FINAL TRANSCRIPT

WORLD CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

PLENARY 13 ‑ CLOSING CEREMONY

DECEMBER 14, 2012

1530‑1850 LOCAL TIME

Services provided by:

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>> Ladies and Gentlemen, this is the last call to pick up your signatory folders, which can be found in the desk to this side of the room.

(repeating in French)

>> CHAIR: Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome to the 17th plenary meeting and the last plenary of this conference. The agenda is available in ADM 33, Provision 1, and it's submitted for your approval. And I see Cuba asking for the floor. Cuba?

>> CUBA: Chairman, it's a mistake. We had not requested the floor. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Is there any objection to approve? Is there any objection on the agenda itself? I see none. The agenda is approved.

I want you now to go to Document 67 and ask the additional declarations and observations, and I just want the meeting to take note of it. Thank you.

We will now proceed to the signing ceremony of the final act. I will pass the floor to Mr. Ja to update us on the credentials. Mr. Ja, India?

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

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, good afternoon to everybody. With regard to the credentials, I am pleased to inform you that since the publication of Document 56 Rev 2 containing the reports of the Committee 2 to the Plenary, I have received the original credentials from Barbados and Mexico which are found to be in order. I would therefore like to propose to modify the Document 56 Rev 2 by moving Barbados and Mexico from Part 4 to Part 1 of this report. With this modification and a total of 152 Member States represented at WCIT‑12 including one transfer of powers, 144 credentials of Member States were found to be in order. 8 credentials of Member States were found not to be in order or they have not submitted the credentials. With your agreement, Mr. Chairman, 56 Rev 2 and will be filed and be published accordingly. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

So I see South Africa. South Africa? I think it was by mistake. So I'll seek the approval to move the two countries to the Section 1.

Switzerland, you're asking for the floor? Switzerland?

>> SWITZERLAND: Thank you, Chairman, I'm not sure my statement is absolutely at the right point in time, but I would like to speak before the signing of the documents.

Firstly, Switzerland would like to thank you very deeply for all the efforts which you have made throughout this conference to find a compromise. And we have also appreciated the small meetings which you have organized so that we could find solutions together.

We would also, of course, like to thank the United Arab Emirates for the very good organisation of this conference. And also we should like to congratulate the Secretary‑General on the organisation of the conference and thank him for all his hard work in quest of a consensus.

Like other countries in this hall, Chairman, my country cannot sign today. We have to conduct consultations in our capital upon this document and examine it in detail and in depth. Thank you again for everything, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

Peru?

>> PERU: Good afternoon, Chairman. Thank you very much. First of all, I'd like to apologize because I don't think this is necessarily the right moment to make this statement, but I have received instructions from Capital to do so.

Firstly, I'd like to congratulate you on your leadership and on the considerable amount of work you have put into coming up with a document that should have reconciled all points of view.

However, before signing, Peru also has to consult its Capital further and therefore it will be unable to participate in the signing ceremony this afternoon.

Despite that, we would like to reiterate our commitment to continue to work together with ITU in order to further develop telecommunications.

And last but not least, we would like to convey our thanks to the authorities at the United Arab Emirates as host country. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Peru.

India?

>> INDIA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If you will allow me, I would like to make a brief statement.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary‑General and Distinguished Delegates, good afternoon to everybody.

First of all, Mr. Chairman, let me congratulate you for your able leadership and also for making this World Conference a great success. I also take this opportunity to convey our high appreciation to the government of UAE for hosting WTSA and WCIT conferences and making Dubai a history brand new.

Mr. Chairman, the challenge in front of us is to think beyond the current concerns, differences and create opportunities through ITRs for the future generations. We're happy that the new ITRs cover several important aspects such as security and for major use of telecommunications services to build fast framework.

I am pleased to note that ITU, under the able leadership of Dr. Touré, has been taking our initiatives for the promotion and development of telecommunications services for the global community. I take this opportunity to convey our high appreciation to ITU and all of the staff for taking this initiative, providing this World Conference on ITR and making it success.

Mr. Chairman, India supports the ITR and its Resolutions 1, 2, 4, and 5. We support the broadcast of Division 3 regarding first enabling environment for the greater growth of Internet, particularly its recognitions of the multistakeholder nature of Internet and its wider social and impact within the countries around the world. India considers the resolutions to reflect the current and emerging global realities and the dynamic of the Internet. We therefore would like to undertake necessary consultations at home before announcing our final decisions. We need to consider the wider ramifications of this resolution before taking the decision on signing the ITR today.

We reiterate that the conference was highly successful in building consensus on most of the aspects. I am sure we are not the same human beings going back today after listening and learning from all of you and carry forward the measures to make the world better connected. We request you to kindly place it on the record of the summary of the panel. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

Egypt.

>> EGYPT: In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate, Chairman, Secretary‑General, Ladies and Gentlemen, heads of delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Firstly, I should like to thank Mr. Al‑Ghanim, Chairman of the Conference, and Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary‑General of the ITU for all the efforts they have made in the course of this Conference. And they have worked unstintingly to bring us towards compromised solutions in everybody's interest.

I'd also like to thank the government of the United Arab Emirates, this brotherly country, which offered us its hospitality.

Given the rapid changes in the telecommunications sector and information and communication technologies today, it is our responsibility as Member States to achieve an international agreement on all the issues submitted to us during the conference.

You, Chairman, as the Chairman, had the responsibility of bringing about a convergence of viewpoints and trying to achieve consensus solutions. We came to this Conference in order to work together to revise the ITRs, to make them into a text which is more effective and more in keeping with current developments in the world of telecommunications so that this sector can meet current needs and future needs.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as the Republic of Egypt has given great interest and attention to this subject and we have participated through the Arab and African group, Egypt has always attached great importance to issues addressed by ITU. And we are greatly committed to the principles of the ITU. And we believe that all the subjects we have covered are important for all countries of the world.

We also believe that ITU has a role to play. And this inspires us to continue to work in all the programmes and activities of ITU in all the three sectors. We will continue to participate in all the development programmes of ITU at regional and international level, also.

We further reaffirm the importance of the various issues adopted in this treaty. After lengthy negotiations, we believe that the text which has been adopted will contribute to the development of the telecommunications sector, especially in the developing countries.

I am thinking about the situation of operators, accounting rates, collection charges and settlement of disputes between operators. All of this is in the interest of developing countries. And the telecommunications sector should become better able to adapt to today's needs.

Ladies and Gentlemen, a new dawn has come into the telecommunications sector. Internet, ever since its inception, has always been a partnership between the stakeholders: The operators, governmental departments, the private sector and regulatory authorities.

Perhaps one of the main features of this partnership is that it has helped to maintain network stability and to encourage competition.

I'm sure you will agree with me that Internet today has become one of the fundamentals of everyday life in all countries. Internet today is also one of the pillars of democracy worldwide. This network of networks must remain interactive and up‑to‑date, and it must stretch across borders to connect all countries.

Consequently, Egypt would like to encourage ITU to work in the spirit of interconnection, participation and cooperation to which the Secretary‑General referred many times and strengthen this partnership at international and regional level.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we would have liked the new ITRs to be adopted by all the Member States, but we do understand that there were divergencies of opinions and not all countries can accede at once. However, we know that these divergences of opinions will not have a long term effect and we will be able to continue to work in a spirit of fraternity and cooperation.

And we also hope that all of the experts in this field will be able to continue to work together towards an enabling environment for the development of our sectors through international conventions and through the authority of the ITU in general.

In conclusion, I should like to thank you again, Chairman.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Egypt, for these kind words.

I have 10 Administrations asking for the floor for the closing ceremony. I would just ask that we proceed with the signing ceremony first. And I will give the floor to Libya, Mexico, Bulgaria, Uganda, Poland, Senegal, Algeria, Oman, Malaysia, China, Botswana, Saudi Arabia, South Africa ‑‑ and the list is beyond what I see.

So if you don't mind, we can proceed with the signing ceremony right now. And there is a small ceremonial for the signature. And we will come back to the closing remarks and closing ceremony.

So I will now proceed. If you have the right to sign the final acts, I hope that you have collected your signature file with ITU staff standing on the right side of the podium. If not, could you please come to the right side of the podium to pick up your signature file.

The Secretary of the meeting will call out the French names of the Member States having the right to sign the final acts in French alphabetical order. One representative of each Member State with the right to sign the final acts is invited to come to the table at the right side of the podium with the signature file duly completed as they are called by the Secretary. So let us proceed now.

Mr. Secretary‑General?

>> Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to begin by noting that 26 delegations have already signed the final acts.

[Applause.]

Mr. Chairman, in accordance with ITU practice, I will call out all delegations whose credentials have been found in order and have the right to sign the final acts.

One representative per delegation is invited to deposit their signature file containing their signed sheet marked final acts at the final acts desk at the front row.

Delegations will be called in groups of 15 and representatives are asked to proceed down the centre aisle and proceed over to my right. I will now begin.

Afghanistan. Albania. Algeria. Germany. Andorra. Angola. Saudi Arabia. Argentina. Armenia. Australia. Austria. Azerbaijan. Bahrain. Bangladesh. Barbados. Belarus. Belgium. Belize. Benin. Bhutan. Botswana. Brazil. Brunei Darassalam. Bulgaria. Burkina Faso. Burundi. Cambodia. Canada. Cape Verde. Central African Republic. Chile. China. Cyprus. Columbia. Comoros.

[Silence.]

I will now continue.

Republic of Congo. Republic of Korea. Costa Rica. Côte d'Ivoire. Croatia. Cuba. Denmark. Djibouti. Dominican Republic. Egypt.

[Pause.]

El Salvador. United Arab Emirates. Spain. Estonia. United States. Russian Federation. Finland. France. Gabon. Ghambia. Georgia. Ghana. Greece. Guatemala. Guyana. Haiti. Hungary. India. Indonesia. Islamic Republic of Iran. Iraq. Ireland. Israel. Italy. Jamaica. Japan. Jordan. Kazakhstan. Kenya. Kuwait. Lesotho. Latvia. Lebanon. Liberia. Libya. Liechtenstein. Lithuania. Luxembourg. Malaysia.

[Silence.]

Malawi. Mali. Malta. Morocco. The Marshall Islands. Mauritius. Mexico. Moldova. Mongolia. Montenegro. Mozambique. Namibia. Republic of Nepal. Niger. Nigeria. Norway. New Zealand. Oman. Uganda. Uzbekistan. Panama. Papua New Guinea. Paraguay. Netherlands. Peru.

[Pause.]

Philippines. Poland. Portugal. Qatar. Krygyzstan. Slovakia. Czech Republic. United Kingdom. Rwanda. St. Lucia. Senegal.

[Pause.]

Serbia. Sierra Leonne. Singapore. Slovenia. Somalia. Sudan. South Sudan. Sri Lanka. Republic of South Africa.

[Pause.]

Sweden. Switzerland. Swaziland. Tanzania. Thailand.

[Pause.]

Trinidad and Tobago. Tunisia. Turkey. Ukraine. Uruguay. Vietnam. Yemen. Zimbabwe.

[Pause.]

>> CHAIR: I give the floor right now ‑‑ we came to the end of the signing ceremony, and now I give the floor to the Secretary‑General.

>> DR. HAMADOUN TOURÉ: Excellencies, Ministers, Senators, Distinguished CEOs, Heads of Delegations, Private Sector, Civil Society, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Before I commence, let me once again thank the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the United Arab Emirates for hosting not just one, not two, not three, but four ITU events over the past three months. We had ITU Telecom World here in October, followed by the Global Standardisation Symposium, the World Standardisation Assembly and the WCIT 2012 right now in December. We are very happy to be able to celebrate UAE's 41st anniversary together at the beginning of last week on December 2nd.

The United Arab Emirate is a striking example of the importance of ICT development in the modern world, and I congratulate you and your leadership for your successes. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Yes. Yeah, UAE really deserves a round of applause because your leadership has had the courage to dream and dream big for its people. And we see it all around us. And we thank you for the wonderful hospitality and the support, the kindness of you people, the professionalism of the staff.

Ladies and Gentlemen, 12 days ago at the start of this conference, Mr. Ban Ki‑moon, the Secretary‑General of the United Nations, asked governments, industry and civil society to rise up to this occasion. Mr. Ban Ki‑moon reminded us that there was no place in the 21st Century for a digital divide.

At the Opening Ceremony, I said that this was a historic occasion and a historic opportunity, indeed: A historic opportunity to bring connectivity to the two‑thirds of the world's population who still are offline.

And in this endeavor, to quote Franklin D. Roosevelt in his first inaugural address, he said, "we have nothing to fear but fear itself." Ladies and Gentlemen, on the path toward bringing the remaining 4‑1/2 billion people online, we have nothing to fear. Nothing.

This conference has brought the developing world into the ITRs, and the new treaty text reflects many developing countries' concerns. And it is a richer and more powerful treaty for doing so. This Conference was all about connectivity and spreading the benefits of ICT to all the world's people.

Let me highlight here some of our achievements. The ITRs have been brought into the ‑‑ what are some achievements that the ITR has brought into the 21st Century?

In particular, we have addressed 21st Century issues that were not even on the horizon back in 1988 such as roaming. And we have clearly recognized the realities of the new global international telecommunication landscape with including new provisions on environmental issues, energy efficiency and e‑waste.

And we have made initial steps towards establishment of a global harmonized national number for access to emergency services.

The need to do much more for the underserved has also been clearly recognized with a new resolution on prioritizing fiberoptic cable access to landlocked developing countries and small island developing states. I am also very encouraged with the new article on accessibility.

There are at least 650 million people today worldwide suffering from one kind of disability or another. And each and every one of them has just as much right as you and I do to have access to the full benefit of ICTs.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you made a bold step forward in terms of this Conference itself in granting greatly increased access to participants, including media and the public. And I'm very pleased that the documents and proceedings of this Conference have been made as widely available as possible. The live webcasts of the main sessions and archives and transcripts available to all, including the daily media briefings.

And I'm pleased that we're able to actively and positively engage with civil society, both before and during the conference.

Distinguished Delegates, this Conference was not about Internet control or Internet Governance.

Let me repeat that.

This Conference was not about Internet control or Internet Governance; and, indeed, there are no treaty provisions on the Internet.

Ladies and Gentlemen, if the word Internet was used frequently here in Dubai, it is simply a reflection of the reality of the modern world. Telecommunication networks are not just used for making voice calls, so our two worlds are linked. And I demonstrated that by inviting the new President and CEO of ICANN, Fadi Chehade, and the Chairman of ICANN Dr. Steve Crocker, at the opening of the WCIT‑12.

And I said I look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead and all that can be achieved by ITU and ICANN together in a positive spirit of collaboration.

So let me repeat once more. The ITU has no wish or desire to play a role in physical Internet resources such as domain names. And the work of ICANN and ITU can be and should be fully complementary.

Distinguished Delegates, the conference has made a huge achievement in bringing group public attention to the different perspectives that govern modern global telecommunications. The work here has been intensive, and I appreciate the efforts put by each and every delegation. The days have been long and the nights have been even longer. But the dawn has broken on a new day, a new set of ITRs have just been signed by so many countries.

Delegations have had their differences, but as the great Mahatma Ghandi said, "Honest differences are a healthy sign of progress."

And there have been some challenges and some controversies. But as Martin Luther King said "the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenges and controversy."

I do not think that we allow differences of opinion about the way ahead to be confused with the differences of opinion about our common goal. And I do not think that we allowed challenges and controversies to divert us from our common goal to bring the benefit of telecommunications to the 700 million people who still do not have mobile phone network coverage and even more importantly to the 4.5 billion people still offline.

Distinguished Delegates, a clear majority of Member States have already signed the new treaty, and these countries represent not just most of the world's people, but the great majority of the world's unconnected people.

We understand that some Member States need to go back to their capitals and constituencies before they can accede to the new treaty ITR, but we do hope that they will come soon and join the majority by acceding to the treaty when the time is right and help assure, in a world where opportunities for investment ‑‑ in new investment, in new infrastructure abound and where consumers can take advantage of the new benefits such as reduced roaming charges, global communication, remaining a global issue, and I'm confident that we will continue to work together for that common goal.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the past two decades have been a period of extraordinary progress in ICT growth and development, and I'm convinced that the future will deliver even more dramatic ‑‑ and this progress will be very much due to the work that has been done here in Dubai.

It is tempting to wonder how the world will look like when we next come together to review the ITRs again. Will we still be using smartphones and tablet computers? Or will we be using completely different communication devices? How many quadrillion SMS or instant messages will be exchanged every day? Every year? Or every hour? Or will SMS and instant messages be a thing of the past by then, swept aside by other communications and services? We cannot answer questions like this with any degree of accuracy. But I'm sure that you have put in place the right framework to allow the ICT sector to embrace and profit from whatever new developments and trends occur in the coming years.

Distinguished Delegates, many of you have spent most of the last two weeks here indoors at the World Trade Center, and you have not seen much, if anything, of the outside world. My dear friend Mohamed Al‑Ghanim wished you could do some shopping here in Dubai, but we didn't have time this time. Some of us will go back with empty bags, empty suitcases. But we hope that we don't forget to buy some souvenirs of Dubai for your families when you are going back.

To those delegates, let me assure you that with the old proverb from Tao Te Ching, we say "without going outside, you may know the whole world." And indeed, without going outside, we're in touch with the whole world because, indeed, ITR 2012 enabled us to be in touch with the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I think we are all well aware that over the past two weeks, we have been supported by an extraordinary organizational and logistic operation, and by months of planning and meticulous implementation.

Let me just highlight this with a few dramatic numbers that can go in some way toward describing WCIT 2012.

We received a total of 1,275 proposals from Member States.

The Conference welcomed almost 1,600 delegates from 151 Member States, including almost 70 Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Ambassadors, of course not to neglect Private Sector and Civil Society.

ITU's website received over 13 million page visits over the past month, with traffic peaking at 150 gigabits of information downloaded on Monday, third of December.

From our communications perspective, we have actively engaged with key communities through social media with around 12 million impressions a day on Twitter alone, supplemented with daily live social media bloggings.

Taking into account the six working languages of the Union, we have benefited from 600 hours of interpretation and have translated almost 700,000 words.

And we have used less paper than ever before, managing the work almost entirely paperless throughout the whole conference and saving literally millions of pages of paper.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, over the coming years, ICTs will continue to transform the way we live, we work and play. They will continue to transform education, health care, transport networks, the energy sector and the provision of government services as well as the global entertainment and workplaces worldwide.

They will continue to generate jobs and drive growth, productivity and long‑term economic competitiveness. They will continue to be key in the global sustainability agenda. They will continue to improve the lives of all people all over the world, including people with disabilities and people living in the remotest regions of the world. And they will continue to help us accelerate progress toward meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

At ITU, we have a duty and an obligation to all the world's people to ensure that ICTs deliver a better life. We must also continue in our effort to bring affordable broadband access to all, since broadband is the vehicle that will transport society from the "Internet of Things" to the Internet of everything.

We have heard from delegations large and small, and I'm very pleased that everyone has had a voice and has had the chance to be the change that changes the world. And I'm counting on you, I'm counting on you, our constituency, our membership, to help us continue changing the world as we move ahead.

I'm already looking forward to the Plenipotentiary Conference in Busan in 2014 in Korea where many of these issues will continue to be discussed by all stakeholders.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in closing, I must give my heartfelt thanks on behalf of ITU to Member State delegations which have taken part in this Conference and the states they represent, to our Sector Members, and Civil Society, for their continuing support. Many have been present in delegations and others have been following the Conference remotely.

To the many people who have been following this Conference out there, I say thank you.

I would like to thank the Chairs and the Vice Chairs, the Secretaries of the Committees, Working Groups and Ad Hoc Groups would have done so much to contribute to the work of this Conference and whose tireless efforts have enabled us to manage a large number of contributions we received from members.

Let me also thank my fellow elected officials. Deputy Secretary‑General, Mr. Houlin Zhao; Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Director of Telecommunications Standardization Bureau; Mr. Francois Rancy, Director of the Telecommunication Bureau; and Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau.

You have elected us together, and I can tell you over the past 2‑1/2 years, we have been working as one. If the work we are doing here is meaningful to you, it's because this thing has been united, working together for the same cause with the same love and desire for improving information and communication technology in the world.

I will move now to the entire ITU staff, here in Dubai and back home in Geneva. I hope you've seen on the screens the pictures of the team back in Geneva, I'll say in the core of Geneva there. You can see they're wearing their winter coats. And we are here in a sunny, bright Dubai. Unfortunately we're not able to enjoy the good weather around us.

By the way, it was raining today here in Dubai in a country as deserted as mine. Rain is good news. And we really thank this God for giving us that opportunity.

The team has been working tirelessly, here in Dubai, in Geneva, and in the original offices around the world. And I would like to thank them for their tireless effort that they made this Conference possible.

Where would we be without the army of translators, interpreters, press writers and support staff on whom we depend so absolutely?

Special word of thanks to the translators. They never let us down. I remember, Chairman, I asked for five more minutes, they gave us 10. That was a great sign.

I would particularly like to single out basically Secretary of the conference, Doreen Bogdan. Please give Doreen a hand.

[Applause.]

She has provided myself and the Chairman with essential counsel whenever we needed it. Doreen, congratulations for a job well done. I'm really proud of you.

Let me also here single out three staff members who have been key here. And I am only doing so because you should not name in public your friends, all your friends or your loved ones because you might forget one and you will have an enemy. But I would single out three staff members who will be retiring after this Conference, and I would like to thank them individually.

First, Idrissa Samake, who has been responsible for the Conferences and Publications Department, which provide so many of the vital services we depend on every day.

[Applause.]

I would like to thank Richard Hill, who deferred his retirement.

[Applause.]

Where is Richard? Richard, stand up, please. I have requested Richard to defer his retirement so that we could enjoy the full benefit of his experience of so many years. And, indeed, he made us proud.

No single ITU official has put in as much time and effort and in this process as Richard. And we owe him a very special debt of gratitude. Thank you very much, big brother.

[Applause.]

I would like also to thank Elaine Baron, head of the governing bodies Secretariat, who has put in extraordinary work behind the scenes, not just in organising everything with military precision. I will say Swiss watch precision. But in never failing to introduce new efficiencies and innovations. Where is Elaine Baron? Where is she?

[Applause.]

She is right here? Please stand up. Stand up. Thank you, Idrissa, Richard and Elaine. ITU will always be open for you. Please come back and see us any time.

In closing, let me turn to our Chairman, Mohamed Al‑Ghanim. Mohamed Nassar Al‑Ghanim.

[Applause.]

Mohamed, your work, you had a vital role in the work of this Conference. You believed in it. You were engaged, all your efforts, your company, and your country. You have managed to keep calm and nerves through all the long days and nights we have spent together. You have always had a kind word for anyone.

Mohamad has recognized that WCIT is a beginning of an important new dialogue, a new dialogue that will bring fresh conversations into the converged world we live in.

I hope, Mohamad you are satisfied with the product we have here. Indeed, it was good.

You made many new friends here, and many of the delegates have had a word of thanks toward you and to the United Arab Emirates and to TRA. I believe that what you have done will go a long way for the next 10 to 15 years. The WCIT, the Dubai WCIT, will be in long time in the minds of every citizen, every telecommunications citizen on this planet. And I would like to thank you.

We here in the ITU have been united for nearly 150 years in this Union, and this Conference I know will not divide us, Ladies and Gentlemen. This is a start. Nothing has ended here. Indeed, WCIT is the beginning of something new.

Chairman, for your exceptional contributions and for sharing our journey, I would like to present to you a certificate and with an ITU Gold Medal. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

I should not say this because I'm emotional about this. Because while we are doing here, Mohamad's mother is very sick and he was working, he was working hard here. But concentrating on all of this, for someone like me who lost his mother a day before I took office in ITU, I know what this means. And I would like to thank you. You had your mother's prayers with us here in this Conference, and I thank you very much.

[Applause.]

>> Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would now like to invite Mr. Mohamed Al‑Ghanim to make his closing remarks. Mr. Al‑Ghanim?

[Applause.]

>> MOHAMED AL GHANIM: In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate, Your Excellency, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary‑General of the ITU; Mr. Houlin Zhao, Deputy Secretary‑General; Mr. Malcolm Johnson, ITU‑T Director; Mr. Francois Rancy, ITU‑R Director; Your Excellency Brahima Sanou, ITU‑T Director; your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Heads and Members to the World Conference of International Communications 2012.

The UAE, over the past two weeks had the honour to host and to organise WCIT 2012. We have always aspired to host this Conference on UAE soil to discuss and develop international telecommunications relations which have not been discussed since the 1988 Melbourne Conference. How in the UAE we have developed a habit of working hard with our ambitions and turn our dreams into tangible reality.

Our thanks, our profound thanks go to the ITU and all those in charge headed by the Secretary‑General for extending us the support that we needed to host this event. I thank you once again for giving us this great honour.

I would like also extend my thanks also to His Excellency, Secretary‑General of the UN Ban Ki‑moon for his opening remarks to the conference where he made the reference to the significant importance of this Conference and the topics to be discussed there and how the world looked up to the outcomes of this Conference.

I would like to thank ICANN, and I hope that they can hear us from a distance, for accepting to join us in this Conference.

I'd like to thank Dr. Fadi Chehade, the CEO of ICANN, for his eloquent words where he expressed the readiness of ICANN to support and cooperate with the ITU and the rest of the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen, two weeks ago, you gave me the honour to Chair this Conference. This was a great honour, but would also involve a great responsibility. The task was not simple. Issues were contentious. And views were diametrically opposed. However, thanks to God's help and your support, your contribution, your flexibility in accepting each other's views to make this Conference a success led to outcomes that would have been acceptable to all and met the common interests of all.

Thank you for this confidence. Thank you for your support. Thank you for your contributions, your flexibility, without which I would not have been able to conduct the business of this conference.

I would like to thank the government of the United Arab Emirates, my country, for the confidence it had put in me and putting my name forward to Chair this Conference. This is a great honour. I take great pride in it. And I hope that I've been able to do my job the way they expected me to.

My statement would not be complete without making special reference to the Board of Directors of the Telecom Regulatory Authority in the UAE for their constant support and in putting on the spot at my disposal staff, including Mr. Tariq Alawadhi to help me with conducting the business of this conference.

Special mention must be made of the role played by the team put at my disposal to help in running the day‑to‑day work of the conference. And, again, I thank them once again for their role. You have done the UAE proud.

I would like to highly praise the support I got from His Excellency Secretary‑General, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, throughout the conference. His continued presence, his wise counsel, and his positive contribution to discussion had an important impact on making my life easy in running this Conference. I would like to praise the role played by His Excellency to develop and bolster the role of the ITU at the international level. I would like to praise his role in leading the ITU. And this morning I thanked all his team who helped in making this Conference a success.

I cannot overlook the important role played by Mr. Houlin Zhao, the Director‑General, and the Directors of all the Bureaus in helping develop the work of the Union to serve the Member States. I would like to thank them for their support and their views, which helped me run the work of the Conference smoothly.

I would like to thank Doreen Bogdan, which was the Secretary of this Conference and did her job with great competence. She deserves a round of applause.

[Applause.]

I would like to thank the whole team of the Secretariat. Some of them worked relentlessly nonstop. I'd like to thank the translation team. I would like to thank Mr. Richard Hill personally.

[Applause.]

And Monsieur Arnold, Miss Elaine, and the full group there whose names I don't remember in full.

I would like also to praise the efforts made by the ITU to prepare for this Conference and the extensive efforts made to hold regional meetings, to review and bring positions together on how to develop the ITRs.

Therefore, on your behalf, to thank the ITU, the administrative and technical departments, whom we have known very well for their efficiency, for their capability in organising such conferences under the umbrella of the Union.

I cannot overlook the President, Vice President of the working party, which was set up to look into the preparation for this Conference, and the results of the work of this team paved the way for the success of this Conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have to admit to you that the past two weeks were two of the most important of my life, probably the most difficult. The decisions that I had to take with you, with your cooperation, did not involve me or concern me personally or you personally. It had an impact on the international community as a whole.

We, as participants in this Conference, we were required to defend the rights of a lot of communities that were not able to be with us. We had to adopt bases, regulations to govern one of the most important services in our contemporary times. The task was not easy. The issues were contentious and diverse.

However, deep down, I was confident that the fact that this conference is attended by the best people in the world in this area bolstered that confidence. We all have the same hope. We have the same dreams of a better future for us and for our children.

Discussions were long and difficult; however, they were interesting because it was taking place between experts like yourselves. And the flexibility that you have shown and acceptance of other views led to a resolution of many things, resolutions that were agreed by all of us.

Your determination and your unanimity to make reference to Human Rights was magnificent. And this reflects the right of ‑‑ or the intense care by all of you on the importance of this principle.

Your attention to the rights of disabled persons is important. And that is important in the work of this ITU. And this could not have happened without your support.

The special measures taken to help the developing countries, landlocked countries, small islands to have access to international networks of fiber optics well enabled these countries to help their development and to build information societies that belong to them.

This Conference has realized a lot. And I would like to share with you, Ladies and Gentlemen, that the achievements, your achievements will go down in the annals of history because you have achieved important things in such short time and difficult conditions. The negotiations were very difficult, lasting into the small hours of the morning. But through your cooperation, your understanding, we were able to reach a compromise.

The treaty does not make reference to the Internet and has excluded content. And I believe this will go down in history for many years to come.

To the 89 countries which signed this treaty today, I would like to say thank you. And I hope ‑‑

[Applause.]

And I hope that the 55 who are yet to sign to reconsider their position. Countries who have to go back to their capital to decide, I urge them to join the rest of the international community to ensure that what we have reached is a reflection of our agreements.

I thank you all for your contributions, your constructive criticism which I listened to attentively and I benefited a lot from your views, from your flexibility and your acceptance of other views. I thank you for the feeling that you gave me that you are willing to reach a compromise to serve the interests of us all.

I would like to thank the Vice Presidents of the Conference who spared no effort to give me their counsel, to give me their advice, to make my job much easier.

I would like to praise the efforts made by the heads of the committees, Vice Presidents, heads of Working Groups who deserve our gratitude for a wonderful piece of work which lasted into late hours of the night. And they even worked during weekends. Their efforts made my life much easier.

I would like to thank the regional groups for their cooperation, their contribution, their flexibility and the role they played in reaching compromises. This role has led to the positive results we have attained in this conference. I thank them profusely, and I thank them for being open to other views which we saw during the coordination meetings that we held with regional groups.

I cannot forget to say thank you on your behalf once again to the translators, the interpreters for their excellent work, their herculean work, which made our work easy in conference of this nature. I apologize to them for asking them to extend the working hours, but they were there to accept that with great graciousness. So I thank them profusely again.

I would like to thank on your behalf all the unknown soldiers, those who worked in corridors, those who we did not see who provided all the supporting work for this Conference; and without that support, we would not have been able to conduct our work easily.

I would like to extend a special thanks to my secretary, Madame Zara Akman, for her excellent work in order to help me put my hands into order.

[Applause.]

She helped me make sure that my occupation in the Conference did not affect my other occupations. I thank her profusely.

Allow me, Ladies and Gentlemen, to extend a special thank, a special thank to my mother.

[Applause.]

My precious mother's prayers have been of great support for me.

[Applause.]

Her prayers made my personal and professional life possible.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you all for the success of this Conference, and I would like to congratulate the UAE for the success for playing host to this WCIT 2012.

And in this regard, I would like to congratulate His Highness, the President of the UAE, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and the Vice President, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and all the Rulers of the United Arab Emirates.

[Applause.]

My thanks go to the government of the UAE and the people who succeeded in hosting three important events: World Telecom in October, the meetings of the WTSA in November, and now the World Conference on International Telecommunications 2012, the events of which are drawing to a close today with all success. All these successes would not have seen the light without the support from the leadership of the UAE. This support is bound to put the name of the UAE high in all international fora.

Before concluding, I would like to present to Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary‑General of the ITU, a Gold Medal embossed with the picture of the President of the UAE.

[Applause.]

Thank you one and all and God bless you.

[Applause.]

>> Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, as the Chairman takes his seat once again, we will now open the floor for your final remarks. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I'd like to give the floor first of all to Mexico.

>> MEXICO: Thank you very much, Secretary‑General, Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

We would like to begin by expressing our gratitude to our friend Mr. Mohamed Al‑Ghanim for his considerable patience, intelligence, sensitivity, leadership and will to bring about agreement and reconciliation.

Here in Dubai, which is an excellent example of how vision and policies can build well‑being and prosperity, we have seen how vision and will have also turned this Conference into a historic event. It's very possible that the WCIT 2012 will, over time, be recognized as the beginning of an era of global dialogue, which will speed up the process of connectivity worldwide.

Telecommunications are the nervous system of this planet. And as is the case of the nervous system in the human body, it has to be such that it connects its parts properly. We have noted with great pleasure that many of the countries which sometimes are left on the sidelines have been very interested in participating actively in improving international connectivity. Let us keep this dialogue open.

This Conference has been a very fertile place for bringing countries together. Mexico has attended many bilateral meetings over the last two weeks. We came with an open mind, and we leave with a clear picture of the forces which are developing telecommunications worldwide. Africa, Asia, Europe, Asia, North and South America have all contributed to our understanding of this event worldwide.

I think we should interpret the success of this conference in the effects which it has above and beyond the treaty which we have signed. For example, in raising awareness on the different ways in which countries operate and the differences in the regulatory agencies systems.

However, there is more. One of the major effects of this Conference is already visible. For the majority of us, this Conference has shown to us how essential it is to think about the far‑reaching consequences of this treaty on international geopolitics over the longer term.

On behalf of Mexico, we would like to express our gratitude to the United Arab Emirates and to the city of Dubai, for showing us such hospitality, for their generosity and for having filled us with inspiration. In Dubai, you can see that when ambition, vision and political will go hand‑in‑hand, then you have a tool which can bring about far reaching changes, far more far reaching than humans can attain without them. Thank you.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Bulgaria?

>> BULGARIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Like the other countries' statements made before us, Bulgaria still needs to consult with our capital, and therefore regretfully, we were not in a position to sign.

We would like to thank the ITU Secretary‑General, the Conference Chairman and all the people involved in the work dedicated to this Conference. Thank you once again.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Uganda?

>> UGANDA: I thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Secretary‑General, Distinguished Delegates.

On behalf of the government of Uganda and my delegation here, I would like to join the other delegations in thanking you for your steadfast leadership in sharing this conference to success.

Mr. Chairman, the issues discussed were indeed pertinent to us, and we believe the outcome of this Conference is a reflection of a win/win situation for all of us.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Secretary‑General of ITU and his team for a job well done in coordinating this historical conference.

Finally, I wish to express our gratitude to the government of the United Arab Emirates for hosting this Conference and availing to our disposal excellent facilities and comfortable stay in your beautiful country. Thank you.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

Poland?

>> POLAND: Dear Chairman, Dear Secretary‑General, Distinguished Delegates.

This is the last day of the Conference, conference that aimed to improve international telecommunications networks. All of us have been working hard in collaborative and open manner to reach a consensus.

As it was my first ITU event, I can openly admit that it was a fruitful lesson for me, and I can easily say that I am an ITU member right now. I acknowledge the attempts of Secretary‑General to make the whole preparatory process more transparent. This is a positive step in the right direction.

I believe, however, that some improvements still could be made and some controversies could have been avoided. Even though Poland is unable to sign the treaty today, I think we made a good progress in securing a long lasting development of international telecommunications services.

During the debate, we heard a lot of ideas and arguments about what is really important for countries around the world. We exchanged ideas that in my opinion will shape the future of Global Communications.

I would like to bring the revised text of ITRs to Poland and in an open and collaborative environment discuss its implications with the Polish public opinion. Poland was an active participant in discussions, and I can promise that it will stay this way. Poland would like to further discuss the challenges ahead of international communications technologies.

For these reasons, I would like to invite you to take part in next year's Global Symposium of Regulators that will take place in Warsaw in the beginning of July 2013. Let us all continue to have the debate that matters.

I think that some difficult problems of this Conference could be discussed at the special workshop during Warsaw meeting. Building bridges among countries is important despite hard discussions. We shouldn't be divided.

I'm not sure if the weather in Warsaw will be as good as in Dubai, but I can guarantee that the dialogue will be continued. I hope to see you all in Poland next year.

In the end, Dear Chairman, I would like to repeat my sincere expression of big impression of your excellent management of this important and difficult conference. I would like to wish good health to your mother and to your family. Thank you.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: I thank you for your words. It's really encouraging. And Poland participated very actively in this conference. Poland made a lot of work. And I really appreciate your leadership for the success of the Conference. And I am looking forward to work with you in the future. I am looking forward for Poland to join this treaty.

Algeria?

>> ALGERIA: Thank you, Chairman. Could we, first of all, say a few words about the treaty which we have adopted and approved after very, very considerable efforts having been put into it throughout this Conference.

The government of the United Arab Emirates, incidentally, did a remarkable job in organising the conference, and we thank them very much for that.

Chairman, speaking frankly, let me say something similar to what other people have already said, but not for the same reasons, perhaps. We are not satisfied with the results that we have achieved because our expectations before the Conference were so much greater.

We have sat with representatives from many Member States, and we have listened, even though they didn't share our ideas necessarily, very carefully so as to try and understand their concerns and share them.

We shall continue to do that, to sit with them and talk with them so that we can, we hope, move our viewpoints closer together obviously to the wider benefit of the community which Dr. Hamadoun Touré was talking about, the international community, a majority of whose populations still does not, unfortunately, yet benefit from the full enjoyment and use of information and communications technologies.

Having said that, Chairman, and while our members are still fresh, let me say that I think that with these new regulations, we have obtained a minimum which I think can safely be described as acceptable and as reflecting a certain amount of convergence.

Our country has signed the final acts. Thank you, Chairman.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: The Republic of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan?

>> AZERBAIJAN: Chairman, Secretary‑General, distinguished participants in the conference. After our work here at this conference, we would like to take the opportunity to congratulate you on behalf of the RCC countries and indeed on behalf of the Assyria delegation and express the hope that our new ITRs will provide to us new opportunities to expand cooperation between Member States and that they will also play an important role in further improving international telecommunications services.

As you know, the results of the rapid development of international communications have provided new services, and that worldwide has had a great deal of impact.

In special agreements that will be signed between the Member States within the framework of this regulation, we think we will see an improvement in the quality of telecommunications services, strength of telecommunications networks, roaming, and other issues will be dealt with and will be dealt with in a way that will be of benefit to users.

We would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Al‑Ghanim, as Chairman of the Conference, because of his efforts, his wisdom, his skill in seeking to bring people closer together, and his wisdom, we have managed to find new ways of cooperating between Member States. In seeking compromise, the Chairman has cooperated very actively with all the regional groups and has achieved positive results by consensus on most of the issues under discussion.

On behalf of the Member States of the Regional Commonwealth of Communications, RCC, I would like to thank and congratulate ITU and the Secretary‑General, Mr. Hamadoun Touré, and the host country for having excellently organized the Conference. It provided very good conditions in which we could work.

I have just received some news on my iPad which has a direct impact on this from the UN website. The delegates of the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly on the initiative of Azerbaijan have adopted a resolution to expand access to the Internet by setting up a Transcaucasian Information Highway. Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Pakistan and Ukraine have also cosponsored the resolution. We welcome the establishment of this information highway because we believe it will contribute to the modernization and improvement of telecommunications channels between Asia and Europe.

Last but not least, may I convey my gratitude to all the other ITU delegations for their active participation in the work of the Conference and for their contributions to mutual understanding and consensus. Thank you.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

China?

>> CHINA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Just now, we have witnessed the signature of the final acts. Mr. Chairman, I would like, on behalf of the Chinese Delegation, to express our sincere gratitude to you because you have made tremendous effort for the Conference. We would also appreciate your competence, your wisdom, your patience, calm and humor.

In the meantime, with regards to the UAE as well as the regulatory authority of the hosting country, we would like to thank them for their support. Also, we would like to thank the Secretary‑General, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, and other officials as well as their teams for their hard work to achieve the success of the Conference.

Mr. Chairman, this Conference and its outcomes were not easy to obtain. On the substantial consultations, the outcome documents is a balanced document. Rising over the differences is important because different countries have different development level, therefore they have different views about the issues. This is understandable as normal.

What is important is that the Conference has expressed a message which is the ITU's Member States has a common goal. This is really the important message.

This Conference is drawing to a close. However, in the future, we will have other opportunities to exchange our views and reflections about how to build the Information Society.

Mr. Chairman, China, as in the past, is ready to participate in all the activities of the ITU. We would enhance our cooperation with other members so as to improve the efficiency of the ITU and to improve the work in the ITU sector.

And we also wish good health to your mother. Thank you.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

Botswana.

>> BOTSWANA: Thank you, Chairman.

I would like to thank you, sir, for your sterling and able leadership. You steered this ship to shore. And for that I congratulate you, sir, for that ability in exercising leadership during these last two weeks.

Of course I think the Secretary‑General and the Secretariat who even provided the requisite support to make this Conference a success it is.

Admittedly, the discussions were difficult and at times tense, but that is the nature of treaty negotiations. The outcome has been a product of a compromise that we can all be proud of. For that, we thank you, the Secretariat and all the delegations.

I take comfort in the fact that the treaty has recognized the needs of landlocked countries. Coming from a landlocked country myself, and which relies on its neighbors to access the undersea international optical fiber cables, the new resolution covering the landlocked nations and the small islands developing states to access international telecommunications services is a welcome development.

The provision of right of access to international telecommunications greatly guarantees our future and the future of our children or grandchildren. But of course it will offer them a benefit to ICTs. For this, I salute ITU and the delegations.

I came to the Conference to fully participate in the discussions of the Conference because I was extremely concerned about media reports that indicated that this Conference, WCIT‑12, was negatively going to affect the freedom of speech and Internet growth. As a country that adheres to Declaration of Human Rights, and thus strives to maintain the Millennium Development Goals as outlined in the different UN Declarations, the importance of insuring access to Internet for our citizens cannot be overemphasized. Anything less, Mr. Chairman, would have been an exercise in futility.

The Internet will allow us to roll out our e‑gov services and various other initiatives. I therefore, for the past two weeks, followed our discussions with great interest and I attended a number of evening meetings. And this has, Mr. Chairman, dispelled the fear that we were going to impede growth and innovation that comes with Internet.

Contrary to media speculations, I have been pleasantly surprised that the Conference has not sought to become an impediment to the growth of Internet and associated services.

Mr. Chairman, our diversity is our greatest strength. It is our worth. It is our richness and our common greatness. I'm indebted to the colleagues who have openly and generally expressed their contrary views. This has been an educating, broadening and an enriching experience for me.

Mr. Chairman, we are because you are; since you are, that's what we are.

Let me conclude my remarks by thanking the UAE government for their excellent hospitality. We are indebted to your kindness and your generosity. May God bless this great nation and may God's favor and grace touch your mother for a quick recovery. I thank you.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Botswana.

South Africa?

>> SOUTH AFRICA: Thank You, Chairperson. We hope to be thanking you now also for the last time and we will miss the time that we had with you in engaging.

Chairperson, we would like to thank you for, on behalf of the South African delegation and the African group in particular, for the skill and determination and interpreting with which you have chaired this Conference. With you it was an extremely difficult indeed, but even late at night or early in the morning, you remained positive and gave us all the support that we needed as delegates. You are a strong chairperson, and we are proud of you as an Arab brother.

We are honored to support you as a Vice Chair of the Conference. We are all indeed praying for the speedy recovery of your mother and the beloved mother we thank her so much for having brought you to us here.

Of course I must thank our dear Secretary‑General and his highly professional team for their excellent work in managing this Conference and in advising us and encouraging us to try and find a solution we can reach an agreement on.

Africa is proud of you and the ITU team. We are proud of you as you manage to hold ‑‑ during the tenure and as an SG and we will also miss you and your colleague, Malcolm Johnson, when your term ends.

We must also thank you, Chairperson, to you also the Chairperson, the Arab Emirates for hosting the World Telecommunication Conference in addressing the ITR for the first time after 24 years since 1988. We have greatly enjoyed staying in the wonderful city and the modern city of Dubai.

I must thank all the delegates and those delegates who did their best to reach agreement. As the Chair of Africa group, we greatly enjoyed in particular working with such a dynamic and inspiring group of people, especially leaders of regional groups.

And the positive spirit that was demonstrated by the Arab group, even though these negotiations were very difficult and quite exhausting, but they were very inspirational for all of us indeed.

Reflecting on our previous comments by the Distinguished Delegates, we personally enjoyed the extensive dynamics and discussions among many developing countries, many of which are newly emerging economy powers.

We also want to acknowledge the ITU staff and the host country for making this Conference such a huge success, including officials, administrative staff, interpreters, translators, photographers, audio and video crew, security and staff and the cleaning staff. We benefited from all these wonderful team of Dubai.

Chairperson, we must also note that this Conference took place in a highly charged environment with extensive media and publicity. We now find a number of countries being told not to sign, to be influenced not to sign. To those who have been pressured not to sign, we greatly sympathize. We hope next time they will learn to sign independent.

We must also note that the delegates ‑‑

[Applause.]

We must also note that some delegates have received threatening communications and have had their details made public and have been labeled enemies of the Internet. This situation is very unfortunate. I don't think this is the kind of environment that is conducive to our international relations and mutual respect, Chairperson.

South Africa will be signing the agreement, proudly so. And nobody got everything that they wanted. This is because it is a negotiated document and agreement. But I would like to urge every one of us and all of us to continue working together as countries in, consultation.with.all.the.stakeholders, to make greater efforts to understand each other.

In particular, it is important to continue to address the challenges facing developing countries in the telecommunications sector and ICT sectors. If we do this, we will ensure that ICTs will be a force for social economic development. We committed ourselves to the outcome of the WCIT Summit on information Society and the Millennium Development Goals. We cannot leave 4.5 billion people unconnected, excluded from the benefits of the Internet.

Chairperson, we thank you and thank all of the delegates, all the observers who are here today. We thank you as you travel safe to our respective countries. Thank You, Chairperson, as you remain in the country of Dubai.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And let me tell you that South Africa and Africa was one of the success pillars to this Conference.

[Applause.]

Tunisia.

>> TUNESIA: Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman, Tunisia is taking the floor quite possibly for the last time at this Conference. We wanted to say that the treaty to which we have all contributed and which we have come up with after long weeks of discussion, very intensive discussion, is no doubt different from the treaty which some of us wanted and expected to have when we left Dubai.

This treaty, as just adopted, and despite the differences in viewpoints between our countries in relation to its provisions, is a good basis for dialogue. That dialogue should help us to reduce our differences and ensure that the document becomes one acceptable to everyone.

In adopting the resolution on the periodic revision of the treaty, we have an opportunity to continue with the debate which we have started on in this magnificent city of Dubai.

We hope that those who abstained from signing the new regulations, for whatever reason, will change their mind later or perhaps have a rethinking in order to continue debate and dialogue in an open‑minded, transparent and nondiscriminatory fashion.

Tunisia will be happy to continue to work with everyone and to contribute to future efforts to be made to continue that dialogue on the basis of these principles so as to achieve a document which is acceptable to everybody.

Secretary‑General, at the signing ceremony, we were able to hold our heads high and feel proud. We may be returning home without everything we wanted to take with us, but we still return home in hope that the world will be better interconnected with this treaty, and that is what history will remember. That is why we came here to Dubai, to ensure connections and connectivity to everyone so that they can use telecommunications to express themselves freely.

I would be remiss if I did not thank and congratulate the Chairman of the Conference while expressing my best wishes for his mother's recovery.

I would also like to thank the UAE for its excellent organisation. I hope that we will come back to the negotiation table to discuss these issues again soon.

May I wish everyone a safe trip home. And my very best wishes for Christmas and for 2013, the new year. Thank you.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Tunisia.

Brazil?

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Chairman.

I would like the Secretariat to include this statement in the records of the meeting. On behalf of the Brazilian delegation, I would like to express our most sincere thanks to the United Arab Emirates for having agreed to host this very important ITU event which is important for the organisation and for the international global telecommunications industry.

Brazil prepared well for this conference. We held more than 30 meetings with wider society, and the draft regulations were submitted for public consultation. The proposals from Brazil and the procedure to prepare them was open, democratic and evaluated and assessed by many parties. As a result, we had wide participation by many different individuals, groups and bodies.

The delegation of Brazil here is an obvious testament to our democracy and the principles of Human Rights and mutual respect between nations which we have the greatest attachment to.

The Internet in Brazil is no different than it is from anywhere else. It includes the viewpoints of academia, business, government and ordinary citizens. In all international fora, we defend the current model of governance of the Internet being improved so that it can really be based on the principles of multisectoralism, multilateralism, democracy and full transparency.

In this connection, Chairman, this delegation would like to reiterate its firm commitment to the ITU and its Member States and to discussing further with them after this Conference.

We do not believe that this treaty is a threat to anyone. On the contrary, we all emerge from here strengthened by it. Given the volume and diversity of the proposals we had, Brazil tried to find a read‑through that would take into account everyone's opinion and help us to reach consensus.

In order to reach consensus between all the Member States, we did not include differences about content or Internet Governance in the treaty.

The resolution that was approved is not part of the treaty; if it were, Chairman, then it would not be in conflict with the mandate that was given to this organisation by the World Summit on the Information Society, in which all of us participated.

The same principle is applied to Articles 5A and 5B. The work of the Conference was guided by full respect for the mandate of ITU and the scope of the regulations, which is to develop telecommunications infrastructure.

Furthermore, we have not moved away from our commitment to Human Rights, inalienable as they are. And the right to have access to telecommunications services, these are fundamental principles for all of us, as are Human Rights. And the right to access and Human Rights are in the preamble to the treaty.

The issue of roaming is very important for final users. And we all had a common shared feeling when we dealt with that issue.

As to traffic exchange points, provisions on which were approved at this Conference, we believe there will be less centralization and also it will help us to improve quality, expand coverage, and reduce costs.

The progress made in respect of telecommunications infrastructure through this treaty will lead to clear benefits for users. That is what we can otherwise describe as digital inclusion.

Chairman, I would like, with your permission, to now say a few words in the language of your ancestors, and I do excuse myself for any errors.

Chairman, the Brazilian delegation would like to offer its thanks to you for the efforts which you have been putting in throughout this Conference. We believe that the fact that some countries have been unable to sign this treaty is not a discouraging sign. We must continue to work in order to get total support for the ITRs. Thank you, sir.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: I must say that was very impressive. You read that really good. It's not really easy to learn Arabic. But I think you have read it very well. Thank you. Thank you, Brazil. And thanks for all the work.

[Applause.]

Sudan, you have the floor.

>> SUDAN: In the name of God, the Merciful and Compassionate, the delegation of Sudan would like to thank you, Chairman, on your excellent leadership of the work of our Conference and all the efforts you have made to achieve a balanced outcome.

Chairman, Sudan was part of the African group in this Conference. And we are proud of the efforts of this group. Our group submitted many proposals and put forward new ideas which enriched our work, Chairman.

No one can deny the contribution of the United States to the world through the Internet. The Internet has given us great progress. It has turned the world into a single‑family, a family without discrimination and dissension, a family within which everyone has access to knowledge, a family in which everyone works together and is united in total harmony. And this was represented by the Millennium Development Goals.

Chairman, Sudan continues to suffer various types of embargo, therefore it is normal that we hold to our claims and complaints. The Resolution on Access to International Telecommunications is in keeping with the needs of Sudan.

We'd like to thank the UAE and congratulate them on the success of this historical conference.

>> CHAIR: Iran, please.

>> IRAN: Thank you, Chairman. (uninterpreted).

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Secretary‑General, distinguished elected officials of ITU, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of Asia Pacific telecommunity and on behalf of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and on my own behalf, Mr. Chairman, I wish, first of all, to thank the government and the people of the United Arab Emirates for the excellent organisation and remarkable arrangement for this Conference.

Mr. Chairman, United Arab Emirate, in the last 12 months, provided three Chairmans to three major conferences. Mr. Alawadhi, my dear brother, was Chaired the WRC 2012 successfully. Mr. Mohammed Gheyath chaired the WTSA, and my dear brother Mohamed Al‑Ghanim Chairing this conference, very important conference.

Mr. Chairman, I sincerely congratulate you for your wisdom, and your firmness.

Your guidance and your patience and your hidden smile which always we have been benefiting of that, Chairman.

Chairman, I'm convinced that the decision adopted by this conference now ending would assist in the leading role in the development of the ICT.

Mr. Chairman, the conference has taken wide and responsible decisions. Over the next years, the industry will transform even further and faster. Competition will grow. And the decisions of the conference will lead to further development of the ICT.

Chairman, if there is any difference between us, we are member of one family, and that is ITU. We always be together. If in a family temporarily there is a small differences, one brother distant from the other brother, that doesn't mean they are distant from each other forever. They will come back and they join to the others and they put hand‑in‑hand to foster and move the ITU forward as an international leading organizations in the ICT worlds.

Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to the Secretary‑General and the elected officials of the ITU, and in particular Mr. Malcolm Johnson, who has paid a lot of attention and tireless work during the last six years leading this up to now and all his colleagues, the colleagues of Secretary‑Generals under his leaderships who have worked devotedly, tirelessly for months and months and months in order that we have this conference with success.

Mr. Chairman, I also wish to thank all Distinguished Delegates and participants for their cooperation and the spirit of collaboration and understanding. And we urge them kindly to properly reflect on their accomplishment of the ITU and this conference. And reflect on the matter and join us in order the number of 89 becomes 144.

Mr. Chairman, I wish once again to thank the staff of the ITU and all those who worked during the past 10 years with all devotions, very diligently and with all wisdoms. ITU had influenced the course of history with the outstanding accomplishment of its task.

My thanks goes to the local staff of the conference from the United Arab Emirates who have worked day and night, beyond call of duty to assist delegates in Amos mow most admirable and efficient manner.

Last but not least I would like to thank the interpreters without whom we would not be able to communicate with each other and understand each other. And Mr. Chairman, we all pray for your mother to be recovered as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Iran.

>> In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate, my friend, brother and colleague, Director‑General, and the United Arab Emirates, the Chairman of WCIT 2012, my brother, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary‑General of the ITU, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, members of the participating delegations. God bless you all.

The delegation of Saudi Arabia can only take this historic moment to extend its gratitude and thanks to the government of the United Arab Emirates for the excellent hospitality and for providing all facilities to ensure that this conference is convened here. This organisation and preparation has overcome all challenges and enabled participants to conduct their business with ease, with fluidity throughout the days of this conference.

I would like to seize this opportunity also to extend my sincere thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, for the tireless efforts that you have made. Your patience, your indulgence to ensure that this conference is a success. You have led our efforts to the outcomes that we have reached in the end.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Secretary‑General of the ITU, my brother, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, who, as usual, redoubled his efforts, through his wisdom, through his counsel, in trying to help each and every one of us to overcome the difficulties that we had to deal with in this conference. The outcome of his efforts and his support led to several compromises, consensus on several issues where Member States had varied views. And that's why we are were able to achieve what we have achieved.

Now we have revised ITRs that had been approved by this conference. The delegation of Saudi Arabia, feeling a sense of duty and responsibility, took part, along with other delegations, in every possible meeting in order to deal with difficulties, to deal with contentious issues in order to achieve consensus, to achieve compromise with the help of other delegations from various regions.

We worked individually to achieve that consensus. We were able to make several concessions on several issues. These concessions were important because we felt that dealing with these issues can only serve our interests when it comes to international telecommunications. And also we had to bear in mind that our contribution must lead to the success of this conference. And this context, Chairman, I can only express my thanks, to you, the head of the Arab group, who, since the inception of the idea of holding this conference here and until the last moment before the conference was launched, he did as he normally does to ensure that all the work, all the views amongst Member States within the Arab group or within the Arab group, in coordination with other region groups, to ensure that the views are brought closer, differences are in doubt.

And, Mr. Chairman, we all have felt the improvements in leaps and bounds in the telecommunications sector since they were last discussed in 1988. Until this moment, we have seen the merger between telecommunications and the media, the quality of providing such services in relation to information technology and communication. We saw a rapid expansion in all parts of the world. The quality has improved. Cost has come down. And at present, no individual can claim that telecommunications is not connected to the Internet and that Internet has nothing to do with telecommunications. Without telecommunications, wire and wireless, grand services we cannot overlook the importance of the Internet. The quality of the Internet, the cost of Internet and its dissemination has a direct impact on the quality and cost of telecommunications. Despite the clarity of this interconnection, we continue to hear every now and then views that try to mislead us into believing that Internet has nothing to do with telecommunications. And in this regard, I would like to point out that the ITU does not want to control the Internet, as was depicted by some hidden agendas by some media circles. The ITU aims at developing technical capability that would enable to ensure that information is disseminated worldwide and that the could say is the brought down to the minimum. In this regard, I feel compelled to outline that with the improvements in the Internet that they are seeing, there are other issues that need to be improved further. And the international community raised all these issues in the WSIS. And that's why, Chairman, what we have achieved in this conference, at the new revised ITRs, although not what we had aspired to in full, will be a source of inspiration and pride for you and for the UAE and for us as participants in this conference.

These new regulations contain provisions that would guarantee states and individuals alike the freedom to have access to all international communications. These new regulations make it crystal clear that the ITU has an important role to play in this issue. During this conference, we heard several interventions, interventions that express reservations on these new regulations, regulations that were adopted in this conference. These interventions claim that certain provisions will make the ITU become the controller and the big brother of these regulations.

But we all know that these new regulations that were adopted, regulations that we have before us, did not deal with Internet Governance, although the situation is not satisfactory when concerns Internet Governance. There are no international policies, agreed international policies, that would ensure there is no unilateral control over the Internet. How do we expect Member States to spend billions and billions of dollars to upgrade that infrastructure to deal with the electronic transactions without knowing that this investment can grind to a halt by one party or several parties? There are no guarantees that there is a common use of this Internet network.

How do we expect Member States to invest billions and billions of dollars in building their networks and change their transactions into electronic operations and then find themselves overnight unable to use these networks without international regulation to protect these investments and networks?

Mr. Chairman, this conference has unveiled those who are for and who are against. Last night, live web streaming of the proceedings of this conference showed who is on the side of individuals to enable them to have access to the Internet and all its potential. What happened yesterday will bear witness to how the situation was dealt with and will refute all media claims before the beginning of this conference about what was going to happen. The media was misleading public opinion about what is happening. It is regrettable that the provision that deals with the rights much nations to have access to international telecommunications as part of the ITRs and only the vote that was called for by developing countries led to the result that we wanted.

[Applause.]

We are confident that this difference and views will not stand in the way of a continued cooperation between the Member States, those who signed and those who did not.

Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that the adoption much these new regulations in the UAE Member State of the gulf council, is a source of pride for all of us. These regulations have come up with several provisions, the impact of which will be felt across the world and for generations to come.

These regulations go hand‑in‑hand with the developments that we have seen in this sector. And these regulations guarantee the right of everybody to have access to information technology and information.

The Chairman interrupts the speaker. These new regulations, the new concepts, the new principles that the operators should be guided by, these services were provided by governments in the past initially. These regulations have brought more transparency through more information, more services to those who use roaming and knowledge about what prices are being paid for international roaming, quality of service, the improvement of connectivity, encouraging competitiveness, interchangeability. This will have a positive impact on all consumers worldwide.

There are several provisions where ‑‑ and I don't have the time to deal with them. Energy efficiency. The use of broadband. Access to those with disabilities. This is one of the most beautiful provisions that we have added to these regulations. In order to make these provisions stay abreast of the technology, then there was a call for a periodical, or a periodic review of these regulations. And that's what we are looking for. We are looking for regulations that will provide services to future generations, future generations that will be able to use and have access to, without discrimination, all telecommunication services and information technology.

The Chairman interrupts the speaker.

>> CHAIR: Can you wrap up your intervention, please, thank you. You can continue, but please be brief.

>> Saudi Arabia. In conclusion, Chairman, I thank you all and I thank you personally. I thank this the Secretariat of the ITU for your tireless efforts to ensure that this conference is a success. I cannot forget the interpreters who helped us to communicate, to speak to each other, the press corps who enabled us to ensure that there is transparency in this conference. Praise be to God that the Internet will not stop after the end of this conference. God bless you all. Thank you.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you. We have 30 minutes to close the meeting. I have a long list of speakers. So if you don't mind, on my apologies, if you can limit your speech to 2 minutes, as much as you KI will give now the floor to Korea, the Republic of Korea. You have the floor, sir.

>> KOREA: Thank you, I would like to express appreciation made by previous Distinguished Delegates. First I would like to express our sincere gratitude to you, Mr. Chairman, for having conducted this world conference so capably and wisely. I also extend our sincere appreciation to the Secretary‑General, other elected officials and all ITU Secretariats for their efforts.

Our appreciation also goes to the government of UAE for tremendous efforts to host the conference in such excellent manner and their hospitality.

During the last two weeks, we have had heated discussions on very important issues. Our delegation would like to express sincere gratitude and satisfaction of the outcomes to some extent except Internet issues. The Republic of Korea strongly believes that the discussions regarding the Internet should be open to all of the international community. As the Internet is open to all nations and all individuals.

We believe the Internet issues can be and shall be discussed anywhere. The international community can gather. Not only at ITU but also at OECD, cyberspace conference, and ICANN.

It is more appropriate for us, international community, to have open attitude to Internet which provides mankind with a whole New World in the cyberspace. I wish on reserved issues such as cyber‑security, Internet‑related issues need to be properly addressed at the relevant fora such as 2013 cyberspace conference of the United Nations or 2014 plenipotentiary conference of ITU, which will be held in Korea.

And I believe the delegates will bring your wisdom to cyberspace conference as well as plenipotentiary 14. I wish all of you have a safe trip home and meet again in Korea sooner or later. Thank you.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I give the floor now to Russian Federation.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Distinguished Chairman. Distinguished Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Your Excellencies and dear colleagues. We have completed a very long marathon to examine and adopt a new international treaty which corresponds to the realities of today. It is a very complicated situation which we had before the beginning and during the conference. Delegations were under close scrutiny from the media and the press.

There was a further difficulty because certain countries took certain resolutions and directives which before the beginning of the conference already prejudged the results of the forthcoming discussions by Member States. And here a question arose: How should the process of the regulation of telecommunications and ICTs develop at international level? Or should the whole world follow the directives and resolutions of individual countries? Or should they develop general rules and approaches on the platforms of the United Nations and its specialized agencies?

In essence, here in Dubai, the issue was being discussed about the very future of the ITU. And this issue was being resolved under the leadership of our Chairman, Mr. Mohamed Al Ghanim and with the close participation of our dear Secretary‑General Dr. Hamadoun Touré the conference decided that Member States wished themselves to develop an international treaty on regulating the use of international telecommunications and networks within the framework of the ITU and not live according to the rules of individual countries. This is the main outcome of WCIT. We have saved our Union. And in this efforts and in this feat, our Chairman, Mohamed Al Ghanim, and the Secretary‑General, Hamadoun Touré, have a great role which they have played and we demonstrated the lead role of the Union and of telecommunications.

I should like to say a great thank you to all Member States for this, our common victory. We are right to be proud of this conference and its results. And the host country is right to be proud. And we thank our serene and wise Chairman, Mohamed Al Ghanim. Your patience, tact, goodness and professional qualities have enabled the conference to succeed.

I thank you everyone who worked to have such a high quality conference. We'd like to thank our colleagues from other delegations for their productive cooperation. The Russian Federation affirms its commitment to the high goals and objectives of the ITU. And we will do all we can to strengthen our union. Thank you, Chairman. And thank you to all.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I give the floor now to Canada.

>> CANADA: Yes, thank you, Chairman. Chairman, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank very much the UAE for hosting this important conference along with, of course, the assembly and the global symposium for standardization.

We'd also like to thank the UAE for hosting ITU Telecom world, which I had an opportunity to attend, as well. Chairman, the kindness of the Emirate people were very much appreciated and the services of this conference were very helpful in facilitating our discussions during the past four weeks.

We would also like to thank you personally, Chairman, for your superb ability to lead this conference. Your management skills and of course you were able to complete the work on time and under budget.

Chairman, we would also extend our thanks to the ITU staff and the elected officials and all those who supported the work of the ‑‑ both the assembly and the conference. I would especially like to thank the translators and interpreters, whose excellent work, as always, enabled us to understand each other.

Chairman, as a final word, we would like to wish you and your colleagues the very best and wish our fellow delegates a safe journey back to their countries.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: I give the floor now to the United States.

>> UNITED STATES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman on behalf of the United States, I'd like to begin by expressing our sincere thanks to you for the ability and the patience with which you have conducted this conference, particularly in the context of difficult personal situation.

Also like to thank the Secretary‑General, the elected officials, the Secretariat and the ITU itself for the essential work that it does in facilitating the kind of cooperation necessary for communication and for its excellent work in terms of assisting in the development of the ICT space.

I'd like to thank the United Arab Emirates and Dubai for their excellent hospitality and for the very fine facilities which have helped in the context of this important conference.

And I'd like to thank all delegates for their participation and the courtesies that they've shown us in the course of the conference.

We've been able to have a useful, candid and instructive discussions on a variety of very important issues. Those discussions, among other things, have shown differences in perspective on important and even fundamental matters. But they've occurred among friends, both in a literal sense as well as a figurative sense.

And so the context in which these discussions have occurred and will continue to occur is a context of the great importance and promise of our sector.

We look forward to continuing those discussions in the many fora that address this important sector. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you for these words. I give the floor now to Bahrain.

>> Bahrain: Mr. Chairman, I would love to say many, many words to express for this conference, but taking your guidance and advice will make to shorten the speech, I'd like to make as short as possible within the prescribed time.

To begin, I'd like to express the Kingdom of Bahrain's deepest appreciation for your extraordinary efforts and seeking solutions that would address the concerns of all parties. You have led us through the last two weeks with the skill and dedication. And we applaud your efforts.

I would like to thank the Secretary‑General, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, for his enceasing support and encouragement to secret a consensus solution.

I would also like to thank the Deputy Secretary‑General, the directors of the three bureaus, the staff of the Secretariat and the interpreters for their tireless work in supporting and enabling the work of the conference over the last two weeks.

To the government of the UAE, I extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation for hosting this historic event and for the generosity and hospitality and making us welcome during our period of work at the conference.

While it is disappointing that some Member States have expressed reservations about signing the ITRs, I believe that this conference should still be considered an important and successful milestone. It has shown us two very important things: Firstly, it has helped clarify the difference, concerns of various Member States. This is not a negative thing, as only through understanding our differences can we hope to begin to address them. Secondly, this conference has shown us that through continued ‑‑ and cooperation, we can resolve those differences. Yes, I state that this part the reservations expressed by some Member States, I state this based upon the work carried out during the work of this conference and the efforts I have seen from all delegations.

And in closing, I'd like to thank and congratulate everyone who participated in this historic conference and reaffirm the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to an open and an inclusive telecommunications environment. It is our sincere hope that through the efforts of all Member States and international organisation, such an environment becomes a global phenomena. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

>> Thank you, Chairman.

First of all we'd like to express our personal appreciation to you, Chairman, for the tireless efforts you have been making in order to bring the conference to a successful conclusion and that despite all the difficulties and complications. We should also like to thank Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary‑General of the ITU and the ITU staff. We're very grateful to all of them for their hard work.

I cannot forget to mention the efforts made by the UAE. And I would like to thank that country's government for providing the facilities to this conference. May God bring you success, Chairman. Thank you.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: We have almost 10 asking for the floor and we have 15 minutes. So if you can limit the speech to around 1‑1/2 minutes or 1 minute will be great in order to meet the deadline. Senegal.

>> SENEGAL: Chairman, thank you. Senegal would like to thank the host country, the United Arab Emirates for their hospitality and for the facilities they have provided to the conference. The Senegalese delegation would like to offer its congratulations to you for the wisdom and efficiency with which you chaired our work. We hope that the lord will provide good health to your mother.

I must also mention the Secretary‑General of the ITU, who has spared no effort to ensure that this conference take place in an atmosphere of conciliation and cooperation.

I'd also like to thank the bureau directors, the ITU staff and all the delegations who have participated. For Senegal, the adoption of the new ITRs opens up new prospects for this sector. We will continue to hope that countries which at the moment have difficult any joining the consensus will be able to find a way of acceding to the treaty and making their contribution to the development of an ambience conducive to the further development of telecommunications. Thank you.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Senegal. Nepal?

>> NEPAL: Mr. Chairman, we also join our Distinguished Delegates in expressing our sincere appreciation for all the efforts you and the Secretary‑General, Secretariat and other officials made tirelessly in a spirit of cooperation and coordination among all the delegates to reach the consensus for a win/win outcomes.

We are also thankful to the government of UAE for the hospitality extended to us. We had from the very beginning a kind of premonition that the conference could not achieve its goal. We already started with the paradigm of fear and mistrust rather than starting with paradigm of hope and trust. We never diverted on peaceful outcomes, putting one text or its proposed opportunities, for many of the delegates, the whole discussions were incomprehensionible, were highly disheartening by the fact that we could not bring the ITRs in an outcome of consensus to this conference. For an interconnected world in this Century, this outcome should not prove to be a hindrance. There are issues which cannot be addressed in isolation. An individual Member State or region cannot address issue of global nature, we require integrated approach for SIM by an assists. But share hosts and vision, the respective of the outcomes of this conference, all the Member States will work together in the true spirit of ITU and make telecommunications and ICTs accessible for all the citizens of the world. I thank you, Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

[Applause.]

Libya?

>> Libya: In the name of God the merciful and compassionate, first of all, Chairman, I would like to thank you, as Chairman of the conference, for your wisdom and for your excellent leadership of the work we have been doing. I should also like to convey my thanks to His Excellency, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, ITU Secretary‑General and his staff. They have worked extremely hard in order to ensure the successful outcome of this conference.

Chairman, I would like my statement to be included in the records of the conference. I would like to reiterate that Libya is one of the signatories to the final acts of the conference; however, government does reserve the right to take the necessary measures to protect its interests if the application of the provisions of the regulations or the appendices thereto run counter to national regulations or if the application of the regulations leads to harm of any kind being done to telecommunication services or if other countries were to cause harm to telecommunications networks in our country.

Secondly, Chairman, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that this is the first statement from Libya. That is proof that Libya is moving into a new era, one in which it can participate in international gatherings more actively, and we hope to continue with that. Internet and telecommunications were a decisive factor in the success of the revolution in Libya, and I believe that the same can be said of changes in Egypt and Tunisia.

I must, therefore, flag the importance of these services for those of us who live in developing countries. I have, of course, full respect for those countries who have not signed the treaty, but I do feel that I should ask them to reconsider because these services are vital. Please take this into account and please realise what our needs are, especially after a long period of being deprived of access to these services.

Lastly, could I convey my thanks to the UAE and to the telecoms regulatory of that country in particular for the excellent organisation of the conference and their generous hospitality. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Iraq.

>> Iraq: In the name much God the compassionate may be the peace be with the prophets and his companions.

Excellency, Chairman of the conference, Dr. Mohamed Al Ghanim, excellency, Secretary‑General of the ITU, dear brothers, Mr. Hamadoun Touré, Ladies and Gentlemen, representatives of the Member States, the administration of Iraq expresses its full appreciation to the United Arab Emirates, our fraternal country, and to the International Telecommunication Union and all its Member States for their cooperation and efforts to assure the success of this conference in the best possible conditions in order to meet the aspirations of mankind.

We are all aware of the importance of the telecommunications sector and the crucial role of the sector in all areas of life today. This sector today is an integral part of the development and growth equation. It is one of the main elements which enable development of other sectors, such as health, education, e‑government and other important sectors.

The telecommunications sector is one of the most important sectors for states because of the rapid development in that sector because of the new regulations and legislation adopted in this sector, as well.

The outcome of this conference it can be seen through various texts, provisions and recommendations to strengthen the relationship between all Member States of our organisation without any exception of this treaty covers access to telecommunications, disabled persons, access of landlocked countries to telecommunication, security, all this proves that Member States are working together to achieve better development for mankind as a whole.

Chairman, I beg God, I pray to God to heal the ‑‑ to restore the health of the mother of our friend Dr. Ghanim.

>> CHAIR: We have 10 minutes, if you can limit your intervention to one minute, please Singapore?

>> SINGAPORE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman: On behalf of the delegation and government of Singapore, I would like to congratulate you and show our deep appreciation for your patience and great leadership to bring this meeting to a successful closure.

Singapore is proud to be part of this historic treaty as it seeks to increase greater telecommunication access for all peoples of the world. We look forward to working closely with all members of the ITU family. We would also like to thank the ITU in particular Secretary‑General Dr. Hamadoun Touré and all his able staff for the hard work in making this conference a success.

Finally, I would like to thank the government of the United Arab Emirates for extending its kind hospitality and, above all, for the excellent and professional organisation of this very important conference. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Singapore.

[Applause.]

Côte d'Ivoire, if you can limit your intervention to a minute, please. Please go ahead.

>> Côte d'Ivoire: Thank you, Chairman. The delegation of Côte d'Ivoire to this WCIT in Dubai would like to echo what has been said by other delegations in expressing its gratitude to the authorities of the United Arab Emirates for having provided the excellent facilities to this conference. We are particularly grateful to the Chairman of the conference, too, for his extremely hard work which has made it possible for us to come out with revised ITRs as a result of his constant search for consensus.

The delegation of Côte d'Ivoire would also like to thank the entire ITU staff, led by the Secretary‑General, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, for the excellent and smooth organisation of this conference.

The members of my delegation and myself would like to address our sincerest thanks and our warmest gratitude to all delegations who have been very open‑minded in helping us achieve these results. We should also like to congratulate everybody on how understanding and broad minded they were, because only through that understanding and broad mindedness had we been able to build consensus.

Lastly as this conference draws to a close, we are happy to have ITRs which will help us deliver telecommunications services internationally for the benefit of individuals, nations and where they live. That's why Côte d'Ivoire signed the treaty. Once again, thank you, everybody. And have a safe trip home. Thank you.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

>> Chairman, thank you. The delegation of Uruguay would firstly like to congratulate you, sir, for how you have chaired this conference and we would like to address our thanks to the Secretary‑General for all the tireless efforts he has been making in order to build the highest possible level of consensus.

We would also like to thank the people and authorities of the United Arab Emirates for their hospitality and welcome. Uruguay came to this conference in the expectation of updating the international telecommunications regulations in such a way as to bring them into step with the current state of technology and the new telecommunications situation worldwide.

We also came with the determination to secret for and salute ‑‑ and support consensus solutions and compromises on the issues being discussed at this conference. In order to do that, we were prepared to sacrifice some of our own demands. And that is what we did on certain points which we had submitted and which were originally included in the text.

We believe that the text is submitted to yesterday's plenary session and finally adopted meets our objectives. We did say early on that together with the majority of countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, we supported the treaty.

As the Secretary‑General said very clearly in his statement, and we would like to take this opportunity to endorse it fully, the ITRs approved in the treaty do not include provisions on the Internet and content has been expressly excluded from the scope of the regulations. We are perfectly serene about that.

In its democratic of ‑‑ Uruguay firmly believes in a free and open Internet. And in saying open, I mean open to everybody.

We also believe that the multistakeholder model has shown that it is the most appropriate tool to help us develop the Internet further. In this connection, we believe that greater involvement ITU and its Member States and the various organizations involved in this model is essential because in the final analysis, states represent their people and their presence is essential. We believe that the resolution adopted by this conference on the issues are very important and reconciles the different viewpoints.

In conclusion, as I said here, we came here with certain expectations. We go away with a satisfaction of a job well done. Our country has made a commitment to continue working with other countries within ITU, and we will do that in order to achieve more and better telecommunications throughout the world since telecommunications are ‑‑ for the continuing developments of our standards and our peoples. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Nigeria?

>> NIGERIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (not interpreted).

‑‑ of telecommunications. Nigeria is proud to be part of this history and is proud to make of this. On behalf of the Nigeria delegation, Mr. Chairman, permit me to let this meeting know that Nigeria has already implemented a multistakeholder approach in the way and manner Internet is managed in the country, without any government interference.

I also want to add my voice to what the Secretary‑General of ITU has always told the outside community: That ITU and, in fact, the ITRs is not about Internet, but is all about telecommunications. It is therefore unfortunate that some others do not wish ITU and ITRs were portraying it in a bad light as trying to take over the Internet.

Mr. Chairman, Nigeria will want to let the world know that ITU have no intention of taking Internet but ITU will continue to work within its mandate.

At this point, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of Nigeria delegation, I would like to thank you for the many good qualities you have. If I am to assess you, Mr. Chairman, your patience alone is enough to earn you over 100 percent.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Thank you, Nigeria. Argentina.

>> NIGERIA: This is not to talk about many other qualities you have, in which you are able to lead this particular conference to a logical conclusion. Whereby the ITRs is a document that will leave a test of time.

Again, at this point in time, I want to thank the Secretary‑General and all the elected officials of ITU. I want to thank the interpreters, their translators that made us to be able to understand ourselves.

I want to thank the technical personnel that work behind the scenes but were able to be effective.

I want to also thank the government and people of UAE for hosting us and also making us to feel good.

Finally, I want to thank God for giving us good health to be able to participate very well in this conference and I wish your mother a very quick recovery. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I will ask the interpreters for the last time to give us some more time?

>> INTERPRETER: The last time we can give you some minutes, Chairman, you're welcome.

>> CHAIR: I have four countries asking for the floor, Argentina, Lebanon, Ghana, UAE, if you can stick to one minute. Thank you. Argentina?

>> ARGENTINA: Thank you, I would like to thank you most sincerely for your constant hard work, your commitment and your leadership, all of which has helped us to come out with this new and revised ITRs. This will be a vital interest for developing countries, one which we think will go a long way to shrinking the digital divide and improving digital inclusion and inclusion in broader society. This is totally in step with the policy of my country.

I would also like to thank Dr. Touré and Mr. Malcolm Johnson and both their teams who have been extremely efficient and extremely professional. Thank you for the excellent organisation of this event, together of course with the host country, the UAE.

To the authorities of the UAE, thank you very much for welcoming us. Thank you for your hospitality. And may I congratulate you on doing an extremely good job.

As coordinator of Citel, I would also like to express my deepest gratitude, Chairman, to you on behalf of all the CITEL  countries. With my very last word, let me say that with the signing of this treaty with the continent countries, my country will work continuously together with ITU as we move through the 21st Century, thank you.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Argentina. Lebanon.

>> LEBANON: My brother, Mohamad, I start by wishing your mother a quick recovery. My dear friend, on behalf of the delegation of Lebanon and the people of Lebanon, I would like to extend my gratitude and my thanks to the people and the government of the United Arab Emirates and to the telecom regulatory authority and to you I extend my respect and my appreciation for your efforts, for your wisdom, for your smile, for your prudence, for your indulgence and your determination to bring all views together in the hope of reaching a treaty that will bring all that is good to humanity, to mankind regardless of which part of the world they live in.

I would like to thank the Secretary‑General, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, the directors, Mr. Rancy, Mr., Mr. Johnson and the interpreters, the translators, for making every possible effort to ensure that telecommunications become part and parcel of our lives. Note.

These regulations have been signed by Lebanon and they will be put to parliament for approval. And we are sure that parliament will give the green light for their implementation because they ensure the rights of individuals to enjoy their freedom, to have access to knowledge, and this is not only important for individuals but to decision-makers worldwide.

I think it is high time that all countries in this world understand what freedom means, what the rights of individuals are. Therefore, I would like to say that here, as representatives of the Lebanese people, we're trying to ensure that the Lebanese people enjoy the best services. And we wish the same services be available to all other nations and their peoples. I would not like to delve into the details. We are proud. We are satisfied with God's will and what we have achieved.

To you and to all those who made compromises, who made concessions in order to ensure that there is international consensus in the face of attempts to, by certain groups, to take in lateral action, I would like to say thank you, thank you all. I would take this opportunity to call on all those countries, all those Member States who had hesitation about signing these regulations, to take it between the teeth and sign as quickly as possible. And we have to ensure that they cannot force people who hold 80 percent of the world's population ransom to what they have in terms of infrastructure. I think we should work together peacefully and ensure success. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Ghana?

>> GHANA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the delegation and people of guy and an, I wish to express our gratitude, to the ITU, UAE, all delegates and support staff for delivering a successful WCIT 2012. Delegates have proved tirelessly to produce the new ITRs. May we work tirelessly to have international respect to reduce poverty to empower the poor and powerless and to connect the unconnected by facilitating the propagation and use of telecommunication and ICT services.

We owe this not to ourselves but to the billions of people who are on the wrong side of the digital divide. Accordingly, let us all recommit to work continuously for the betterment of all mankind.

I thank you and look forward to continuing the international discussion and cooperation. May God bless and guide us all in these endeavors. Thank you and have a safe and pleasant journey back home.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

[Applause.]

And now UAE, you have one minute to go, UAE.

>> UAE. Thank you. Chairman, good evening Ladies and Gentlemen. As I have one minute, I will place a personal request. In light of the preparatory work, I am going to ask you for a leave for a month. That's why I need to recover from all the preparatory work.

Mr. Chairman, now that you have navigated this vessel into port, we have to admit that that was no easy feat. It was no easy task. Without your guidance, we would not have been able to achieve what we have achieved.

I'd like to mention some facts, facts that this conference must hear. On the first day of this conference, we dealt with the preamble. And we finished yesterday with a preamble on the first day we started discussion on Human Rights. And yesterday we finished by discussing Human Rights. The last time these regulations were reviewed in 1988, that was 24 years ago and the number of pages we have now is 24 pages. 24 years ago we reviewed them, now we have 24 pages.

Chairman, all delegations, all Member States contributed extensively with one objective: That objective is to ensure that this international instrument will guarantee the rights of all Member States and to ensure that everybody will have access to the highest level of technology in telecommunications and all regional groups also had one objective in mind and that is to reach an outcome that would be satisfactory to all groups.

Chairman, we have come up with a new instrument, a new treaty that would meet all the aspirations of all parties in this world. This achievement was realized despite all the difficulties that we have encountered. History will put it down that without the contribution of all Member States, all the participants through preparation, discussion, contribution, we would not have reached the outcome that we see now before us.

I would like to remind us all, Chairman, of the person who was behind this idea from the beginning, the person who worked tirelessly over the past few years at the ITU, who is no longer with us, Nabil Kisrawi, he was our mentor, our teacher. He started this process.

[Applause.]

24 years ago in 1988. His vision was clear about the importance of these regulations and the need for their change to reflect the change in the sector. I highly value the efforts made by the Secretary‑General, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, and his deputy, the directors of the bureaus whose efforts were clear for us, for all of us to see. And his contributions helped to untangle a lot of things that we thought were not going to be able to solve.

I would like to thank the Arab group, the team who worked with me, a team that worked relentlessly in preparation stage and during conference. They followed up the discussions. They made sure that they participated in the Working Groups. They gave me counsel. And I'd like to thank them profusely for that.

[Applause.]

Now, Mr. Chairman, I will speak as a delegate of the United Arab Emirates. I would like to thank the government of the UAE and the TRA, and I'd like to thank you, personally, my friend, my brother. You honored us by accepting to Chair this meeting. You have helped us to come up with outcomes that were satisfactory to all of us. And we heard people applauding you. And I would like to wish you all success, continued success, my friend.

I would like to thank all the team on the UAE delegation. The team helped in preparing for this conference logistically and the preparation of the items to be discussed. And without this coordination, we would not have been able to see a successful outcome. I would like to thank all the companies that supported the preparation of this conference, the work of the conference, the telecom UAE and the UAE Telecom Enterprise.

I would like to thank all staff members of the ITU who helped us in the preparation for this meeting and other meetings which you made reference to, like the Assembly and the World Telecom. This year has been a special year for the telecom sector in this country. 2012. So the UAE , Chair, the WRC in Geneva in January and February, and this year has been rounded off by Chairing this conference, the WCIT. This achievement is the icing on the cake that we can present to the people of the UAE, and we believe that you played a major role in that with the help of Secretary‑General Hamadoun Touré.

Last but not least, our thanks go to the other regional groups with whom we were able to coordinate in preparation for this conference and during conference. For those who have ‑‑ will have the opportunity to stay a day or two here after this conference to enjoy their stay in Dubai and for those who are leaving, I wish you a safe return to your families, and we look forward to seeing you again. God bless you.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: And now I wanted to thank everybody of you who gave great speech, kind words and I want to wish you a safe trip back. Bon voyage. I declare the World Conference on International Telecommunication closed.

[Applause.]

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