then he's one of those who would dream big and share it with his people, and the dream becomes a vision and is implemented.

I always feel sorry for some of the leaders who will simply go back to sleep after dreaming something big or some of them waking up in sweat because the dream was too big for them. And I truly believe in the leadership of your country, and I'm sure that will be another stimulating effect for a successful Plenipotentiary Conference 2018.

This will be after my time, but it makes me feel good, because as I was saying during lunchtime today, what you do is important, but what you leave behind is equally important, or more important, and I would like to see every strong ITU living 150 years more after I left as Secretary‑General.

So thank you very much for your contribution. I'm sorry I've been long, but I've been keeping this emotional thing deep inside me for a long time, so this is an opportunity to express it. So thank you very much again.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary‑General, and thank you again, UAE, and congratulations on hosting the next PP‑18. With our experience in WTDC and previous big events, we have no doubt that you will have another great event in your country. We are looking forward to meeting you again in 2018 in UAE. Thank you.

Having said that, now we will hear from Algeria, followed by Tanzania. I would like to invite Minister of Post Information and Communication Technologies of Algeria. Algeria, you have the floor.

>> ALGERIA: Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Delegations, Heads of Delegations, on behalf of my Government and on behalf of all members of my Delegation, I should like to congratulate the Government of South Korea and the authorities of the beautiful city of Busan for their hospitality and their continuing efforts to ensure the ideal conditions which will guarantee the success of this Plenipotentiary Conference.

I am particularly honored to speak at this very important meeting in order to inform you of the strategy established by Algeria in order to achieve the vision, the goals and the Connect 2020 initiative. The development of our economy is inconceivable without digitalization available to all economic and social stakeholders. We have reserved an increasingly important space for the Information Society and for ICTs. The principal actions undertaken are as follows the development of high‑speed and very high‑speed networks with a view to connecting in the period of two years all towns of more than 1,000 inhabitants for the north of the country, and more than 500 inhabitants in the south of the country.

The fiber optic establishment for all industrial areas and also health network.

The development of our LTE 4G technology, which should cover the areas which are not yet covered. This area before 2020 will cover all towns of more than 2,000 inhabitants, as well as all industrial areas and the major highways.

The use of telelocation, geolocation and GPS systems in order to respond to the needs of various economic and social sectors by reinforcing the protection of the environment, access to Natural Resources, the mitigation of disasters and to follow the issues of climate change and its impact.

The services and applications provided by ICT like e‑Administration, cloud computing, big data, which are all necessary to facilitate the day‑to‑day life of the citizen and create an ecosystem which encourages local industry, the essential fact of research, of innovation, development and creativity, as well as innovation.

The establishment of a digital trust system through the dematerialization of transactions which ensure the security of data. We remain convinced of the major role to be played by the ITU and the climate of cooperation which establishes trust in the use of ICTs. Algeria will continue to work to pursue and to render even more dynamic these processes.

The work which has been undertaken and achieved by Dr. Hamadoun Touré and his team is largely responsible for this. Algeria has a place in the Council, and would be honored were you to continue to gain your trust for that position. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your Policy Statement. That was very informative and insightful.

Now we will listen from Tanzania, followed by Afghanistan.

I would like to invite the Minister of Communications, Science and Technology of Tanzania. Tanzania, you have the floor.

>> TANZANIA: Mr. Chairman, Honorable Ministers, Secretary‑General of ITU, Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Government of the united Republic of Tanzania, I wish to extend sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Republic of Korea for hosting this Conference and for hospitality accorded to us. I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, for your befitting election to the 19th Plenipotentiary Conference. Further, I commend the Secretary‑General, Dr. Touré, for his leadership in organizing this Conference, and indeed for excellent leadership of the ITU.

Mr. Chairman, Tanzania has been active in various ITU initiatives from resolutions and decisions since joining the organization. We have been modernizing our system and adopted pro‑ICT policies with supportive legislation in ICT driven nation.

Mr. Chairman, let me briefly state the major achievement of Tanzania in the ICT Sector. First, Tanzania has successfully implemented the Geneva agreement on migration from terrestrial analog to digital television broadcasting making Tanzania one of the first countries in the African region to migrate. From June 2014, digital broadcasting footprints cover 70% of the country. We are expecting to cover the whole country well before the set time.

Secondly, it is National and regional connectivity, Tanzania has recorded significant progress. The Government has invested in deployment of 7560 kilometers of broadband fiber optical cable that contribute to the National ICT Broadband Backbone Network. The NICTBB connects all national administrative regions and construction is underway to enhancing the NICTBB to have a footprint and service point at each district headquarters, establishing a full‑mesh IP layer and implementation of three National Data Centers for hosting IT services.

The broadband optical fiber network also connects the land‑locked countries through multiple connections to the border points of Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, Zambia and Malawi. In addition, Seychelles is now connected by fiber optic cable from Tanzania.

We are proud to say that our ICT Policy, legal framework, converged licensing framework and strategies to guide the Sector have paid great dividends. Today our teledensity stands at 64%. The number of subscriptions for mobile users has increased from 21.2 million in 2010 to the present figure of over above 28.3 million. Internet users have increased from 5.1 million in 2010 to the over 9 million today. Currently, 57% of the population above 16 years of age has access to Financial Services compared to just 27% in the year 2009, thanks to mobile phone services. Mr. Chairman, on account of the experience we have gathered in spearheading the development of ICT in Tanzania, it is consistent to its goals and targets for developing countries. We are seeking for support for membership in the general Council of the ITU.

Mr. Chairman, in this regard, I'm now wishing to formally inform this Conference that Tanzania has put candidature for the seat of the ITU Council representing Region D. We are capable of delivering and we are counting on all ITU members to vote for Tanzania for ITU Council. We are determined to share our experiences and support ITU family and deliver the ITU vision and mission. Mr. Chairman, finally there are three issues Tanzania would wish to be addressed in this Conference, namely support to development of human and institutional capacity, collaboration in fighting cybercrime, and regulatory frameworks for achieving multilateral connectivity and universal access.

Mr. Chairman, I wish the Conference a successful conclusion. Thank you very much for your attention.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your Policy Statement and thank you for keeping the time limit. Indeed capacity building, cybersecurity, all those matters are very important agenda of ITU and I think we can work together on that agenda throughout this whole Conference. Now we will listen from Afghanistan followed by Côte d'Ivoire. I would like to invite Minister of Communications and IT of Afghanistan. Afghanistan, you have the floor.

>> AFGHANISTAN: Honorable Chairman, Excellencies, respected Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Government of Afghanistan, it is a great honor for me to be participating in this year's ITU's Plenipotentiary Conference this in this beautiful city of Busan. I wish to thank the ITU and the Government of Korea for the excellent arrangements they have made for this Conference.

Afghanistan in 2002 had no ICTs. Our people had to travel to neighboring countries for making a phone call. In the past 12 years, there has been a tremendous progress in the field of ICT in Afghanistan. With the adoption of Telecom and ICT Policy based on best global practices, creation of suitable legal framework from mechanism for receiving of licenses and the establishing of a strong regulator, Afghanistan has experienced strong growth in the economy and in the ICT Sector.

The success of the ICT Sector in Afghanistan has exceeded expectations. Six National operators and 50 Internet Service Provider companies compete strongly in our Telecom market, leading to new services, improved quality in coverage, and significantly reduced prices.

The total foreign direct investment in the Telecom Sector now stands at $2.5 billion. The Sector contributes over 10% of the entire revenue stream of the Government and provides jobs to more than 140,000 people.

Mobile phone services cover nearly 90% of the population, and the number of mobile phone users is over 22 million. Equivalent to 80% penetration.

Through new satellite based projects using our newly acquired satellite Afghansat‑1 and universal access programs, we are extending services to the rural communities of Afghanistan. Our Government understands the importance of broadband Internet and it is our goal to make it available at affordable price to all of our citizens. We plan to realize this goal mainly through expansion of our National optical fiber network, in the use of 3G/4G wireless technologies.

Our National fiber backbone is now connecting 22 out of 34 Provinces and is also connecting Afghanistan to all of our neighboring countries, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Our optical fiber cable network can bring connectivity between the transit Europe Asia cables in the north, and the submarine cables in the Indian Ocean in the south.

The optical fiber has made Internet affordable. Three years ago the price of Internet bandwidth via satellite was $4,000 per megabit per month and hence totally unaffordable to our citizens.

With optical fiber connectivity, the price has gradually dropped and is now $20 per megabit per month and we expect this to drop further over the coming years. Five wireless broadband licenses have been issued. 3G services currently cover over 50% of the population, and we plan that it reaches to 90% in the next two years.

The number of Internet users is low, about 2 million, as it was either not available or very expensive but due to the recent decline in bandwidth price and also the expansion of 3G services, the number of Internet users is growing very rapidly.

As a result of our Government's respect for freedom of speech, guaranteed by our Constitution, there has been an explosive growth in the media Sector, especially electronic media. Today Afghanistan has 35 TV channels in Kabul and 54 regional channels. We have 62 FM radio channels in Kabul and 1650 FM radio channels regionally. We have started the transition from analog TV to digital broadcasting using DVBV2 standard. Digital broadcasting has already started in Kabul and is expected to start in six other major cities in the next three months.

We plan to complete the nationwide transition process in the next three years. Our focus in the last 10 years was on infrastructure development whereas our focus in the next 10 years will be on services, I.E. how best to use the ICT for economic development, job creation, good governance, education, health care, and commerce.

We have developed a state of the art electronic ID system which will form the basis of future electronic services. We have already started connecting universities, vocational schools, and hospitals with optical fiber, paving the way for introduction of electronic services. Our operators have already developed mobile money services, which are extremely useful, especially since banking services are not widely available in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan is ever more actively participating to the activities of the ITU, and we are very happy that in this Plenipotentiary Conference, as demonstrated by my statement above, we are committed to work towards achieving the vision, goals, and targets of the ITU's Connect 2020. Thank you for your attention.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your Policy Statement. It's truly impressive, that you had no mobile phone, no telephone at all and here you have this burgeoning ICT industry and you are moving from the infrastructure to service so I think this is a good example of ICT development, the successful implementation of good ICT implementation policy.

Now we will hear from Côte d'Ivoire, followed by Zambia. I would like to invite Minister of Post and information communication technologies of coat dive I have. Côte d'Ivoire, you have the floor.

>> CÔTE D'IVOIRE: Secretary‑General of ITU, ladies and gentlemen, firstly on behalf of the Delegation of my country, I should like to address our very sincere thanks to the Government and people of the Republic of Korea for their warm welcome and hospitality which we have enjoyed since we came to this beautiful city of Busan, and for the excellent organization of this Plenipotentiary Conference of the Union.

Also on behalf of our Government I commend the excellent work of the ITU management team since the last Plenipotentiary Conference. We are happy and proud to note the great impetus our organization has enjoyed during the term of our Secretary‑General Dr. Hamadoun Touré. Here we would like to pay tribute to him and congratulate him on the remarkable results in all areas in the years in his term of office at ITU.

Secretary‑General, on a different subject, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire would like through me to express its gratitude and congratulations to you on the courageous position on behalf of ITU with respect to the Ebola virus disease which is affecting some of our fraternal countries. Côte d'Ivoire shares borders with Guinea and Liberia, and we welcome your demonstration of solidarity which is a great help to the people concerned, and to our activities and industry.

In Côte d'Ivoire, since the beginning of this epidemic, many preventive measures have been taken, and strong communication through the public media on this subject, and also through telecommunications networks, our networks provide permanent contact between surveillance at the borders and the prevention team.

The result is zero cases of Ebola recorded in Côte d'Ivoire, despite the proximity of the danger. Our Sector is happy and proud of having contributed to this result and we will be even happier when this work takes on a larger scale.

Division of the ITU and information societies and engines for Growth and Sustainable Development for all is in perfect harmony with the President of the Republic, who aims to make Côte d'Ivoire an emerging country by 2020. Our objective for the telecommunications and ICT Sector over the next four years is based on this ambition of the Head of State of my country, because we believe that ICTs will contribute to a great extent not only to the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals but also to the achievement of economic development and improving the living conditions of our people, and they will make us into an emerging country by 2020.

We have a penetration of mobile telephony of 86%, which is more than 20 million subscribers, and by 2020, we hope the rates will be equivalent for Internet and also for highspeed. In order to achieve this, we've undertaken a reform of ICT legislation and institutions, and started infrastructure projects for broadband accessibility, content production, and human resource building, and availability of qualified human resources.

The Government of Côte d'Ivoire intends to strengthen all this work through development of ICT's policy for sustainable development to create wealth, and also we want to preserve the living quality, the quality of life of our people. We are very happy to participate in this august Forum and have high hopes as to the outcome of this work which will guide us over the next four years, and also we see that the strategic impact of ICT of our economy and populations is very great, and probably will continue to grow.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion, I should like to ask everyone to work together to strengthen the work of the ITU so that we can have a better world based on building on digital. We support the 2020 vision of our organization, which are inspired by the great dreams of our Secretary‑General. Côte d'Ivoire is now a post‑crisis country. For three years, we have had remarkable results at all levels: Social, diplomatic, et cetera, and we have decided to have greater involvement in the work of our Union by presenting a candidate for Council of ITU, as well as Mr. Koffi Simon, who is a candidate for the second term of office in the Radio Regulations Board. I should like to thank all Delegations which will vote for Côte d'Ivoire and allow us to work within the governing bodies of ITU. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your Policy Statement. I think we are as a global community, whole global community, is behind the countries, organizations, and individuals who are fighting against the Ebola, and in that regard, I'm very grateful that Dr. Touré has taken action under the name of ITU to make contribution to fight against this disease, so I think we are, all of our Union members, are working together ‑‑ will work together on this matter, as will other international organizations and countries.

Now we will hear from Zambia followed by India. I would like to invite Deputy Minister of Ministry of Transport, work, supply and communications of Zambia. Zambia, you have the floor.

>> ZAMBIA: Chairperson of Committee, distinguished Honorable Ministers and Dell gazes, I bring to you the warm and fraternal greetings from the Government of people of Republic of Zambia and wish to pay tribute to the Republic of Korea for the warm reception and hosting of this important event in the beautiful city of Busan. I would like also to thank particularly Secretary‑General Hamadoun Touré for his leadership and tremendous contribution to the Union. You have made us proud. I also recognize and extend the same gratitude to the executive team and Secretariat for their hard work. It has inspired our work and achievement in the ICT Sector in Zambia. Since inception, Zambia has been a partner of the ITU and has seen ITU transform and take a leading role in promoting and development of use of ICTs around the world. The Government of Republic of Zambia has embraced ICTs as social development, and other sectors such as health, education, culture, manufacturing, and social services. Zambia remains committed to contributing to the 2020 vision. Our country has in the last few years recorded an increase in the adoption and utilization of ICTs in our people and this development has been a resounding transformation in the lives of our nationals. Government has embarked on establishing a National terrestrial ICT infrastructure backbone that will connect all districts and constituencies of the country. The Zambia Government has also been implementing projects and programmes under the universal access and service fund to propel the increase of ICT uptake in communities such as the construction of GSM, towers in unserved and underserved areas, establishment of community information centers and supporting the e‑Learning networks.

Further, Government has ensured that all Government line Ministries are connected with unified broadband infrastructure for effective implementation of e‑Government programmes. Migration from analog to digital terrestrial television is progressing well and is on course.

In the next cycle, Zambia will accelerate programmes aimed at fostering access and increased use of telecommunications through the construction of more than 400 GSM communication towers in targeted areas to ensure 100% coverage in rural areas or unserved areas.

Government will continue to provide an enabling environment to stimulate the utilization of ICTs as evidenced by the development of the National broadband strategy and enactment of policies that facilitate the sharing of ICT infrastructure by operators and other players.

In order to facilitate to build confidence and security in the utilization of sixth, Zambia has established a Computer Emergency Response team with assistance from the Union. The country will accelerate provision of specialized training for the different stakeholders to ensure that security is enhanced. Zambia has in collaboration with the Union developed the child online protection and the cybersecurity draft strategies respectively. In fostering an innovative ecosystem and adapting to the changing telecommunication environment, the Government has in the last two years implemented a young innovators programme and has also established an innovators fund. The other programme that has been introduced is the girls in ICTs initiative to enhance girls participation in the use of ICTs as well as promoting access to ICTs for persons with disabilities.

Zambia is committed to supporting the establishment of ICT incubation programmes in the private sector in order to promote innovative and progressive startups with promising technologies, products and services targeting mainstream business sectors on each market.

Mr. Chairman, lastly, the commitment to active participation in the telecommunications Union and which call upon all the members of the ITU for continued support as we seek election as a member of the Council for the first time and wish all other candidates all the best in elections. Also Friday Zambia turns 50 years old.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, thank you for your Policy Statement. You were right on the mark. You just hit the 5 minutes and the content was just amazing. So you can deliver good message within the time.

So now we will hear from India. I would like to call upon Vice‑Minister of Communications and Information Technology. India, you have the floor.

>> INDIA: Thank you His Excellency, Mr. Chairman, all honorary Ministers, Secretary‑General of the ITU, ladies and gentlemen, let me at the very outset congratulate His Excellency Mr. Wonki Min as election of the Secretary of the Plenipotentiary. We are sure the Conference will achieve many milestones. I have given the detailed Policy Statement separately to be published. Here I will be brief in view of the time constraint.

India is progressing at a very rapid pace. It has about 950 million phones and we will reach about 1200 million phones in the next three to four years. This has been achieved with the phenomenal compounded annual growth rate of more than 50% in mobile telephones since the year 2000. It was believed that people with local broadband could not have mobile phones. Indian operators are offering lowest in the world making the mobile affordable even to those with very low income.

Coming to Internet services India has over 300 million users but the broadband penetration is about 5%. Now India is posed to repeat the same story in broadband by bridging the cost. I wish to inform that the new Government led His Excellency Prime Minister has launched an ambitious programme aimed at providing more than 100 million people with the technology of broadband highways. An ambitious project of laying the optical fiber to connect all the villages with the support of the Government funding has been initiated. This object is to ensure access to e‑Health, e‑Commerce, e‑Education, e‑Governance, e‑Entertainment through broadband highways. Apart from affordability we see multiple challenges such as availability of relevant applications, ICT skill sets and language barriers to deliver the fruits of the ICT to all sections of society cutting across the nations either developed or developing. Already there's a significant amount of knowledge in this world to benefit the people in developing countries. We observe that a ‑‑

There is an immediate need to cause language translation technologies to bring the benefit of ICT to the masses. To me the challenge of ICT skill set in using broadband services, the satellite e‑Services should be adapted to the mobile phone in local language through voice control and image based applications. Simplicity and usability are paramount in making services relevant to the common man.

Devices play an important role in ICT ecosystem. We have a huge opportunity and market for cost effective smart mobiles and end devices to deliver e‑Service to the common man. Another area where we need to focus is developing emergency Telecom systems and networks which are disaster resistant as has been mentioned by Japan yesterday. With any discovery in technology I note that anti‑social and criminal elements are also using these tools to commit crimes and spreading hatred among individuals, groups of peoples and even among nations. It is the duty of all of us to ensure that ICT Applications are not used by anti‑social elements for fulfillment of nefarious designs. ITU can play a vital role in the development of standards that can help in transmitting information on Telecom network in a secure manner and establishing information exchange.

In this era of building an Information Society for man kind and bridging the divide of all kind, the ITU has a significant role to play. India will be a more than willing partner in working with ITU and realizing the security of an Information Society. In order to enhance ITU India will contribute significantly both financially and morally. We are committed to continue the same. It has been a partner for providing connectivity and having services in developing as well as developed countries. In the spirit of cooperation India offers its candidature for the election of ICT Council for the next cycle.

In addition, we are standing for radio regulation Board. He has made immense contribution in the development of Telecom Sector in the country. He has knowledge on spectrum management from which RRB will benefit a lot. I request the support for all members here for these two positions for India. I would like to specifically mention the sterling contribution made by Dr. Hamadoun Touré, outgoing Secretary‑General of ITU.

His presence will be missed. His presence will be missed. I would also like to mention that the platform provided by the host country South Korea was excellent. My sincere thanks to the Korean administration for the same. In the end, I thank you all. Thanks.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Vice‑Minister, for your Policy Statement. You were also right on the mark, and the contents of your Policy Statement actually includes everything, everything, which actually we will address in this Plenipotentiary Conference. So I think we can actually share the experience and the knowledges with other countries because the issues we face nowadays are exactly the same actually. The level of development could be different but the issues we address are the same issues. That's the reason we have this Union.

Having said that I would like to propose a short coffee break, let's say 15 minutes, 15 minutes. This coffee break is sponsored by Tunisia, and the venue is the same place we had coffee break in the morning. So we will meet again at 4:10, 4:10 sharp.

So let's take a coffee break. Thank you.

[ Coffee break ]

>> ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen, the session will be starting shortly. Please be seated. Once again, the session will begin shortly. Please be seated. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, would you put on your headsets? Please put on your headsets. Ladies and gentlemen, we'll soon begin our session again, so please take your seat.

We are about to resume our Third Plenary Session, so I would appreciate if you take your seat, please.

Now we will resume our Third Plenary Session, and we will hear from Myanmar, followed by Iran. I would like to call upon Union Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Myanmar. Myanmar, you have the floor.

>> MYANMAR: Mr. Chairman, Secretary‑General of ITU, Deputy Secretary‑General and Directors, Excellencies, Honorable Ministers, Vice‑Ministers, distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

It is a pleasure and honor for me to be able to participate at this Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU 2014, and make this Policy Statement. First of all, our most sincere appreciation to the Government of the Peoples Republic of Korea for the most hospitable hosting of this Conference at this beautiful city of Busan. Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, just over two years ago, Myanmar has connectivity and affordability being major barriers.

Recognizing ICT as the engine for growth and recognizing the social and economic developments ICT can bring we initiated the Sector reform initiatives with the main objectives of reducing the Telecoms and ICT Sector development gap, with the neighboring countries and bring the benefits of ICT to every citizen of Myanmar.

We have achieved some milestones. In November 2013, the new telecommunications law which replaces the 1934 Myanmar Wireless Telegraphy Act as an edit. This new law enables market competition in the Telecom Sector which was limited only to state owned enterprises. Today two new operators have already launched their commercial services. Therefore, I am proud to announce that the days of monopoly is effectively over in Myanmar Telecoms Sector. Our citizens now have the ability to choose operators and services based on the quality of services and affordability.

The State owned operator MBT is also undergoing reforms to enter the competition. Its reforms process will ultimately lead to cooperation of the Government operators. The law also mandates the establishment of independent regulator by 2015.

As we carry out our reform, we are aware of and take guidance of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the World Summit on Information Society directives as well as plans of actions. Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, as Myanmar opens its Telecoms and ICT sectors and as we are creating an investment friendly environment we continue to face new challenges, with now technologies, with new business models, with governance of technologies and services, we anticipate the challenges for the newly liberalized market like Myanmar. However we are also committed that together working with ITU, its Member States and other development workers will be able to overcome the challenges.

I'm pleased to inform that ITU has been always with us under the leadership of Dr. Hamadoun Touré and current related officials. I believe we can count on ITU under the new leadership for its continued support. Therefore, the Government of the Republic of Myanmar I would like to express our most sincere appreciation to the international telecommunications Union for the ICT development for Myanmar. We cherish your companionship and your guidance. I give you my word that Myanmar decided to work more closely with ITU and its Member States through global and regional fora.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, before I conclude I wish you, Mr. Chairman, the Secretary‑General of the ITU, and the Secretariat the esteemed National Delegation from the ITU Member States and indeed the Government and the people of Korea all the best and wish a most successful outcome for our Conference. I thank you all for your kind attention.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your brief and concise Policy Statement, and sharing your development in your market with the other Member States.

Now we will hear from Iran, followed by Peru. I will invite Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Iran. Iran, you have the floor.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary‑General, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Honorable Ministers, Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to thank the people and the Government of the host country, the Republic of Korea, for hosting this very important Conference, and for their kind hospitality.

Mr. Chairman, world today is full of serious challenges in many areas. The reality is that there are different views on how to meet these challenges which seems to be contradictory. The world today is also a connected world, thanks to the pivotal role of the ITU. In this world, innovation, creativity, and common will amongst different players and stakeholders in spite of their differences of views shine a glowing light for a better future.

Moreover, past experiences demonstrate that such challenges have been turned into the opportunity for growth and development. In this process, whenever there was cooperation amongst all players and stakeholders, bigger and more efficient results have been produced for the benefit of mankind.

In the light of such a vision, the ITU as the specialized Agency of the United Nations, can play positive and important role in shaping the future of communications. It is the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to participate actively and constructively in different activities and fora organized by the ITU. Since I took office last year, our positive contribution in WTDC in Dubai and in WSIS+10 in Geneva were considered essential in their successful conclusions.

Honorable Ministers, I'm happy to inform you that the Islamic Republic of Iran has put forward Alireza Darvishi in candidature for membership in the ITU Council.

Moreover, he is young but well experienced who is our candidate for the membership in RRB.

I'm asking for your support that would provide us with the opportunity to participate actively and positively in the work of ITU. Mr. Chairman, distinguished Delegates, it is with much pleasure that I'm informing you that since last year, we have doubled the capacity of our country‑wide fiber optic network to 1.2 bits per second and have issued two more 3G and 4G licenses. We will continue to expand further with more vigor and determination.

In this regard, Iran's geographical location is strategic in establishing East‑West and South‑North connections. I'm happy to emphasize our commitment to encourage and facilitate establishment of the partnership for ultra broadband corridors across Iran to facilitate and create such connection to complement existing facilities.

I welcome all interested partners to invest and become partners in such projects. Mr. Chairman, I'm confident that with your able and wise Chairmanship, this Conference will become a successful one.

I wish all participants a pleasant and productive participation in the Conference. I thank you for your attention.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your Policy Statement. Indeed, we need international cooperation to build better Information Society, and thank you for introducing your international programme to our colleagues.

Now we will hear from Peru, followed by Angola. I would like to call upon Vice‑Minister of communications Ministry of Transports and communications of Peru. Peru, you have the floor.

>> PERU: Good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, distinguished Delegates, elected officers, representatives of international organizations, ladies and gentlemen, I'm delighted to speak on behalf of the Republic of Peru in order to greet the Government and people of Korea who have shown such generous hospitality. I would like to speak to the principal actions undertaken by the Government of Peru in the last three years in connectivity and digital economy.

We have granted the concession to a private corporation for the establishment of 1300 kilometer optical fiber network, which should cover 92% our territory, which will allow us to reduce the gross price of Internet access considerably. We're also designing regional optical fiber networks, which will link to the National network, and which will allow us to provide broadband in 21 regions, connecting many districts and several thousand localities, and we'll be reaching 4 million inhabitants, and we'll build many more kilometers before 2027.

Existing optical fiber networks are operated by private operators, with price controls established by the Government. We also wanted to mention that the ‑‑ as far as spectrum is concerned, we already have two broadband service networks with 4G systems, and two more will be operational by the end of the year. The operators in the country hope that within the next five years, we will have covered more than 80% of the urban centers of our country.

We also hope to have the intelligent systems which will allow us to reach the furthest rural areas of the country, which will conclude the work initiated in 2013. At one point 2 mega bits per second as a minimum bit rate. We would also like to mention that we have made considerable modifications to our regulatory system, the new act of broadband which governs optical fiber network and the regional systems. Also, law for Telecoms infrastructure which has a single regulatory system for the setting up of mobile telephony systems.

We also make it obligatory for current mobile operators to provide access. The Government of Peru once it has established sustainable and consistent Digital Development is designing a number of strategies which are complementary to such networks in such a manner that they can develop in the area of health, education, security, and e‑Trade, improving the access for those consumers. These we feel are essential in order to reduce the digital divide, and connectivity is designed to develop better tools for e‑Administration, the town and country planning, and other uses for ICTs. These are the principal progress made by my country in the last three years in the area of digital inclusiveness, and which I wanted to share with you at this international Forum. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Your Excellency, for your Policy Statement, which is within the time limit. And actually, your initiative on this inclusive issue can be actually ‑‑ can be replicated by many other countries. I think that's the kind of reason we sit here together to share our knowledge and experiences.

Now we will hear from Angola, followed by Dominican Republic. I would invite the Minister of Telecommunication and Information Technologies of Angola. Angola, you have the floor.

>> ANGOLA: Excellencies, Chairman of the Conference, Excellencies, the Secretary‑General, ladies and gentlemen, I have the great honor to represent my country in this very important event. Then I would like to congratulate the people and the Government of the Republic of Korea for the excellence and careful conditions so created to the successful realization of this event.

The central team of this Conference greatly summarize the state and the spirit in which the world lives today that is invited by dynamic development resulting from the large process of globalization of the economies and society especially in the field of ICTs.

In fact, it becomes important that the present paradigm of development keeps updated in order to have a new face where entire countries, the common citizens can make full use of the potential of the ICTs and to access the benefits of the process for construction of a truly global village.

Dear Delegates, the Government of Angola is presently strongly committed to the implementation of nationwide plan of development for the period of 2013‑2017. It is expected the ICTs lead Angola and accelerate us toward the group of ‑‑

We intend that under the central thoughts of the Conference, we should know the best way to promote digital inclusion and the implementation of broadband.

And to identify a better way to increase the role of member countries and the relevant stakeholders in issues such as the governance of Internet. Further, we'd like to request to this important Conference to instruct some of the Working Groups established so to brainstorm on the over the top issues. For example, the way infrastructure is used in providing these kinds of services. In brief, Angola supports the vision proposed by Secretary‑General of ITU for the Connect 2020 strategy and for its approval and consequent implementing all over the world. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, thank you very much for your very brief and very strong message. Thank you.

Now we will hear from Dominican Republic, followed by the U.K. So I would like to invite the Executive Director of Institute of Telecommunication of Dominican Republic. Dominican Republic, you have the floor.

>> DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Thank you. I should make it clear that actually I'm not here as the Chairman of INDOTEL, but rather as the Executive Director of INDOTEL.

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, Secretary‑General of the ITU, Delegates, friends, I should like to thank the Government of Korea and the Secretary‑General of the ITU for the excellent organization of this Conference, and for the warm welcome by the authorities of the city of Busan.

The representative of the Dominican Republic are delighted to be here in this Forum which will design the future of ICTs at the global, regional, and National levels. The policy of the Dominican Republic for the development of ICTs has been redesigned on the basis of three Foundations: Regulation and the development of Telecoms services and ICTs, we are continuing to protect our users including reinforcing their education as citizens in a state of law.

We also provide the tools for them to ensure by themselves that they can claim their full rights. We are currently undergoing a overhaul of our regulatory system, and in ‑‑ dealing with principal complaints of users, and modifying the dispute settlement system, and establishing the responsibilities for the provision of telephony and access to Internet. We're also reviewing programmes to facilitate access and the offer of new services in the country, and supporting other state bodies involved in the area, like education, administrators, and the public in general on e‑Health and wireless network systems so that the benefit of a greater competition can be translated into better quality, price, and innovation.

It's the offer of services to our users and all this in an area neutrality and safety in cyberspace. The fiber optic system in order to provide broadband services across the country and to all our citizens. Furthermore, we are ‑‑ we do recognize the impact of mobile telephony and the way in which it is driven, the design to access Internet.

The operators who were licensed to use these new bandwidths are already offering services, and we are looking at switching to digital television which will allow us to liberate the 700 meg band in order to accommodate the growth in ICTs and telephony. We continue to promote our competitiveness and innovation, and to ensure growth which is inclusive and will reduce the digital divide.

It is the responsibility vis‑a‑vis a population in order to give them access to broadband and we want to involve the entire ecosystem of the telecommunications area. For many years now, we have been implementing centers for access to ICTs across the country, and now in light of the demand, we hope that we will be able to create a catalyst for social development, including e‑Education and connected enterprises using free software.

But certainly access to broadband remains a priority. We would also like to recognize our host country. The challenge is that ICTs should allow us to improve our lifestyle, and create happiness in new generations and our older citizens. ICTs must be at the service of sustainable human development.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Your Excellency, thank you for your Policy Statement and sharing your ICT development with other countries.

Now we will hear from U.K., followed by Mexico. I would like to invite Ambassador and permanent representative to U.K. mission to the UN and the other international organizations voting and common rights office. U.K., you have the floor.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary‑General, distinguished colleagues, on behalf of the United Kingdom I'd like to join others in congratulating the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference and for their extraordinarily generous hospitality. And I'd like to add my voice to those congratulating the Secretary‑General for his inspirational leadership. And we were grateful in particular for his remarks yesterday on ITU support to tackling the Ebola crisis.

Mr. Chairman, the United Kingdom has been a firm and longstanding supporter of the ITU. We are proud to play a major part in the development of telecommunications, from the invention of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell to the latest innovative developments in spectrum technology and space science today.

The 21st century has seen developments in telecommunications and broadband services that give people more choice, more freedoms, and opportunities of all kinds. Importantly, they have opened up new avenues for economic growth and social well‑being.

This means there is an urgent need to tackle the digital divide, and many speakers have drawn attention to this in their intervention so far.

The ITU has a major role to play here, helping ensure that all parts of the globe are able to benefit from these services. For the United Kingdom, this is an opportune time for the ITU to focus on its future and where it can add the most value and in particular I'd like to highlight three key themes today.

Firstly, the ITU's strategic goals should focus on enabling and foster growth and sustained development of telecommunications networks, applications and services. Such work includes innovation, development and fair competition, projects on the ground to support enhanced connectivity and access, and sharing best practice in policy and regulation. This will all help support essential telecommunication infrastructure, as well as promoting the use of telecommunication technical and standards information.

Secondly, the ITU should engage positively and actively with other organizations involved in ICT. In the digital ecosystem, there are many actors with different roles, responsibilities and outlooks. All stakeholders have to play their part and we would like to see international agencies and organizations working hand in hand, making the most of their respective expertise for the benefit of all nations and people. By focusing on where ITU can bring real additional value, the United Kingdom believes it will be better placed to deliver its strategic goals effectively and efficiently.

Lastly, we'd like to see the ITU proactively make its processes and fora open to all stakeholders and for information to be made publicly, transparently available whenever possible. This Union has proved on several occasions in WTPF2013 for example that when it welcomes the contributions of all, its outputs benefit greatly. Mr. Chairman, given these goals the United Kingdom has the honor to submit the candidature of Mr. Malcolm Johnson for Deputy Secretary‑General. We believe that his strong record of achievement on behalf of all ITU's members befits him for this important role in support of the new Secretary‑General.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ambassador, for your Policy Statement, and for sharing your vision for the future of the ITU. I think all Member States listened very attentively for your suggestion and I think we will share each other's vision throughout this whole three‑week process.

Now we will hear from Mexico, followed by Cyprus. Before giving the floor to the Government of Mexico, I just want to recognize the presence of our former Chairman of the Plenipotentiary Conference 2010, Mr. Borjón. He's with us today. I think those of you who attended the previous Plenipotentiary Conference enjoyed the Chairmanship of Mr. Borjón. He actually contributed a lot to the success of the Plenipotentiary Conference.

So let me propose a round of applause for Mr. Borjón. Can you please stand up?

[ Applause ]

Okay.

Thank you. Now I would like to give the floor to the head of Telecommunication Agency of Mexico. Mexico, you have the floor.

>> MEXICO: Thank you, Chairman. Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Delegates, ITU elected officials, observers, representatives of industry, academics, friends, on behalf of the Government of Mexico, I should like to thank the Government of Korea for hosting this very important Conference. The hospitality and the facilities they have provided guarantee the success of this important event.

We would also like to recognize Dr. Hamadoun Touré for his work as leader of the ITU over the last eight years. For Mexico, the Plenipotentiary Conference is the ideal space in which Government, industry, academic institutions, and other stakeholders can together design the role that will be played by the Union in the future, and its ability to influence the development of ICTs and communications across the world.

Particularly, from Mexico's point of view, it is an opportunity in order to share some of those strategies which we would have been unable to implement without the assistance of the Union. Without any doubt one of the principal strategies recent Constitutional reform and the establishment of the new legislative framework for telecommunications and broadcasting in Mexico, which will increase freedom, will reinforce liberty, and increase the prosperity of all Mexican people.

This reform is one of a series of structural changes which have been proposed by our President, Enrique Peña Nieto, who since the very beginning of his mandate wished to reform a number of questions in our country which had remained unchanged for more than 20 years.

We wanted to increase the presence in the country of ICTs. The principal access for development of telecommunication regulation are as follows: Increasing free access to free Internet, ensuring digital access to all areas of the country, access of persons with disabilities to the Internet, increasing free access in more than 250,000 locations on the connected Mexico programme, more than 40,000 are already functioning. The retrofitting of optical fiber, and the provision of services which would increase the penetration of services and coverage. By year 2015 we hope to benefit between 13 and 14 million homes with these improvements.

The new legal framework also reinforces the governance through new facilities. It creates the Federal Institute of telecommunications as an autonomous regulator in the area of spectrum network services and competence in the area.

It also creates a specialized course as to competence. The reform also establishes regulation in order to limit the concentration and avoid monopolistic practices, including special efforts which include the network operators. We also ensure the neutrality of the network and with no discrimination. In telephony we're establishing effective measures which reduce cost and increase quality. These reforms certainly the implementation of the precepts which were the outcome of the last Plenipotentiary Conference held in Guadalajara, which was effectively chaired by our friend Fernando Borjón.

For Mexico, it is the role of the Union is extremely important in the design of regulations which are of benefit for users.

Mr. Chairman, it is an honor for me to announce on behalf of the Government of Mexico the increase of our contribution from 1 to 3 contributory units. We are convinced ‑‑

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: A fantastic Policy Statement. I really appreciate the last part of your Policy Statement, and I do believe that I speak for all Member States, we really appreciate your increase of contribution to this Union. It's not just a financial matter. It clearly shows Mexico's commitment to the Union. We really appreciate your commitment and your contribution. Thank you very much. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

I hope we can claim more times throughout these Policy Statements.

Now we will hear from Cyprus, followed by Lithuania. I would like to invite acting Director of Ministry of Communications and works of Cyprus. Cyprus, you have the floor.

>> CYPRUS: Mr. Chairman, Honorable Ministers, distinguished Delegates, first, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Cyprus Delegation, let me express our thanks and gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting this Plenipotentiary Conference in the beautiful city of Busan and congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election.

It is being recognized that the use of Information and Communication Technologies plays a key enabling role to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive economy and society. The use of ICT is a catalyst to the increase of productivity and economic growth. It has direct impact on the increase of GDP, the creation of new high‑value jobs, the modernization and productivity increase of the public sector, the increase of transparency and the promotion of democracy and culture.

At the same time, information and communication technologies provide new tools with which we can deal with the various social challenges, such as climate change, efficient use of energy, the reduction of carbon dioxide, and the aging population. Also, the citizen from a passive consumer gets a voice and turns into the protagonist of developments, as can be seen from the increasing use of the Internet by social networks.

Therefore, the development conditions of the Information Society refers to a society in which the creation, transmission, and dissemination, and utilization of information is a significant economic, social, political, and cultural activity.

Mr. Chairman, the Republic of Cyprus could not remain inactive in this revolution. The use of ICT in all vital sectors of the economy of a Cyprus like education, health, tourism, transport and generally in the exercise of every business activity is of paramount importance to the development of Cyprus into a regional service center and the attraction of foreign investments. In particular, taking advantage of our geographical location, favorable tax system, the harmonized European telecommunications regulatory environment, and our expertise and experience, our vision is "the Information and Communication Technologies become the catalyst to accelerate our economy and create high paying jobs and new creative opportunities."

Therefore, we have developed a comprehensive plan for the period 2012 to 2020 for the development of Information Society in Cyprus, which was approved by the Council of Ministers of Cyprus on February 2012. Our digital strategy is in line with the ITU's strategic goals and global ICT targets, and in line with the objectives and actions proposed in the digital agenda for Europe, one of the flagships of the strategy "Europe 2020."

The digital strategy will contribute substantially to economic growth, productivity increase and job creation. The strategy promotes the use of ICT in all sectors of the economy and society.

Moreover, during the years, we have managed to utilize successfully our strategic location for telecommunication purposes, since we are located at the cross roads of Europe, Asia, and Africa. We have developed an excellent satellite and submarine cable infrastructure, which is not only used to connect the Island with its neighbor countries but in the rest of the world to transfer traffic between continents. Also the demand for the use and development of specialized applications of space technology has increased. To further enhance our position we are constantly trying to upgrade and develop this infrastructure to ensure that coverage and quality are optimized. A robust and reliable telecommunications framework is the key for the development of an international finance, trading and shipping center.

In closing, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to address this Plenipotentiary Conference. I am confident that the Conference will fulfill its goals and all together take the right policy decisions that will help us shape the development of Information and Communication Technologies worldwide, in the years to come.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you all for your attention.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Excellency. Thank you for your Policy Statement. You are really right on the mark. You hit it exactly. Thank you for keeping the time.

That will bring us to the last speaker of today's Policy Statement which is Lithuania. So I would like to invite Director‑General of RRT and Chairman of RRT Board of Lithuania. Lithuania, you have the floor.

>> LITHUANIA: Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Delegation of Lithuania, I congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on election and thank the Government of Korea for welcoming us to Busan and hosting this significant Conference. Lithuania attaches great importance to the role of ITU and has always been committed to the international dialogue and consensus while developing global regulatory principles and rules.

We also share common responsibility for meeting new global challenges raised by fast progress of technologies. In that respect we appreciate an ambitious vision set by ITU within the Connect 2020 framework. Since restoration of independence of our state, we have proven our commitment to ITU in terms of our contributions to ITU activities.

Lithuania's representative, Dr. Zilinskas has been a member of Radio Regulations Board for two terms and chaired RRB in 2010. Currently he is RRB Vice‑Chairman.

Effective radio spectrum management and use is an important area for us, contributing to the goals of growth and inclusiveness of the Connect 2020 strategy. By utilizing our expert capacities, we intend to continue with constructive inputs to the work of ITU Radiocommunications Sector.

We take our commitments to ITU very seriously. We intend to continue our efforts to support our common vision of ITU as an efficient, modern and open United Nations organization. The four goals set by ITU with the new ITU Strategic Plan and measurable targets are welcome development.

We are ready to continue sharing our experience with ITU membership regarding facilitation of modern broadband development in new services and related issues. Expertise and achievements in promoting development of electronic communications is a proof that Lithuania is ready to share best practices and work together in ITU Council in order to set and implement our common and ambitious goals within the ITU.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we really feel as a part of ITU community, and we are proud of that. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, your Excellency for your very strong and very brief Policy Statement. That will complete our Agenda Item Number 4, general Policy Statements. Before moving to other business, I would like Poland asked the floor so I would like to give the floor to Poland. Poland, you have the floor.

>> POLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and sorry for taking the floor. I would like to announce that the Government of Poland is kindly inviting Heads of Delegations plus 1 to the grand hotel for the seated reception at half past 7:00 on the occasion of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference. There is transportation provided and the buses will be leaving from the BEXCO at between half past 6:00 and 7:00 p.m., Exit E‑1. We hope to see you there.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Poland, for your invitation for dinner. Now we will move to Agenda Item Number 5, other business. And under this item we will do this launch of ITU's 150th anniversary event. I would like to invite Mr. Nasser Bin Hammad Chair of Council Working Group on ITU's 150th anniversary to join the podium. Mr. Nasser Bin‑Hammad, could you join us? So while he's coming, I would like to give the floor to Secretary‑General. Secretary‑General, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: I just want to say a big thank you to Mexico for increasing the contributory unit. This will go a long way in helping us balance the financial plan. Thank you very much, Mexico.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Now I would like to give the floor to the Chairman of the Council Working Group on ITU's 150th anniversary. Chairman?

>> NASSER BIN HAMMAD: Thank you so much. Thank you all. I haven't prepared actually a speech for this marvelous occasion. I'm very happy that this Working Group for the 150th anniversary of the Union has been set up, and I wish the Union all the best wishes for the next 150 years, and I wish you every success. I hope that our Union will remain strong and continue to work in a spirit of solidarity as it has done so far. I should like to ask all members to continue to support the Union. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Now we will watch the video. The title of the video is ITU turns 150 in 2015.

Now, please watch the screen.

[ Video begins ]

>> ANNOUNCER: ITU turns 150 this year. So why does that matter to you? Nowadays, telecommunications are an essential part of our life. They're how the world connects and does business, but for Information and Communication Technologies to work, they need to overcome multiple barriers, and our crucial mission started 150 years ago.

When the telegraph was invented, service providers in countries had to agree on protocols to be able to communicate across borders, and that's how ITU was born, uniting key players to connect the world.

The arrival of telephone and radio confirmed that international harmonization was truly needed. And we were there to make it happen. We joined the United Nations family, and continued our vital work to ensure that sat lights communicate without frequency interference. The digital revolution brought about new technical challenges, overcome with the standards being developed.

The new millennium saw an explosion of mobile technologies. The way they worked together made possible thanks to ITU brokering global agreements, allocating spectrum, and opening up the Telecoms market to us. As we face our biggest opportunity, universal digital inclusion, our role has never been more relevant, expanding broadband access and preparing the ground for future ICT innovations. The networking needed for the Internet of Things, mobile money, e‑Health, intelligent transport systems, M‑learning, promoting cyber trust, as well as green and smart technologies and connecting remote areas. ITU keeps advancing global innovation by providing a neutral calibration platform to our members, the key players in the ICT ecosystem.

We've been working behind the scenes for 150 years, and we'll continue connecting the world together with you and for you. ITU: Innovating together.

[ Video ends ]

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: I hope you have enjoyed the video. Now I will give the floor to the Secretary‑General to make a keynote speech regarding the launch of ITU's 150th anniversary.

Secretary‑General, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, next year on 17 May, ITU will be celebrating 150 years since the signing of the first international telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telegraph Union. And for a century and a half, the ITU has been at the center of advances in communications. The story of ITU is one of international cooperation among Governments, private companies, and other stakeholders. Our continuing mission is to achieve the best practical solutions for integrating new technologies as they develop, and to spread their benefits to all.

One and a half centuries is a very brief interval in the recorded history of humankind. Yet the past 150 years have been extraordinarily significant in terms of human progress and discovery. And one of the most remarkable advances has been the incredible increase in both the speed and variety of human communications. First we saw the telegraph and the telephone, then radio and television, followed by satellite communications and the Internet, heralding a new era of ubiquitous connectivity over the past 20 years.

It is difficult to imagine now how we communicated in 1865, with no phones, no e‑mail, no instant messaging or SMS. Even the telegraph was not yet available for personal use. So the most common method of long‑distance communication back then was to send letters carried on horseback or by ship. The exponential growth of Science and Technology over the past 150 years is fascinating, and it is part of ITU's story.

We are all very proud that Hollywood awarded the prestigious prime time Emmy award for excellence to our video recording standard ITU‑T H.264. It is the most widely used video compression standard in the world and it is used for almost 80% of all Web video. Malcolm went to the ceremony in Hollywood and he has now brought the award with him to Busan. Let me hand the floor to Malcolm for a moment.

[ Applause ]

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you very much, and good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Just to mention that, in fact, this year, we adopted an improved version of H.264, H.265, and it's 50% more efficient than H.264. So hopefully, the ITU can look forward to receiving Oscar next time. Thank you, Chairman.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you, Malcolm. We are all becoming movie stars now.

Distinguished Delegates, it is a great pleasure for me to be here with you today for the official launch of the 150th anniversary celebrations of ITU. These celebrations will reinforce and validate ITU's mission and strategic goals. They will allow the organization and its members to honor the past as well as to launch activities for the future.

Next year, 2015, will be a commemoration year that we wish to celebrate with all our members, including Governments, private companies, and other stakeholders. The Celebration Anniversary year will start in January 2015, and will include a full year of activities, with a different theme being celebrated each month. The anniversary year coincides with the arrival of my successor as Secretary‑General. He will be elected the day after tomorrow. And it will be part of his job to oversee the success of the campaign, so let me recognize his work in advance here.

And hope that he will be able to speak Chinese.

The key celebration for ITU's 150th anniversary will take place on 17 May 2015 in Geneva, with the theme of "Telecommunication/ICTs: Drivers of Innovation." And let me take this opportunity to invite all ITU membership to this very special event.

Distinguished Delegates, the ITU General Secretariat and all three sectors are developing a really interesting celebration agenda for 2015, and we invite our membership to be involved in all these activities. Your involvement can take many forms: Issue a commemorative stamp, publish an article or book, organize an exhibition, host a Conference or debate cycle, develop an e‑Learning tool for school children, strike a medal, plan a radio or television  broadcast, organize a webinar, develop a game, and so on.

In addition, Member States are invited to organize official National celebrations. ITU membership is also invited to showcase their major inventions and achievements in the ICT discovery at ITU headquarters.

We have already confirmed a special exhibition on Marconi, which is being organized by the Italian administration in collaboration with the Marconi Foundation, and a special exhibition on space science organized by NASA.

We will be looking forward to welcoming many others in addition to these.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to extend my gratitude to the members of the Committee for the preparation of the 150th anniversary celebrations for their dedication and engagement. Most of them are present in this room:

Mr. Nasser Bin Hammad, Ms. Natalia Timofeeva, Mr. Issah Yahaya, Dr. Ahmet Cavusoglu, and Ms. Victoria Romero. Some of our members have already taken the lead and contributed to the 150th anniversary fund, and let me thank them for their support, here and now.

Our Gold Partners are the Ministry of Communications and High Technologies, Azerbaijan.

Give him a hand.

[ Applause ]

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology,  MCIT, Saudi Arabia.

[ Applause ]

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, TRA, United Arab Emirates.

[ Applause ]

And as I mentioned to you, United Arab Emirates is present here with the youngest Delegate here, he's 11 years old, he's sitting next to my friend Mohamed Al Ghanim today. Please stand up so I can see you.

[ Applause ]

Please turn back so the cameras can see you. Turn back, yes.

You see, this is the future of the world, and we are very proud of it.

Our Silver Partners are the Ministry of Communications,  Ghana.

[ Applause ]

And the Postal and

Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe, POTRAZ.

[ Applause ]

And our bronze partners are the telecommunications regulatory Agency, Central  African Republic.

[ Applause ]

Close Joint‑Stock Company National Radio Technical Bureau.

[ Applause ]

Inmarsat Global Limited.

[ Applause ]

Rohde & Schwarz and Company.

[ Applause ]

OJSC Rostelecom.

[ Applause ]

And the NTT Group, Japan.

[ Applause ]

We tremendously appreciate our generous anniversary partners, and thanks to their valuable contributions, we can guarantee a splendid anniversary year in 2015.

Let me extend invitation to other ITU members to become partners for ITU's 150th celebrations, as well.

Let's make 2015 a year of celebration and opportunity for the future of this great Union.

And now, dear friends, I would like to announce that our team of photographers will be roaming the halls and corridors of this great venue in an effort to photograph you over the next two and a half weeks.

We have 3,000 delegates, so we think we can get at least 2,000 of your beautiful portraits, and what will we do with them?

The plan is to weave them together into a captivating digital visual wall, and to use it at our future conferences and venues, and maybe even make it a permanent installation at ITU headquarters.

You are the faces of ITU, and we want your smiles and characters to come together in our powerful visual mural to commemorate our 150th anniversary for present and future generations.

We will also store the portraits in a common online platform where you will be encouraged to access them and share them via your social networks, using the #ITU150 hashtag.

Finally, please do visit our wonderful book shop next to the pigeon holes next door, and stock up on all the great ITU150 merchandising for yourself and your families at home.

At the bookshop you can pick up a leaflet requesting you to take a "selfie" with your new purchases back home and share them with us.

These selfies will also be used for our digital mural, and an exciting prize will soon be announced for the most original and intriguing images.

So let us all get into the spirit of celebration and let's share our enthusiasm for this great organization with the whole wide world.

I thank you very much for your attention.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary‑General, for your speech, and that nice 150th Anniversary logo. I think all of us are looking forward to the 150th Anniversary, and we have a very good leader for that event so I'm confident we'll have a memorable ceremony next year.

Now, we will invite a few partners to rostrum and listen to their messages. First I'd like to invite His Excellency Mr. Elmir Velizadeh, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communications and High Technologies, Republic of Azerbaijan. Will you come to the podium and make your speech.

>> ELMIR VELIZADEH: Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of Minister of the Communication and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who unfortunately cannot attend this ceremony, I would like to express our honor to be here as Gold Partner of events of 150th anniversary of ITU. I think somebody can ask, why Azerbaijan? No doubt about that.

Of course, Azerbaijan is well known as oil country more than two centuries, but oil production is requiring implementing modern technologies. Azerbaijan is one of some world countries that yet 133 years use telephone communications, and before that, very actively use telegraph.

The oil company, the Founder of Nobel Prize, installed a first telephone line in city Baku in 1881. From 1992 year, Azerbaijan as independent country joined to ITU. From 2000, established communication with ITU. But since that time we have been enjoying the cooperation with and within the ITU.

For the ITU, we see not only 150 years of history, but also at least 150 years of future. We celebrate a big journey today and it is a great pleasure to witness it and to be part of it. We very much understand and appreciate the tremendous role of ITU which is beyond now internationalism, telecommunication and unity. As Government body of the Republic of Azerbaijan, we are happy to be one of major sponsors of this celebration, and will be also contributing with our domestic activities within the spirit.

We wish the ITU to continue its very important missions and commitment. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Deputy Minister, for your excellent speech. Now I would like to invite His Excellency Mohamed Jamil Ahmed Mulla, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to the rostrum.

[ Applause ]

>> MOHAMMED JAMIL AHMED MULLA: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. It's a great pleasure for me to speak before you at this occasion of the 150th anniversary of the ITU. On behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I would like to express our great pleasure in participating in this event. It's obvious that the 150th anniversary of the ITU is an important milestone in its history. Saudi Arabia is attached to giving its support to the ITU and decided to support the celebration through a Gold‑level participation.

On behalf of the Saudi Delegation, I would like to congratulate all members of the ITU for this anniversary, and wish the ITU every success in its current and future actions for the good of humanity now and in the future.

Ladies and gentlemen, the ITU plays a leading role in the ICT Sector. This to ensure development in various areas. Indeed, this is a key Sector for progress and for growth in states. It contributes to help all of economic, social, cultural activities advance, and to bring people together, and to ensure their well‑being.

Saudi Arabia became a member of the ITU in 1949, and in '65 became a member of its Council. Saudi Arabia is committed to the objectives and principles of the Union, which is the oldest intergovernmental organization. It is truly an institution. It became a specialized Agency of the United Nations specialized in communications and technologies, and the ITU ‑‑ Saudi Arabia will continue to make every effort to support ITU and to realize its objectives.

At this time, Sir, allow me to express my gratitude to you, Sir, Mr. Touré, for everything that you have done for the ITU during his terms in office. May I wish you every success, Sir, for the future.

Once again, congratulations to all, and may I wish you a very happy 150th anniversary here at the ITU. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister. Now I will invite His Excellency Mohammad Nasser Al Ghanim, Director‑General, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of United Arab Emirates to the rostrum to make a speech.

>> MOHAMMAD NASSER AL GHANIM: Distinguished Ministers, Excellencies and distinguished Delegates, Chairman of the Conference, and Dr. Hamadoun Touré, the Secretary‑General of the ITU, good afternoon to everybody. We are living in an era and an age of Communication and Information technology as we speak, and technologies have made too much of breakthroughs.

I had a long speech, but I'm going to cut it down. I want to give the chance to our youngest innovator in the country, but before I give him the floor, I want to say that in recent years, the United Arab Emirates as contributed effectively in supporting the activities of the Union. We have formed a special Working Group in the UAE, and it has tasked in working to develop the best scenarios and proposals to make the 150 celebrations that we want to take place at different periods throughout the next year. A great success and honor of all efforts and hard work done by all Councils, departments and work groups at the ITU offices globally. This celebration provides an important opportunity to engage ITU members and revealing key achievements in the history of telecommunication and Information Technologies, and the role of the Union will be highlighted as ‑‑ and they will enable yet hopefully another successful 150 years of innovations to come.

As soon as we heard about this, we have engaged a big team to support the work of these celebrations, and we are happy to be part of the sponsors who are going to sponsor the 150 years anniversary and the activities that will happen along that.

I would like to now to introduce our youngest UAE innovator, Mr. Adeeb Al Blushi to give his speech. I cut more time from my speech to give him more time, as Dr. Hamadoun say he is the future and looking forward when I will become very, very old to come one day to the ITU and see him speak. Again, Adeeb.

[ Applause ]

>> ADEEB AL BLUSHI: Excellency Hamadoun Touré, Secretary‑General of the ITU and ITU elected officials, distinguished Ministers, Excellencies and distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it's a great pleasure and privilege to be here at the 19th ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, which is being held in the beautiful city of Busan. Allow me please to congratulate ITU and all its membership to the successful launch of celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the ITU.

It's millions of youth like me around the globe who are in some way or another utilizing the benefits of this wonderful organization. Be it like mobile phone, TV or Internet, I feel the entire world and especially the youth that are in debt to the work that has been carried out at the ITU.

In this age of technology revolution, we young people are at the forefront not only as the users but also as the innovators. Today it is very common to notice that parents are learning technology tricks from their children. The examples of Google, Facebook and many other ICT companies. We're the vision of youth like me.

I on behalf of the youth around the globe urge that the youth be heard and given voice when it comes to ICT Policy making as we'll be the future users and enablers of ICT Applications and services.

Ladies and gentlemen, another point that I would like to emphasize is that there are many youth around the globe who are not having basic digital facilities and education, and they are looking to organizations such as ITU to bring them on par with the youth of developed countries so that they can use their skills and contribute to their society.

Let me conclude now, big thanks to my country, the United Arab Emirates and its leaders for the support they give to me. I would also like to thank my parents for all they have done for me. And I also want to thank ITU Secretary‑General and ITU membership for giving me this opportunity to participate in the top policy making Conference of the ITU.

And I wouldn't want to forget the UAE TRA and its management for offering me this invaluable opportunity to address you here in the PP‑14. I wish you all the very best and look forward to learning knowledge from you. Thank you, ITU.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Al Ghanim and especially you, Mr. Adeeb.

[ Applause ]

I'm quite sure that Mr. Adeeb just set the new record in the ITU to address the Plenary as the youngest age, and as rightly mentioned, the future is yours. Even though ITU is a 150‑year‑old organization I think we have you, young people, and we can be young like yourself, and this organization can be a young organization with old ages. Thank you very much. That was very inspirational.

[ Applause ]

Now I would like to invite His Excellency Dr. Edward Kofi Omane Boamah, Minister of Communications, Ghana, to the rostrum to make his speech.

>> EDWARD KOFI OMANE BOAMAH: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Secretary‑General of the ITU, Excellencies. I'm 38 years old. Adeeb makes me feel very, very old.

Ghana is very pleased to be associated with the planning Committee of the 150th anniversary of the ITU. Ghana is known for its gold, for the cocoa industry, and recently the oil and gas industry. But I want to state here and now that in the year 2013, the ICT and Telecommunications Sector contributed 24% of our GDP, and so we intend to even scale it up the more, hence our Association.

150 years and still counting, the ITU can only be summarized as cooperation, connectivity, consensus. That is looking into the past, and looking into the present. We have looked into the past. We have looked into the present. And we intend to support the ITU, to stand by the ITU every step of the way, to consolidate the cooperation, the consensus, and the connectivity that we have been able to achieve to go into the future, saying that 150 years from now when the next generation gather and discuss what we have done, what we did, they will be able to say that, yes, 150 years ago, we were able to build on the consensus, the connectivity and the cooperation that had been achieved. We developed it further, and they will definitely take the baton from that point in time, and perhaps we'll not be talking about the Internet of Things. Perhaps we'll not be talking about 5G, but we'll be talking about greater things that the human mind cannot even comprehend. We thank you very much for allowing us to be associated with this. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister. Now I would like to invite Dr. Win Mlambo, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Information Communication Technology, Postal and Courier Services, Zimbabwe, to the rostrum.

>> WIN MLAMBO: Thank you very much. Let me first recognize the Secretary‑General of the ITU, Dr. Touré. ITU Member States and associates, distinguished guests, and ladies and gentlemen.

As we've heard, 150 years ago in 1865, the ITU was founded in Paris as the international telegraph Union. When that happened, none of its founding visionaries ever contemplated the magnitude of the impact. To the extent the Union has managed to transform the complexion of ICTs and the lives of people during these 150 years of its existence.

As we look back now and celebrate its 150th anniversary, we should always remember that the Union's phenomenal achievements bear undisputed testimony to the accomplishments that can be made to humanity if institutions are governed well and run for the purposes for which they were created.

An examination of the Union's makeup or nature then and now, its mode operandi then and now, lays bare perfect public‑private partnership at work reveals that the Union is unique in many ways, we learn that currently ITU has a membership of about 193 countries and 700 private institutions.

Zimbabwe has been a member of the ITU since its independence in 1980. As a country, we take great pride and cherish our very fruitful Association with the oldest intergovernmental Agency of the United Nations. In recent years, Zimbabwe has received technical assistance from the Union, which includes disaster management equipment, spectrum management training, and cost modeling training among other benefits.

We seize this opportunity to pledge our unwavering support to the commendable work of the Union towards enabling, ensuring, and enhancing the accessibility, availability, and adaptability of telecommunication services at a global level.

This is evidenced by the evolution of communications technology over the past one and a half centuries, which has been phenomenal. The International Telecommunications Union has played a critical role in this evolution. The advancement in speed and variety of human communications has been an important tool for social and economic development and inclusion. Technology has changed the way we learn, work, travel, bank, trade, vote, and even look for lavas. Life has become more simpler.

We also take special note of the ITU efforts in bridging the digital divide by offering the platform and opportunities for developing countries to participate in global telecommunications issues. This is not withstanding the fact that more still needs to be done to help developing countries catch up in the technological blaze and empower the nations of the world to fully explore the benefits of technological innovation.

Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to end by saluting the sterling work done by the outgoing Secretary‑General, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, and his team during his eight‑year tenure at the helm of the Union.

Long live ITU. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Deputy Minister. Now I'd like to invite all partners to the podium to receive their certificates and take pictures.

Would you please come to the podium? Thank you.

So Mr. Zhao will present certificates to the ITU150 partners.

[ Presentation of certificates ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Once again, congratulations for recipients of this Gold Partners award.

Gentlemen, may I ask you to take your seat, please? Before closing the Third Plenary Session, I just want to say thanks to the interpreters for bearing with us until this late time. So with this ceremony award receiving ceremony I'd like to close the Third Plenary Session. We'll meet tomorrow morning 9:30 at this place. The meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

[ End of Third Plenary Session ]

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