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>> MC: Please take your seat. We will now continue. I hope you have a nice lunch. So welcome to the third session. We're just dedicated to Partner2Connect roundtable. Matching countries' and regional needs with stakeholders' interests to support digital development across Europe. I am pleased to invite the session moderator Ms. Viktoria Omalielienko. Viktoria? From the

ITU office for Europe.

>> VIKTORIA: Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our third session of Partner2Connect matchmaking roundtable and I am honored to moderate today's discussion and I am even more pleased to invite all of our distinguished speakers who are here with us through the state to join me for this discussion so please take your seats. Okay. Excellent. We will start and I will make it just a quick reflection from everything that we discussed today and we all agree here in the room the partnership, the critical for development. Partnerships and cooperation altogether have been highlighted today so many times and at this specific roundtable we will focus what partnership required is to be successful. What does partnership mean and how can it lead to the initiative to support and to drive digital transformation around Europe and we will explore today concrete models, highlight success stories and opportunities that can be scaled up and can be further scaled up in Europe and encourage cooperation from other partners. We will also investigate a matchmaking exercise for the initiatives around Europe. In this we have the Partner2Connect coalition which helps with exchanging experiences for governments, for private sector to participate, to contribute and to deliver the specific results. And before we begin, I am honored to introduce our esteemed panelists each of whom brings a wealth of experience and unique perspective to our today's discussion. Let me start with Mr. David Vicente, director of Andorra Digital. Mr. Janice. Mr. Boris Radanovic. Mr. Per. And Professor thank you all begin for being with us today. I am looking forward to discussion and we are all looking forward to discussion and before we begin, I would like to invite our online speaker from ITU headquarters to join us and to take the floor. Mr. Marco Obiso, chief of the environment department in ITU.

He will set then context for our discussion and set the perspective. If you are with us online, Mr. Obiso.

>> MARCO: Yes, I am with you, Viktoria, I hope you can hear me? Thank you and good afternoon all to the distinguished delegates and colleagues. So, as you mentioned Viktoria I'm just sharing a reflection and status of the Partner2Connect coalition and maybe that will help to facilitate the conversation. So we can go to the next slide which I don't see, I see myself on the screen. I am sure the slide is somewhere.

>> VIKTORIA: Can we put the slides, please? Just a moment.

>> MARCO: Sure. So again, just to kind of reiterate or just set the ground in terms of what this is. So this is coming from of course from the strong commitment from the U.N. on the universal

connectivity and digital transformation and of course P2C was created just before the last galley.

And the galley set the tone and made international community with one of the resolutions which is resolution 88 on the Partner2Connect. This is just to give you a little bit of an understanding on the mandate that the ITU has on this being facilitated at the international level on collecting and doing this as we mentioned and Viktoria, the idea there is to engage the community at large to try to do, a little bit of kind of a matchmaking between the demand and supply and see how we can translate the plan to commitments to support countries in needs. Next slide. So just to recap a bit on what is the actual framework which articulates in the core focused areas from access to adoption to value creation and to acceleration and each of the focus data is in pillars to enable and facilitate the process but also a big focus on which areas and the stakeholders would like to commit in terms of the gain assisting beneficiaries and country needs and as you see this goes from the infrastructure to development to financing. This is the framework that was put together somewhere, again, to enable and facilitate the plan to process. Next slide. This is a bit of a status of where we are in terms of the pledging process and the community engagement at large. So pleased to report that as of today, well as of, yeah, March, let's say, 2026 we have received more than a thousand pledges for an estimated value of around 82 billion dollars and then of course we had almost all countries represented as pledge makers so 149 countries.

There is also a report in process. That is why important for us at the development bureau we would like to see that generated on the ground so the reporting process and implementation is conducive to understand how the pledge actually translates into commitment and to groundwork, into work on the field. Another area where it is important to, let's say for us at BDT to drive is to work is the matchmaking which is actually what this segment is talking about. Because we started this process since let's say a few years and the idea was to use the original development as a mechanistic to, again, lend the understanding between the stakeholders that would commit.

Would engage into help countries in need and of course the beneficiary. And the ability as the implementing arc and yet you have the development sector it of course strongly committed and how can I say, engage in this process to try to facilitate this matchmaking element. And then of course there is also everything that is ready to strengthen and accumulate. The loss of engagement in terms of gatherings to kind of promote the concept and to make sure that there is, let's say a large engagement by the different stakeholders into the process. So

next slide. Okay, so as I mentioned, even last year in preparation for the WTDC the BTS run for the six region, the Regional Development Forum you can see here on the screen the dates and the venue. That had an integrated program, let's say, matchmaking segment and we found this quite interesting as a concept but also quite impartial because we could manage to, again, facilitate dialogue between the stakeholders that were pledging, that were committed to, let's say, with the countries and the beneficiaries.

And the dialogue was to have a better understanding what are actually the concretes on the ground and also the assistance providing availability. The pledgers could drive the process, that could be accompanied to the assistance of intervention. So next slide and then I am going to provide a bit of an understanding of where we are in Europe at this stage so as you see out of the 82 billion almost a fourth is actually dedicated to Europe in terms of estimated value. As a matter of fact Europe received as of today 247 pledges from all around the world. Not just from let's say pledges in Europe but from pledgers all around the world identified Europe as a pledge identification for a value of around 22 billion dollars. We received pledges from 49 countries. When we have it narrowed down from Europe to Europe so the pledges received by European entities to Europe as pledge implementation of course the number is less and then we had received 186 numbers for a total value of 4 billion dollars now this, let's say this data is used for just to understand that P2C is not just defined to the region. But there's interest from stakeholders outside the specific region to actually assisting and to, let's say commit or support the region. So, then you will see also, let's say, focus areas, pillars and you see there's a kind of almost an equal distribution between the different pillars and the different focus areas, again, from the digital economy to the digital innovation to connectivity. So, I will say that there is quite a variegated environment that is why it is important to start mapping this, let's say pledging process into something that could become, let's say impactful on the ground. Next slide. So that is basically what the matchmaking process is about making pledge to commitments and as I mentioned we use the IDF as a mechanistic to have this kind of a gathering between the pledges and between the stakeholders that are interested in committing to ITU with the countries. And as a matter of fact, as a provider to the process for this Regional Development Forum the membership was engaged into manifest commitment to manifest expressed interest and we have received actually 60 contributions from different stakeholders in Europe to support implementation or develop workshop plans of course because we

link this to the process of the outcome of the WDC and specifically for the individual initiative.

And then, again, through this matchmaking segment here the idea would be to have, let's say these pledges, who will translate into a commitment that will translate again into supporting intervention together with BDT and together with us and we will be more than happy to facilitate also and to provide these to the mechanism on how this pledges and this commitment can be transferred into concrete intervention on the ground and with that, just the last slide and I will conclude my little sharing here. If we can go to the next slide, just to give an understanding of what is the upcoming commitment so as I said, this is the first idea that would be another five IDF for the six regions from July to September.

And we will feature, that will feature, let's say the matchmaking process. The matchmaking segment, the roundtable. So again the idea will be to replicate this model with the other region and then the last slide is about if you can go to the next slide is about a bit, the kind of upcoming, let's say community engagement, or community events so, again, there will be a segments talking about P2C, almost everything we do starting from the communication development, sorry, policy forum into the summit up to the U.N. General Assembly so as you see, these are kind of the committee to, let's say, exploit all the different platforms available to carrying on this matchmaking process and carrying on, let's say this work in a way that finally we can really see changes on the ground and in the countries. And with that, thank you very much, Viktoria, thanks to all.

>> VIKTORIA: Thank you, Mr. Obiso for the presentation, for being with us online and for highlighting all the partnerships and matchmaking.

Especially in the context of having such platform as P2C. We will move onto our discussion. Our distinguished panelists will have around 40 minutes for the first round and then second round and key takeaways I will invite you to share and briefly highlight what priorities and needs do you see in your context and also at broader European context when it comes to digital development and how your organization can be part and can contribute to addressing these needs and supporting these priorities so Mr. David Vicente, let's start with you.

>> DAVID: Thank you for having me here.

For our... from our perspective, one of the main key relevant points is just to have a framework of development, a common framework that allow us to deploy, to evolve and that also with, to allow to share commitments particularly in Europe so it's true, Europe already have 20-30 objectives, right? And also

organize to that will allow us to measure. That's why Andorra as you may know, we are not a member state but at the end of the day we have to follow Europe in most initiative, in most of the activities and also of course we want to be there, right? In this we are already measuring the framework that we have customized for Andorra according to particular KPIs and the Europe's one. Okay? So, we are measuring the Digital Economy Society Index, DESI. Considering the roadmap that we are taking where we are taking part.

We have grown as a country, okay? So, at the beginning, we were just at the last positions of that ranking and now we are over the average of the countries of Europe. So that means that this framework that we have been developing has really, has been effective. Has been... have some return according to efforts that we have been doing. So common framework citizens because at the end of the day I think it's important that what we all do, it's for our citizens. So, and of course alignment with Europe at least. In terms of have common frameworks of development.

>> VIKTORIA: Thank you Mr. Vicente for highlighting what you're working on and the many activities.

And now I would like to move to Mr. Karklins for the perspective of the governance and international cooperation.

>> Thank you very much and thank you for inviting. I can participate in this conversation. So let me maybe start very briefly with ICANN's mission statement which is to ensure a unified global internet by coordinating the internet with a system of unique identifiers. And let me talk about thing which is very close to our hearts. That I can start it back in 2007 actually. So the, we live in multilingual world. About 12% of world's population speak Chinese mandarin. About 7 or 8% of global population speak Spanish. About 5, English. But online about 49-50% of all content is in English. So, and we clearly see that there is a mismatch. At the same time when we're looking to international discussion there is a clear understanding that we need to move to contribute to include digital societies by making internet used by different... in different languages and different scripts so as a result for instance in the agenda there has been a clear agenda that there is a need to introduce multilingualism in the mail names and e-mail addresses by strengthening cooperation in their global development. Most recently, GDC addressed issue of digital inclusion in, make digital technologies more accessible and affordable to everyone including in diverse languages and formats. Recent WTDC in Baku in resolution 92 asked to promote cooperation of stakeholders and governments in the development and implementation of universal acceptance and multilingualism

and also in December this is plus 20 review conference referred to international domain names and universal acceptance this story started as I mentioned in 2007 when ICANN launched the policy development on internationalized domain names and in 2009, the first international domain names were introduced in the root. In 2012 when, in the first big round of enlargement of domain name system, many new generic internationalized domain names also were introduced in the root and today we're having 61 IDN international domain names in the root in 42 countries. So what were the challenges is that when you're using internationalized domain names and internationalized e-mail addresses on websites or sending e-mails they may not be either accepted or they may be displayed in a distorted way. In the recent study which is examined about fifty local websites in different languages in two dozen countries revealed that the acceptance of different scripts by applications by websites is about on average about 10%. In Germany, surprisingly that is 25%. The Harris score of all in Russia it's about 17-18%. You would think that those are completely scripts that they would be higher. No, that is the situation today. And in e-mail addresses, there is a progression and only about one-third of all e-mail services recognize internationalized e-mail addresses. What is the goal of all of us? Not only ICANN but all of us is to make sure that developed e-mail name and address works on all software applications and by that, we will clearly promote consumer choice, improve competition and provide broader access to end users. Who needs to do what? I will talk in the second part of our conversation. Thank you.

>> VIKTORIA: Thank you for bringing the point for the digital inclusion and still the specific date and specific issues that we have in the European context. And we will move soon to the solutions in the meantime I would like to focus on the critical field of digital development and digital transformation, cybersecurity and cyber resilience, so Mr. Schwoerer, the floor is yours for cybersecurity and cyber resilience.

>> Thank you Viktoria and ITU for the invitation, thank you to Valentina. And this is the first time for me here. I haven't seen anything yet but maybe before leaving.

Well, it give me, the invitation gave me the opportunity to talk about a little bit about our Western Balkan capacity center. Located in Montenegro. So it is a great honor to join the center last year. I've been there for one year. And the center is, in fact, a strong cooperation between Slovenia, France, Montenegro, so our main mission is to do cyber capacity, capacity building mission. It means provide training but not only training but you know that in cyber we were talking about digital roads, huh? But you need cybersecurity in digital roads

so you need tools also without tools you can train people but without the tools it's impossible to do anything. In this field. So, this center belongs to the bidding process and we are on the process of becoming an international organization we organized two weeks ago our first governance board.

So it's a great state for us. And to jump to your question, Viktoria for me the main challenge for us is to, in fact, have the human resources because it's a good thing to have a center, to have a lot of ideas, to have a program, to have a technical plateau and so on because we have a beautiful technical plateau thanks to Montenegro for achieving that inside the back of Montenegro but if you have nobody to train because there's no other resources it's a problem.

So the main challenge for us is to detect the young people and the talent of the region. Of course, we have but we also have to convene the policymakers, the decision makers to invest in this field and to recruit especially because the needs are very big and especially for free priorities for us. Our free cybersecurity, cybercrime, so first to strengthen the operational cybersecurity capacities we need to train people in the different sectors, energy, transport and so on. ID teams of every administration and I should say to train people from the public and the private sector and also with the support. So it's also to promote the operational change between this cybersecurity ecosystem and the law enforcement. My background is in this field so I know that we need the cybersecurity ecosystem. We need to have the information on what is going on in the cyberspace.

Without their contact without our intelligence we can do nothing. We can start an investigation. It enables me to talk about cybercrime. We have to end our capacity to in this region for the, to tackle the crime and cybercrime and especially with basic knowledge and evidence. And also with advanced training I mean crypto. I should be able to trace crypto transmissions in the different blockchain to tackle it somewhere. There's a link in crypto somewhere because it's in crypto. Cryptocurrency. On AI. I would like to use AI, how do you understand what to do with AI. To tackle also and to undo disinformation cases. And to train people to do online undercover investigation so for this, we need to train people with also to in fact, help them out to use the tools we can provide and so on.

And the other point is the develop the diplomacy and capacity to, in fact, to promote the international cooperation with the EU rules with chart and convention and so on. So, this center covers most pillars as you understood and we contribute to those frauds and by doing practical things, by doing technical thing, with tools, our core work is the technical space. And to help

the regions, to reach EU center of course in the perspective of the EU station for all of them. Voila, thank you.

>> VIKTORIA: Thank you, thank you for bringing the importance of cybersecurity skills today we mentioned and discussed about the needs to develop digital skills. There is still the gap in this context and now we see the need about the cyber cybersecurity needs and the specific offering the center suggests.

And speak about cybersecurity and resilience I would also like to bring in the context the online safety initiatives so Mr. Rah Danno individual over to you finish this topic and issues.

>> BORIS: Thank you so much for another invitation. I know what all of you are thinking.

Boris again has the same suit as in Budapest. I chose to bring the same one to bring a bit of color. From my perspective, I am going to combine European and Western Balkans because I'm currently finishing up the Western Balkans that I am willing to share later on. Europe's digital development is entering a critical maturity phase something we have been begging for a decade and hoping it's going to continue. Connectivity in a line of not-for-profits and NGOs working with abuse and harm on a daily basis is no longer the primary challenge in Europe the challenge is what happens within that connectivity and I love the notion of roads and water and electricity and all of those companies that bring those services or utilities to your house. Their responsibility doesn't stop at the point when you open your tap it continues onward and we should start thinking about online spaces as that. There's four things we see. And it's quite, I would be quite amazed if you don't recognize yourself. A principle of a stream from multiple directions. The first is an acceleration. Across Europe and digital regulation, a company by increasingly significant fines for noncompliance, the signal content. That does not translate to victim protection on the ground that brings me to my second point. There is an evident documented and increased sharp prize in gender-based abuse using technology.

Or gender-based violence. Where a majority of person traitors are male and the victims are female.

There are those considering violence against women and girls as a national security issue. I will repeat it again. Violence against women and girls should be considered as a national security issue. This includes nonconsensual intimidation abuse and exploitation is scaling rapidly. This is not abstract harm, it is targeted, gendered and disproportionately affecting women and girls as well as other groups and then we come to the knowledge gap we are deploying increasingly complex technology including AI that the creators themselves do not understand how fully functions faster than we are equipping people to

understand, navigate and respond to them. There's a clear lack of accessible education, not just for users, for institutions and individuals inside of them and the fourth one is the recognition gap, at government level. In many cases, the severity and social impact of technology facilitated abuse and harm is still underestimated. Particularly its impact on minority groups and women where harm translates into withdrawal from public life, economic participation, and democratic engagement. A threat to women, to technology facilitated gender-based abuse is a threat to our democracy. Alongside this we continue to see a protection gap, well, safeguarding systems just lag behind technological change, coordination gap where harms are global but responses remain local, maybe national at best. And a capability gap in emerging and neighboring regions. Our role and a part of that solution is to bridge these gaps to practice technology and policy. In practice, we need to operate frontline survivor centered support through help lines and services in each and every member of your society can reach out and get support actively. We need to scale prevention from local and national to global solutions for nonconsensual abuse. What we are doing now with the landscape report.

So one thing is clear, at least now and I hope to you if we continue to look at trust as secondary to access.

We risk building a digital environment that people are technically connected to but socially excluded from. And digital development must, in my opinion and many of my colleagues, therefore, evolve. Beyond infrastructure. To include protection, understanding and trust. As components of the system itself.

How to do that maybe in the second.

>> VIKTORIA: After the description of the needs we will need to hear from your solutions in the next round of questions but thank you for talking about online safety and protection as the challenge and something that we need to focus onto work on as well. And speaking of that as well we have the industry representative with us and we all know what all the industry explains in the digital development. So Mr. Fröjdh the floor is yours to share the perspective from the industry side, especially the standards perspective of the digital development and needs.

>> Thank you very much for inviting me. I come from Ericsson and I am happy to say a few words for how we say things from the industry. So first digital technology is not a luxury. So Europe needs a fast, fair and sustainable digital shift to know what is left behind. And you ask for priority. So I will just list a few things which you think are key priorities. Including affordable, reliable internet for everyone, free

world, digital skills that includes teachers, more businesses and officials that need practical training not just theory. Public systems people can trust. So, services that work together protect privacy and initiatives. Strong cyber resilience, protecting services from disruptions and a tax. Inclusion and affordability. Make sure older people can connect and benefit, minorities. Green by design projects and also clear room and accessible financing. So simpler regulations and blended funding so projects can scale without getting stuck in red tape.

So how can we help? Well, we work often in public-private partnerships. They are essential to closing the digital divide. So they provide a platform plans that prioritize underserved areas and as a technology leader, we contribute technical know-how, scaleable solutions, and operational experience. And we help to build local capacity through targeted training, mentorship and hands on knowledge. And also co-designing with governments and multilateral upskilling programs and tools. And to give you some real examples, we have been quite active since 2020. Supporting ITU and UNICEF's initiative. And more recently in October last year we signed together with ITU a study partnership and we work with ITU to develop something called the Connectivity Planning Platform. CPP. And this is government facing too.

So plan and finance institution connectivity and optimized resources. And this collaboration includes tailored training for decision makers. To enable smarter scaleable and sustainable deployments. And CPP past training include digital transformation and help close the digital divide and we published a joint white paper with ITU in September 2025 on how this is planned to work out. Thank you very much.

>> VIKTORIA: Thank you very bringing already the solutions and already solution-oriented approach when we speak about the needs in which the development from your perspective but we will continue to speak about this as well. Now it's my pleasure to turn the floor to the professor from the academia side, please.

>> Thank you. Thank you my dear colleagues, thank you Viktoria for the opportunities to be here and to speak now. And speaking on behalf of the State University of information and communication technologies, I would like to emphasize the academic sector serves as a vital bridge between national needs and the interest of global stakeholders. Our university stands ready to contribute to the implementation of the Baku Action Plan for 2026-2029 and to support the ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe.

In particular we are focusing our efforts on European countries within the scope of the ITU office for Europe. And of course,

our strategic approach is guided by the priorities of ITU-D as set out by the communication development conference 2025. Particularly in the areas of digital transformation and resource mobilization through international cooperation. As a practical step in this interaction, we are in to establish an impact forum in the international academic and practical conference held with their support of the ITU. At the same time, we are explaining our grant and project activities. We plan to establish original center for digital competencies to attract the finding for the modernization of our laboratory facilities and for testing advanced ICT solutions. In addition, we will develop pilot projects, focused on the cybersecurity on infrastructure. These practical steps provide comprehensive support to the European regional initiatives of the ITU ranging from infrastructure development of two, stating the trust in telecommunication and fostering innovation ecosystems. Finally, our experts will actively contribute to the work of their ITU team study groups. They will help develop recommendations on the digitalization of education and include access to technology. This is our direct contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals particularly in the areas of quality education, industry and innovation and effective partnerships. Thank you.

>> VIKTORIA: Thank you, Professor Volodymyr. And it is important to have your vision.

And conclude thing first round of questions I would like to thank you and we have here those represented from different sectors and we know more about your work, your needs and having it altogether let's focus on the actions. So the question is, if you could share one or some concrete steps. From your side or in the partnerships. Mr. Vicente, starting with you.

>> David: Yes, well, first of all, with everything that we all have to have the purpose which is the final purpose in terms of digitalization of the country.

And that means why? Why you are doing that. Not how, or what you're doing, right? So to achieve that purpose, in our particular case, we put a special focus in collaboration, okay? Collaboration sharing knowledge, learn from others, close particular agreements with naming the international partners like Google, Amazon, Oracle, sorry, Microsoft, right? Also some international reference entities like ITU so thank you, thank you for being collaborating with you. And on the other side, we have close particular MOUs with the countries that have particular knowledge in order to implement that technology. We thought of that, we put... we melt we mix everything. And try to customize our needs for Andorra, okay? And of course, again, we tried always to put citizen in the center. So state of the art of technology. Practical point of view and how to practice,

how to put in practice the best options in order to implement that technology, customization for the country and go to the ground, okay. Thank you.

>> VIKTORIA: Thank you, it's a country specific approach. Thank you for sharing and at the previous we had the pleasure to sign. And one year ago we can speak indeed about the next steps and about the continuation of cooperations but this is an example. But moving on Mr. Karklins the floor is yours.

>> JANIS: When you are speaking about non-Latin scripts online. So we need to think about the teamwork because everyone its certain role in, to play in deploying and then promoting universal acceptance starting, let's say with academia, there is a universal acceptance curricula developed by ICANN and if that would become part of every IT program around the world that would put all students in a mindset and knowledge about internationalized domain names and non-ASCII scripts.

These are technology developers like Ericsson's that would produce and deploy hardware which runs software which is universal acceptance ready.

These can be service providers, e-mail service providers, these can be website, hosts, who would make sure that their software is universal acceptance ready and these can be government and policymakers, you in this room. If each country would update the regulation which would require that internationalized domain names or non-ASCII scripts would or must be recognized.

By all software run in the country. So, that would make sure that, or would help this cause. At ICANN we're also doing our share but what we're doing I will tell you after the conference in a pre-reception event that we will be hosting here.

>> VIKTORIA: Thank you. We will be looking forward to and building on your intervention I will share a wonderful interaction that even when we have the solution we need the partnerships from the different sector to make it possible and that's also why we have this discussion to go into the specific details.

Moving on, your perspective.

>> Thank you, if we have to choose one thing it's to end cyber resilience, cybersecurity for particular entities and it's all well in Ukraine that you need a robust and resilient infrastructure if you want to continue functioning despite the cyber attacks. And the cyber attacks won't stop. So it's a good point because it's also the priority at the EU and especially indigenous. So they -- we are under process to have a ground from this topic specifically. So it's aligned, though, we are aligned on the EU perspective and priorities. So it means that we have to combine long training, short training, we have from the private sector with the tools, with the solution

for the unique license to trace cryptocurrency on the blockchain you need a tool for the data extraction. You need, well, a solution to do CTI for your SOX so we need tools and short training to be able to have a quick knowledge on how to use it. And also, long-term and academic as we say, training, so we are working in partnership so with the private but also with the university, why not you, in the future, why not? And so to in fact train people and train the student to have practical, to have practical knowledge to be able to do concrete things in the field of cybersecurity. So in fact, what we could say in this feel we need also to work with national cybersecurity agencies. We are working with the Slovenian one, with a Dutch one and we have contact with the agency of modo have a, I should say that we are focusing on the Western Balkan region. But also we are opening for Ukraine. It's also something we have to stress. So we are acting like original platform and especially to end cyber resilience for the critical entities, thank you.

>> VIKTORIA: Thank you for also bringing the specific opportunities and offers to see matchmaking happening during the panel this is the best sign we can have from this panel. Continue thing dynamics, Mr. Radanovic the solutions perspective.

>> BORIS: I remember this. I think we tried to inspire the right person to start thinking about child online protection in this panel ITU and I'm grateful for the entire team and the director recognizing how important child online protection is. In the space of ITU. So looking forward and looking to the solution we need to move beyond fragmented perspectives and move forward to the mechanism to the technology abuse we draw the borders on geography maps and the abuse can easily cross. When I speak about technology facility abuse, don't get me wrong, 300 million children every year are sexually abused and a majority is online. Now 40 million women are abused. So we must do something together because local solutions do not work for global problems. Currently the systems we see and that are trying, are reactive, fragmented and consistent and at times impossible for victims to navigate and I'll quickly here turn to the dear friend and wonderful ally who went through this exercise with us and support from ITU to come from a position that they wanted to do more online safety. And now one of the leaders in the space of having the biggest global companies look to them for solutions and that just happened in under a year or two years. I'm really proud that we can do that. If the harm is global and it is, the solution must be global and how can we do that from local and smaller environments such as Andorra, our kingdom or many others, we

need to work together. One concrete or reaction, I would encourage a discussion on data and science, a global clearing model which we have developed. A national model response. So trusted organization inside of the environments you work in, identify and support victims locally but platforms act not locally but they do act globally because the harm can move quickly so they have verified signals, technology is used to then prevent harm before the harm occurs, not after the fact like we have now so in practical terms, scaling proven solutions. If an NGO with the support of technology companies can develop 4-5 years ago a world's first on device hashing technology, stopnci.org that now dozens of people use across the world to prevent.

There must be other solutions that do the same. We need to embed stronger hash based solutions to prevention of abuse and harm and then we need to support centers of child online protection and adult online protection to establish those national centers of excellence, education awareness and further going, because if the harm travels across the infrastructure as data, our response systems must be able to move at the same speed and scale which is almost impossible without the assistance of technology in recognition of everybody here in this room that we can only solve it together so I would have to in the end just emphasize that it has to be privacy preserving, survivor focused and operationally viable across different regional contexts including languages and cultures and many things that we are different between us but in the end all the same so this is not about reinventing the system. The system exists and you have set it up and you're running it exquisitely but it's about connecting what already works and then enabling that to operate globally for a safer and better world for all of us. Thank you.

>> VIKTORIA: Thank you. And continuing the conversation that we speak about the national solution, the global solutions, turning to Mr. Fröjdth from Ericsson. How do you see the actions and manage to continue?

>> Per: You ask for a priority to emphasize and I just want to get back to that.

So secure, fast, affordable and resilient connectivity. And for public services and underserved communities in Europe and this is the foundation for acutable access to health care and jobs and public services. And how we approach this, so we see the power in public private partnerships.

Already mentioned in my first round about projects that we are engaged in and now our most recent one is together with ITU in the Connectivity Planning Platform. So these partnerships are successful, the rest on a shared purpose and a clear mutual

understanding of each partner strengths so they can complement each other and combining public mandate and policy levels with private technical expertise, operational capacity and financing will contribute to scale sustainable impact. So in these partnerships who to involve? Government, industries, private providers, development partners, financiers and representatives. Thank you very much.

>> VIKTORIA: Thank you and to conclude this round of the questions speaking about different models of partnership, thinking about different already concrete reaction implementing.

>> I would like to invite all participants to the international conference to will take place on 17th-18th, June this year in Turkey.

Hosted by Istanbul. Under the title digital transformation, AI and cybersecurity. Shaping trusted digital future. The event will be held with the support of the ITU and co-organized by three partner universities. The State University of information and communication technologies, Ukraine. Istanbul, atlas University, Turkey and Morgan state University, U.S.

This event will serve as an effective platform for the exchange of experience within the P2C initiative with a particular focus on improving connectivity and the development of new digital ecosystems. Our goal in this area is to bring together academic partners from more than 20 countries in this dialogue. Thank you.

>> VIKTORIA: Thank you. And the conference is already very soon so that's very timely invitation, thank you. And now as we are very good with timing and we have the final round for the main takeaways. And before I give you the floor, I would like also to emphasize that for the takeaways, and for this panel especially important would be to understand from your perspective, building on the offers on the needs that you described. What role do you see for matchmaking mechanism to connect to continue to empower and to turn concrete actions into impact for scaled initiatives. You will have one minute. So, let's start from, let's now start in the order how we are sitting so, Mr. Vicente.

>> DAVID: Well, I will try just to summarize what I have been saying during all my participation.

So first of all, purpose of mine, what you want to do. That will allow you to deploy and to identify particular framework in terms of technology, in terms of legal aspects. And collaboration. Collaboration, partnership between the state of the art of the technology and also the countries. And of course, in this collaboration, we do think it's important to promote collaboration public and private collaboration. Right? Because if you want to grow you have to do it from a public

perspective with the help and support from the private sector.
Thank you.

>> VIKTORIA: Mr. Shulha.

>> Thank you Viktoria. I would say that partnership mechanisms such as Partner2Connect could be... could play a key role in fact by transforming dialogue into concrete partnership, concrete action. In this kind of network with the support of the W3C within Balkan can be used to identify the needs and also to try to coordinate the reaction between all of us in fact because of the result of project, we are, there's a lot of in fact project that are already acting in all the regions so we need to be coordinate at the end. And, well in fact detect human resources to be able to train the young people in the future in order to build cyber resilience and especially for the critical entities, thank you.

>> VIKTORIA: Thank you. Professor Shulha.

>> As a university and academic member we bring together business, education and public policy creating unique opportunities for effective partnerships. And in this way, we aim to provide practical support for Ukraine, Ukraine's digital integration into the European and global digital space. In line with the ITU-D strategy. Thank you.

>> VIKTORIA: Thank you. Mr. Fröjdh.

>> PER: So you ask how matchmaking can happen.

Again, public-private partnerships are close to the digital provide. That's one way we operate and we think this provides a platform to develop and implement national connectivity plans to prioritize underserved areas and a value proposition, well, we come from the industry and as a technology leader, we are happy to contribute with technical know-how, scaleable solutions, and operational experience and all these things are key for our business. And so, we hope that we can contribute that in these partnerships. Thank you.

>> VIKTORIA: Thank you. Mr. Karklins.

>> JANIS: In 2003 we committed ourselves to build a people centered and development oriented informational society and I think that this conversation is yet another proof that this cannot be done by each stakeholder group trying to do it alone. We need to coordinate a stakeholder cooperation model which has been working for 20 years and is the one we need to maintain and promote going forward.

>> VIKTORIA: Thank you. And Mr. Radanovic.

>> BORIS: Thank you I can echo everything else and add a bit more. Partnerships are the bedrock of all of this. None of us can do it without people and technology. The adults and children and government and everything in between. Sometimes

you're too close to the issue and what you can do yourself. I always say reach out to say we want to work with Boris and we will figure it out by I have to emphasize something for all the challenges I spoke about we don't have to start from zero. There are solutions to help you as a government, as a policymaking individual. But at the same time, is now how to use them, how to connect them and scale them so I will give three things. Visibility, we have to bring clarity of the scale of the issue that we need to resolve and that is harm and abuse in your countries and second the understanding of what connecting to what and what connects I think all of you know from July 2027 into the intimidation and abuse is going to be illegal content in Europe and you have to adapt your services. You do know that the charter signed in October in Hanoi in article 16 clearly makes states reliable in making abuse illegal in those countries the regulation is more we need to adapt and speak as partners and third is the scale we have to stop working alone and into operable systems. And we will move into isolated interventions to global response to harm and it's not optional to be honest that shift. We have to, we must make it for the future which is our children and for our current life which is what are here and there is something we need to do to move on quickly, deliberately and safely in the future.

>> VIKTORIA: It's excellent it's an excellent closing of this panel and I would like to thank you to all our speakers for being here, for being very insightful and very forward-looking contributions and specific initiative that you are implemented and will be implementing in your context from national to regional to international and in partnerships with the respective stakeholders, thank you and to summarize this panel and to move to the next I would also like to highlight that now we have the importance of matchmaking mentioned by the speakers and by those who are in the room. And having the specific offering, having the specific needs expressed by the countries this is an excellent opportunity to indeed do the matchmaking therefore of course after this panel we all encourage you to continue these discussions, to explore each other's needs and offerings and to build the digital development in Europe. With this I would like to conclude our session and invite all our distinguished panelists for the final photo.

>> AUDIENCE: (Applause).

>> Thank you very much. We will now have coffee break for fifteen minutes. Fifteen.

(Coffee break).

>> Okay, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the last session I think quite essential session in front of us focusing on the regional initiatives. Building upon the matchmaking process. So before we are dedicating to the matchmaking it's a presentation of the all contributions we have the set of slides But before we start the session now everybody's focusing so I can make a short announcement about something essential so please take into account that after the closing ceremony we will have an observation of universal acceptance day so please don't make any plans between closing ceremony and cocktails closing event. Now we can start our session. So welcome to this essential session on the matchmaking with this particular focus on our original initiatives. And original priorities before I will kick off on the rollout of the whole session we have the few slides and the context. Which you would like to bring to your attention. I would like to invite my colleagues to display the slides. And let's start next slide. To delve into the mechanism which we are applying. As you know we have the two principle mechanism we are working via the support orchestrated by the development sector with the resources entrusted by the member states of ITU and then, of course we have the series of activities which we are developing based on the project way of advancing the implementation across the world. Next slide. Of course this project execution, it comes from the constitution and we are, it's reinforced by the particular resolutions which are asking the development sector to strengthen this function because this function is winning more and more of the essence and more and more of the importance of the ITU the scale of which matters more and this means that we then trusted the resources we could do a lot but not as much as we could do with the... through the partnerships for the projects, with the well-designed objectives of the intervention and the impact generated at the regional level, national level not also global level. Next slide.

Having said that, of course we are relying on the set of the services and products which we are driving at the ITU-D level but in coordination with all other sectors this is very important that whatever you receive as the ITU implementations it's implements the IT and relies on the ITU products and services we have series of different areas of our expertise. Including the emergency telecommunication, network and digital infrastructure, digital services, inclusion, policy and regulations, statistics, capacity development, cybersecurity, and of course we are also strengthening this through the work with the study groups. And developing partnerships and building resource mobilization. To make all this project implementation

happy, not happy but running, but also in addition unto this to ensure that is the depth of the intervention and this makes the ITU strong compared to make others. That it is supported with the networks of the knowledge working with the ITU through the study groups whether it's the D study groups or the study groups or our study groups. So, we are ensuring the sustainability of our actions by default. Working through the ITU mechanisms and supporting the countries. Next slide, please. So here we would like to invite you to take a look at the website of the RDF because there you will find the finds and a new framework, digital transformation framework which we have released today. For your information and better understanding how the development sector works with the countries. How the development sector also works with the different partners. Co-creating the initiatives but in principle relying on the needs expressed by the countries. Of course, as you'll see, it relies on the ITU-D areas of the work but the mechanism which we are applying always is the same. So we're, going for the initiation, development and then implementation and monitoring an evaluation to make sure we have a clear understanding what is the impact, generated by the action implemented by the development sector and the ITU. Next slide, please. So of course our core of interest today is going towards the original initiatives. There are five original initiatives. Starting from the infrastructure going through the digitalization, inclusion, skills, cybersecurity, and the innovation. Next slide, please. And those regional initiatives have to also as designed by the WTDC and deliver the concrete impact on the ground. In order to make sure that we are better at understanding of course, having the conversations on the regular basis with all of you, what we are doing with Valentina, with our colleagues, from the Europe office, is good. But there's a moment where we have to understand what are the real needs so this exercise which we have proposed on the occasion of original development forum is not set in stone. And it's finished. This is leading exercise which we would like to see on the regular basis repeated and that we understand what are the expectations that with the limited resources and we can program preparatory work while seeking the others who are offering the support to address those needs brought together in the communicative way that we can say, so, in fact, on what we are working in order to advance the original initiatives. How we are also making the priorities around our work. And maybe seeking any kind of synergies with the other regions, neighboring countries and therefore we are a happy to have those with the European countries and Mediterranean countries and other countries. As you know, many of you took the courage to filling the form and

proposing concrete activities which you would like to see. Some of you proposed actions which you would like to happen in order to advance national priorities. Some others took a look what could be offered. And that's why this creates the solid basis for taking a look how we can work together, not we, meaning ITU plus the country or ones they call but an ecosystem in the initiatives and to also create the concrete message what is needed in order to meet the expectations because by the end of the day in the adopted original initiatives we have expected results. Which we would like to in four years also bring to your attention as the -- as addressed so next, in the following slides you will see the number of the contributions we received 61 documents which today we would like to also briefly have presented by those who submitted. Some of the colleagues are not unfortunately with us but we will be briefly also providing some explanation what has been offered or what has been requested. Bear with us, this will be a process which will take a little bit of the time. But by the end of the day, it will result in the so-called original roadmap for the implementation of the ITU original initiatives this document has already been published on the website with all contributions. So it's not a surprise to the process. It helps you also to better understand what building blocks are there and what we are trying to do in each direction we would like to go. This document is a living document. So it's very important to keep this in mind. It can happen that after the RDF we will get additional expression of the interest of collaborating with ITU, what will be enriching this document. That's why you'll see always on the document to date, the versioning and then also some additional information being included. So let's go for the next slide. That we can just demonstrate the type of contributions which have been also grouped according to the topics that we have more or less understanding which stakeholders might be interested in working on certain items so we can scroll the slides now and not be thinking to this and hand over in just a second to Valentina who will be running us through the presentation process. In the listing of the documents, one item I wanted to also to mark we also included the U.N. efforts. It's always bizarre who should in fact pledge for the U.N. so for some activities we took the courage as we are leading some platforms to describe this, what we are doing and what is necessary for us. It's a must to do. And I think that everybody has to be conscious that those activities are happening, this is the reason why during this forum but also others. We feel the presence of the U.N. sister agencies, U.N. system and this makes us all stronger. So next slide, please. And as I mentioned, we also encourage you to take a look at the red roadmap in case of my kind of comments

please don't hesitate to bring our attention, to bring to our attention anything which you would also like to see there in addition. Keep in mind that we are building this roadmap together. Based on your dedication towards implementation of the actions.

We'd like to avoid to have the diplomatic word for empty.

There's no diplomatic word. Unconstructive proposals. I hope that you will remember this. But so, therefore, we try to make sure that we have something really concrete in very short time. As you will see also in the document, all actions are linked to the study groups, to the U.N. outcomes, to the GDC to the SDGs, to the WSIS and of course relying on our products and services what I mentioned at the beginning. So, we arrive now to the moment I will hand over to Valentina for guiding us and also calling upon different stakeholders who submitted, made the submission. So, Valentina. Next slide and the next, and thank you. This was essential

>> AUDIENCE: (Applause).

>> VALENTINA: With this understanding in mind, I would like to kick off the structured round of interventions highlighting the commitments submitted so far. Through the contributions to the Regional Development Forum for Europe and in that sense, please know that the contributions have different nature so these are the concrete offers, needs, initiatives that can support the implementation of the regional initiatives for Europe. Or even the convening platform that are organized together with the ITU or by the member states in order to streamline some of the actions or the implementation of the regional initiative in the region so saying that I would like to bring a couple of details of practical aspects of what is going to happen next. So we will invite kindly those who submitted the contributions to take the floor. So each contribution will receive one and a half minute for being presented having in mind that we have a list of member states which are, or the stakeholder who submitted more than one please count on multiplying the minutes at your disposal so present all of the items that you believe the community needs to hear about.

And in order to remain correct in terms of providing this speak opportunity we will follow the order of interventions in the alphabetical order of the countries. I will give the floor in that sense only to those present onsite and we have 61 contributions we will not go through all of them today together. But from the operational perspective, it was not feasible to organize the interventions from remote to make these presentations. But all of the contributions that will not be presented today they are already part of the roadmap that was just shared a couple minutes ago on the screen and it's

available online so you're more than welcome to take a look at the whole spectrum, broad spectrum of those when time allows. So without further ado, I would like to start with the first country and the contributions and I would like to give the floor to Andorra, we have two contributions from the Andorra Digital.

>> ANDORRA: Thank you so much for this intervention. We are happy to be collaborating with ITU in terms of... at different levels in particular child online protection. We're... we have just entered to the parliament just a few weeks ago a new regulation according to child online protection. This regulation has been worked during many, many, many times, I would say more than one year. First of all, we wanted to understand which was the best practices, which we're doing other countries according to child online protection that's why also we start this collaboration with ITU on the other hand we have to build this road from a really inclusive participation of a stakeholders of the country. So that means that we've been talking with the Ministry of Health, with the Ministry of Social Affairs, with the ministry of youth.

Basically, to have all point of views and according to the needs and necessities be able to build a solid legislation that will provide for super to child in terms of accessing digital content, digital data, or everything that has to do with technology in general terms. Right? So well, at the end of the day we do think from our perspective that we are kind of disruptive because we don't believe that forbidden is a solution. Okay? So that's why we adopt a developed measure on one hand. We take into account that social networks that could really damage the glow of children. But on the other hand what good we can place is a super and particular center that will super in terms of every participation of the child. In each of the activities that the child is performing his daily basis. There is sports, there is home and parents, and of course all the leisure activities where this kid may be participating. So from one hand we have this kind of ban. I would say a light ban. But if we have to mention a keystone that we think is important is super concentration, information, to the parents, to the system and at the end of the day that the knowledge of how to access to technology it's spread along the country. So more or less that's pretty much what we have been doing. Thank you.

>> VALENTINA: Thank you so much, perfect timing the next contribution will be coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina and we have three minutes.

>> Thank you. We define concrete areas of support and specific role needed from the ITU. The first initiative entitled 5G

framework aims to look at a governance level in measures and regular moderate practice.

Together we are in the process of defining the conditions for the 700 megahertz 3.5 gigahertz and 26 gigahertz spends including a balanced licensing model that supports both national model operators and emerging industrial cases. Given these strategic deadlines at the national level clearance and licensing we would highly appreciate targeted ITU assistance for review and peer exchange to ensure this is in line with regulatory practice the second initiative I'm going to present today is entitled the digitalization of radio frequency licensing practice in Bosnia. We plan to gradually modernize the frequency licensing procedures, they are working on this item aiming to integrate the submission platform that needs to be developed with the existing engineering tools and the national license register. The objective is to simplify application process, procedures, reduce manual processing, and improve consistency between spectrum analysis and licensing records. In this context, we would welcome ITU guidance on spectrum database architecture, interpretability between licenses implemented by other administrations. The targeted timeframe for both includes years 2026-2028. And from the theory side we are ready to commence with the ITU as soon as possible. I would also like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude on the health of the CRA to the regional office for Europe and BDT for a great support and long-standing excellent cooperation which they are look forward to continuing in the future, thank you very much.

>> VALENTINA: Thank you so much we have the two contributions from the Czech Republic one from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and one from the GINA software so I would like to give it to the government representatives to present the contribution.

>> Czech Republic: Thank you very much. I'm not sure if we have GINA in the room. Maybe not and I'm not allowed to speak on the behalf of the private company. But if you check you will see that the two contributions to a certain extent complement each other. Which is a good thing to happen and so it's up to me to present on behalf of the foreign affairs very briefly the contribution for supporting resilience in Europe which reflects our strong commitment to strengthening regional resilience with a particular focus on countries as pioneering to align with the EU law and advance towards EU membership including through the implementation of early warning systems based on cell broadcast. On the delivery to Georgia, we further supported the study carried out in Montenegro in 2025. And the support was a response to the collective contribution of the Western Balkan countries presented at the last for Europe in 2025 proposing a

regional initiative on early warning systems for the Western Balkans. So the Czech Republic remains, yes. Remains committed to, I will finish very soon. Remains committed to continuing this joint work in this year with the objective of advancing national readiness and we encourage broader engagement from the states in supporting dimension countries in their aspirations for creating a secure environment for European citizens in this context the Czech Republic also welcomes the second phase of the technical assistance to Montenegro on cell broadcast. Thank you.

>> VALENTINA: We will consider that goes into the intro, you know, for the private sector representatives that were not here, so, thank you. So moving onto the next country it's Georgia with seven contributions four for sustainable development and three coming from the regulator from the ComCom so we have today with us the representative of the Ministry of Economy who will present all of them.

So please the floor is yours, you have ten and a half minutes.

>> Okay. Thank you very much and please take into account that I have seven contributions. So before the presenting the Georgia's contribution I would like to briefly note that during the last stations from my one, my colleague was correctly mentioned the importance of cooperation and to support from the ITU side and especially to the candidate countries here maybe. Unintentionally Georgia was left out but I would like to respectfully underline that Georgia is a candidate country. And each country will have support and it is very important for us. I will start with the contributions. It is first the advancing digital connectivity and information site in Georgia. That, because Georgia has taken active steps for the digital economy in the formation society and we are continuing this procedure and the implementing in initiatives so one is the Georgia project which focus on expanding the high speed broadband access rural areas so-called white zones we are the operators the private sector does not have the plans because it is not business profitable for them. We are building with the government, we are building the infrastructure and allowing the private sector to provide out of 4,000 kilometer, 2,000 kilometer with all of the building we are spending more than one hundred million USD for this project. Beyond the product we have the inclusion then skills development programs under the Georgia project we adopted the law which aims of... to develop the network. Cost oriented telecom networks. Special intention is on the cybersecurity, et cetera, so Georgia is seeking to contribute to ITU workstreams in particular to regional initiative too on digital transformation for resilience by sharing best practices and knowledge which I already mentioned

the second contribution from our side is a digital hub which is also one of the strategic priorities for Georgia. By sharing the board with the European Union, Georgia has the ability to develop data connectivity corridors in the Middle East, Europe as well as in medium and long-term in Europe, central and East Asia so we contacted the technical economic research for investment attraction according to the research by the 2023 growing internet traffic compounded in a gross rate, average 42%. And data storage. So, we have the huge experience on this based on our research supported by United States company. So, Georgia is seeking to share the experience and enhance the cooperation to develop data, call the center data connectivities the third one is the roadmap for artificial intelligence and effective use of big data. It is also one of the... our strategic priority under the digital economy strategy for 2025-30. To support the development of roadmap artificial intelligence and the effective use of big data from the duration of organizations from ITU and its member state which has a really big experience on those directions and the objective of the assignment is to develop practical and implemented oriented AI roadmap and document for effective use of big data. We have the first contribution it is a technical for architecture and technical design. It, the government of Georgia is working to strengthen the nation of the management and public safety mechanistic and as provide by technical assistance based on which we have the practical and theoretical document. How to develop the cell broadcasting and we would like to ask ITU for the technical assistance for creation CBS architecture and technical design which includes architecture and technical specifications. And cost estimation and sustainability. It is all from the MOE side now and I would like to provide the ComCom's contribution.

The ComCom is a national communication that includes the digital participation by strengthening the digital competencies across diverse population groups.

ComCom work to ensure the children, young people, parents, and the educators develop the necessary skills to navigate digital environment.

Respectively. The sole objectives complement both. The initiatives designed to build the digital and the cooperation. Competencies, sorry, ComCom looks to look at the partner to scale those initiatives and strengthen inclusive digital development. It is a first and second from ComCom's side is that national to promotes the, sorry, not... it's the same I think. Just a moment. Yeah. ComCom's expertise is concentrating in several key areas including broadband mapping, development of 5G technologies in mobile networks, advancing

innovations in spectrum management and identifying spectrum needs for emerging applications. Including the implementation of decisions adopted by the radio communication conference in 2023 as well as a preparation for upcoming communication conference 2027. ComCom would be pleased to focus on sharing its experience in development on single information point for infrastructure sharing as well as broadband mapping. And the last one is also the ComCom's initiative. The contribution. ComCom is a regularity of concentrating safe and inclusive and right respective digital environments. For the development. Public awareness, stakeholder coordination, child online protection, ComCom focus on building digital resilience and critical competencies among children, parents and educators, ComCom intends to explore cooperative opportunities with the ITU with those priorities and initiatives into practical and sustainable project.

And we... ComCom also would like to thank for this opportunity for today's opportunity to -- for organizing Regional Development Forum for Europe 2026 to share experience and best practices, thank you.

>> VALENTINA: Thank you so much. That was even quicker than the time allocated so, so we didn't need to make an exception, thank you for that. So the next country that I'm going to give the floor is Greece, we have received three contributions, two coming from the ministry of digital governance and AI and one from the national regulator the EETT so please the floor is yours.

>> GREECE: Thank you Valentina, I represent two contributions of digital governance and AI. The first one concerns the ROS that was hosted by the minister of digital governance and AI in office from the 16-20th of February in 2026. It marked a pivotal moment for original dialogue on the future of spectrum management.

And radio communication services. It brings a road together, administrations, industry and international organizations and the seminar highlighted Europe's shared responsibility to ensure efficient, equitable and forward-looking use of spectrum in an area of rapid technological change. Discussions throughout the week culminated in the dedicated forum on D2 D direct to device connectivity.

One of the recent developments. Underscoring the transformative role of networks and satellite systems in expanding connectivity, strengthening, resilience and supporting critical services of gross Europe and beyond. Greece emphasizes the importance of satellite communications as a cornerstone of resilient and inclusive connectivity particularly at a time of aeronautical services.

This is for strengthening regional and international capacity building to support the administrations in spectrum management, satellite coordinations, coordination procedures and integration, sorry. And integration of networks, international connectivity strategies, and strategies, sorry. So we invite ITU and regional partners to advance targeted training, knowledge, exchange and technical assistance initiatives that will equip countries with an expertise to harness satellite innovations while ensuring satellite use.

And the second one is infrastructure built in Greece in February we had the kickoff meeting of the CWQCI project which is a second implementation phase of the national QCI project the quantum communication, under the European initiative euro QCI. Greece is evolving into strategic quantum security linking southeastern and Western Europe through and integrated space based architecture aligned with Europe's digital foreign sovereignty and resilient connectivity objectives. The QCI extends over 650 kilometers of optimal fiber across three cities, and in Crete. That connects 22 nodes with 27 dedicated fiber links. And 3 optical ground stations at three mountain hills. Through this, we had 17 use cases that were tested on protected medical data transmission.

With the quantum secure connectivity for data centers and critical infrastructures, the energy sector and also protecting access to our HPC the high-performance computing system. Which is very important for us. And also, research work on free space optics. Satellite. On quantum internet technologies. So, this network is a hybrid... it's a hybrid model that combines the post-quantum group that enhance long-term security resilience. The operation was demonstrated at the QCI days where we connected three countries, Spain, Greece and Austria and demonstrated for the first time a quantum secure video conference. At last, QCI received the first prize of the best in new idea. On the digital governance of words. So, this project establishes the CW QCI, the next phase establishes 1100... (bell rings) between Greece and Bulgaria we also have partners from Cyprus and Netherlands. It's very important we have secured use cases and we're moving on very fast. So my ministry remains committed to sharing deployment experience, interoperability practices, standardization engagement and capacity building framework within the ITU community to support connectivity.

Thank you very much and sorry.

>> VALENTINA: We have partners so passionate about their work. Moving onto Hungary, they have one submission.

>> Hungary: Thank you, across Europe we have people who want their dignity and safety. There's the care watch program a

nationwide government. It is a free of charge service for all citizens aged 65 and older. With one button press users can request having emergencies for everyday situations. What makes care watch unique is the combination of inclusive digital technology and human support, while also reducing pressure on services while filtering noncritical case before they reach the 112 system. The device includes four detection GPS tracking and works on a secure mobile network with easy registration to ensure accessibility for all. Mobile application also supports family members with realtime information and updates. We see care watch as a scaleable and replicable best practice and Hungary is open to sharing with partners with similar models. Thank you.

>> VALENTINA: Thank you so much now moving onto the next country it's Lithuania, we have two contributions both coming from the communications regulatory authority.

>> LITHUANIA: I will start with a presentation on the project. No one left behind on the other groups. To one left behind is a national digital initiative led by the communications regulatory authority of Lithuania.

In Lithuania one-fifth of the population over 65 years old yet only 23% of people aged from 55-74 possess basic digital skills. We are addressing this issue by giving digital skills training. This has expanded to include job seekers, youth, teachers and people with disabilities. The key objectives are three. To reduce the number of 55, 74-year-old people without basic digital skills while 30% until 2027 to train elderly people using digital framework. To reach 150,000 students age from 17-18 years old. The project team consisting of our intellectuals and expert partners deliver live free seminars and training sessions in towns and rural areas in collaboration with national network of libraries and municipalities. Training topics range from the banking, health care e-services and everyday life, online safety and data protection. The project came into the skills ranking among the top five in the category inclusion and the digital world the project activities will continue in 2026 and 2027. (Bell rings). The next one is the contribution on fostering Europe Africa regulatory cooperation on broadband mapping within the framework of the ITU broadband mapping initiative Lithuania through the regulation authority works with European and African administrations in support of evidence-based digital infrastructure planning, as part of the 2026 problem cycle Lithuania will work with the southern African regulators designed for cross continental collaboration and the exchange of regulatory experience and best practices so this contribution Lithuania offers its expertise, regulatory insights and experience to support participating administrations in the

mapping systems and digital strategies. Lithuania encourages those beyond the event fostering long-term projects or the practice in the Africa broadband map initiative. Thank you.

>> VALENTINA: Thank you so much in line with the current contribution of Lithuania we have two more contributions that you will find online from Romania and Poland. They're also looking to contribute to the same initiatives and projects of the broadband mapping in Africa. So, who is interested, please feel free to check out their contributions. Now we are moving next to Moldova, we have two contributions received both from the ministry of economic development and digitalization so three minutes, please.

>> MOLDOVA: Thank you very much I would like to present the contributions. The mappings and the single point system in the Republic of Moldova and in the platform for aligning technology governance investment with the European Union's digital future. The Republic of Moldova has been a broadband target which must be achieved by the end of 2030. So, the broadband connectivity for 5G and for optical fiber should be assured for localities. The minimum broadband internet access speed must be at least 100 megabits per second and 25% of population must be covered by the 5G. The Republic of Moldova as a country aspires to be fully aligned the national legal framework with their field of electronic communication with the EU. And it is in the process to the transposition of the infrastructure act. In this regard the point system based on the provision of those EU acts can be a powerful tool to foster the development of very high capacity networks. In order to achieve above mentioned the broadband targets. Implementation of this system will enable a target of... internet coverage, quality of service as well as infrastructure of the availability. And we will support targeted investment strategies. EU could contribute to the implementation of this system by providing the necessary support of the concept of broadband of the system providing recommendation regarding user management of the system and the registration process regarding the technical requirements for public tender and the contractual obligation so another contribution related to the digital summit for aligning governance and investment with the European Union's digital future. Positions as a gateway between eastern innovation and the European integration with this free day summit will spotlight Moldova's strategic progress on the EU succession apart from the private collaboration and the resilient innovation ecosystem. MDS, 2026 is more of a summit. It is a working stage for policy business and infrastructure convergence driving the next chapter of Moldova digital decade they even work with the region... and see the leaders. So, I

would like to thank again, thanks again to the ITU for their support over the year and for their opportunity to take part in this very important event. Thank you.

>> VALENTINA: Thank you so much now we're moving to Montenegro. We have two contributions from Montenegro. In fact one from the EKIIP and one from the WB 3C so we did classify you under the Montenegro. So based on the location of the center. So yes, EKIIP go first.

>> (Speaker far from mic). And services in Montenegro in partnership with the ITU office for Europe we organize the regional and regulatory forum for Europe in September 2028 in 2026 in Montenegro the forum represents a well-established regional performed. And an action plan in 2026-29. And ITU regional initiative for Europe on digital infrastructure. I would like to thank you again to the ITU team who continue all our partnership and our communication more than two decades in organization of this regional regulatory forum in Montenegro. Thank you very much.

>> VALENTINA: Thank you so much and I'm giving the floor to the Western Balkan capacity building center and cybersecurity.

>> Yes, thank you, Valentina. In fact, thank you for this great opportunity to formalize partnership that we have already start review in 2023. So the goal is to go further to strengthen our effort. In order to, and end cyber resilience in the Western Balkan region in particular by organizing joint initiative to build cyber capacity especially to... in the field of critical entities. So it means some training, training to implement the international norms and over to the security of AI and the cloud security. So it's... for us it will be also something very important to be with you and to learn from you, from your experience especially in the establishment of the impact assessment that you have already of course set up with your big experience in this field so we are very happy to be with you again and again in the future. Yes.

>> VALENTINA: Thank you, thank you so much. Just in time. Exactly. So now I'm giving the floor to North Macedonia, we have two contributions both received by the telecommunications. Please, the floor is yours.

>> NORTH MACEDONIA: Thank you very much. The publications places strong emphasizes of resilience and cybersecurity. This is also translated into cooperation we've given you and member states in the region and active participation in ITU regional and global initiatives representatives of North Macedonia, regularly take part in the ITU forums. Technical trainings and cybersecurity exercises.

Which provide practical opportunities for technical capacities. North Macedonia has also contributed to original cybersecurity

efforts by hosting important ITU events including the ITU cyberdrill for Europe, bringing together regulators, policymakers and cybersecurity professionals to test capabilities and engage coordination in addressing cyber incidents. Building on this engagement, the agency calls for the continued strengthening of cybersecurity initiatives within the ITU region with particular focus on national and governmental CERTs capabilities. Regular trainings, tabletop exercises, and cyberdrills remain essential for strengthening preparedness, improving incident response and coordination and fostering trusted cooperation among countries. Sustaining original efforts in this area will be critical to address evolving cyber threats and support, are resilient in a secure digital system. The annual international regulatory conference hosted by the agency for electronic communications of the Republic of North Macedonia serves as an original platform for policy developments in the ICT sector. This year, this event will be organized from 20th of May and you are all invited on this event. We will be... it will be our pleasure to be your host on this event. The conference explores a broad range of topics including emerging regulatory frameworks, confidence and for security in the use of ICTs, digital infrastructure development, universal connectivity, spectrum management, radio frequency coordination, infrastructure resilience by bringing together regulators, policymaker representatives and international organizations, the event facilities, the exchange of experiences and perspectives on evolving challenges in the digital ecosystem.

>> VALENTINA: Thank you so much now I would like to give the floor to Portugal, we have one contribution submitted by the national regulator.

>> PORTUGAL: Thank you this is of paramount importance. As such this contribution shows the outcomes. As well as the resilience held in Portugal. This summit brought together experts and policymakers to strengthen the reliability and protection of the infrastructure. Such, this offers nonbinding kindness to boost resilience, this improves legal and regulatory frameworks increasing the lack of redundancy and better planning of routes. Supporting climate resilient technologies, the three IAB working group recommendations were focusing on regulation and cross border cooperation, even risk prevention and monitoring, quicker repairs and joint maintenance operations. With sustainable investment especially for underserved regions and reducing delays, risk management strengthening. And we have the parties in this issue and look forward to your inputs to enhance the work of this international advisory board. Thank you.

>> VALENTINA: Thank you so much. Now I would like to give the floor to Serbia, we have one contribution as well from the ministry information and telecommunications.

>> SERBIA: Hello, we submitted a contribution titled expert 2027 a platform for digital transformation and global cooperation. As you know, 2027 specialized expert will be organizing and bringing together industry leaders and organizations, policymakers, academia, that will be first ever world export organized in the Western Balkans. As such, 2027 will be a great platform to showcase technology progress, cultural exchange and economic and social development. It'll be a platform for digital transformation these are for inclusive and sustainable societies. We are interested... we have expressed interest to cooperate the ITU and to organize an AI for good impact regional event. As you know for good impact is a regional initiative launched in 2024. Its purpose is to extend the summit's reach beyond Geneva bringing together policymakers, start-ups and so on.

Ideally this would be organizing in the first week of exploit 2027 as a kickoff of the upcoming back-to-back major international AI gatherings in Switzerland in 2027, namely the global summit and AI for good global summit both organized in late June. I would just like to mention that Serbia has over the years, over the previous couple of years developed great expertise in organizing high profile AI events namely GP AI in December '24 or in the future forum in cooperation with the WDUF and we are looking forward to supports of the ITU and be grateful for their engagement and support. Thank you.

>> VALENTINA: Thank you so much I would like to give the floor to Türkiye.

>> Thank you very much. It is my pleasure to present for BTK in advancing digital innovation, start in 2026. The dialogue among stakeholders is vital to foster innovation, attract investment and support infrastructure development since 2006 BTK has contributed to this global develop through its international communications regulative conference, in the industry, academia and international stakeholders. What began as a regional initiative has evolved into an international platform for peer learning, policy exchange and coordinated responses to emerging regulatory challenges. Building on nearly two decades, there's the regulators in 2026 from... 12-15th May. This milestone reflects the transition from sustained engagement to global impact and demonstrates Türkiye as strong commitment and leadership in international regulatory dialogue. Under the team navigating the digital frontiers, we saw as a global platform to advance cooperation, knowledge exchange and partnership for inclusive, secure and sustainable digital

transformation. Through these efforts we continue to have activity to the action plan and European regional initiatives by forcing regulatory cooperation, enhancing institutional capacity and facilitating meaningful partnerships. Taking this opportunity, we warmly invite you all to join us for GSR 26 in May. Thank you.

>> VALENTINA: Thank you so much. Now we would like to move to Ukraine. Ukraine submitted 10 contributions, nine from the ministry of digital transformation and one from the university that we had the pleasure to hear from already. So, from that perspective, we are going to give the floor first to the Ministry of Digital Transformation. For the nine of the contributions.

So, in total Ukraine has fifteen minutes for presentation.

>> Thank you very much, colleagues, good afternoon, again, hopefully it will take a less amount of time that it was expected. So first of all, let me express our appreciation for being here. Our Ukrainian delegation and for your continued support and especially by the ITU under the implementation that's very precious for us and Ukraine is grateful to all who are present in here or not. So, we are very eager to cooperate more with you that's why we fill so many contributions. Sorry for that, all of them are available on the website of course if you would like to deep dive in details please find our contribution displayed under the resolution that I sent all of them are available in here. But talking more on the reason why there's so many contributions Ukraine is not only rebuilding nowadays its telecommunication sector but we are co-creating a new model of resilience, security and future proof connectivity what we present today is not just a set of national initiatives but rather a platform for international cooperation where Ukraine serves as a real life laboratory for solutions for that can demonstrate resilience for the whole of Europe and beyond. Particularly speaking initiative one is about increasing about the foundation of everything of digital inclusion of resilience itself and given the fact that Ukraine's territory is quite, quite big today more than one thousand and eight hundred settlements are still underserved and not covered fully with internet connection.

Ukraine lacks broadband access affecting hundreds of thousands of people because again population is quite big also so... but this is not the Ukrainian challenge also it reflects broader gaps in rural connectivity across the Europe region and we propose it scale targeted model in underserved communities and ensure reliable connectivity for critical social infrastructure in particular schools, and hospitals. The second initiative is about institutional capacity building. Telecom forms at this

cannot be delivered without a strong institutional capacity and while we are simultaneously rebuilding infrastructure, implementing EU, trying to access the European Union and coordinating multiple other directions, while under wartime conditions to address this we propose establishing an educated initiatives to strengthen the capacity in the communication support, reform implementation and improve coordination with international partners. Third initiative is regarding international communication. Ukraine's telecom sector is a resilient success story but somehow remains undercommunicated globally so despite maintaining connectivity under full scale work conditions Ukraine should more be focused on communications and we propose so establish a systematic communication approach and very eager to cooperate with our partners and you and others in the European region especially to see Ukraine's experience as a global case of resilience and is a storytelling for everybody. Fourth initiative is regarding communications. Nowadays not only Ukraine there's a lot of trust in the telecomm infrastructure.

Which is a hidden barrier I would say to digital development and we can see public resistance to mobile network deployment that continues to delay infrastructure. So we propose an awareness initiatives included in expert engagement and materials. So building trust in telecom infrastructure for us it's essential. For accelerating the connectivity over the next generation especially 5G deployment and future network development globally. The initiative number five is regarding support for small and medium telecom operators. Who are now the backbone of connectivity in many communities in Ukraine. And we have more than 3,000 fixed mobile operators. Mostly of them are small medium enterprises and they really play critical role in ensuring access particularly in rural and remote areas at the same time the sector has suffered significant losses and that's more than two billion according to the joint ITU and well bound assessment. So, the sector needs some financing. We would like a support for modernization. And the sixth initiative is kind of related to that for those in frontline area. This is not a technical issue but a humanitarian necessity.

So, we propose a targeted grant support program to enable rapid registration and maintenance now of connectivity in these regions and we invite partners to support high impact targeted sustainability in these areas and that is not only about Ukraine, it is about connecting those.

Initiative number seven is about backbone infrastructure. Ukraine has the potential to become a key corridor between the Europe and Asia and realizing this potential requires the international cooperation so we propose establishing partnership

to establish backbone structure. In here there are some representatives of different countries from European region who have the locality one operators so we will be pretty happy to engage with you and with them and to create partitions on that base. And the last but not least initiative number eight, is about localization of telecom commitment manufacturing. Ukraine offers a real unique world environment. The experience of maintaining networks enterprises conditions in Ukraine of course creates strong foundation for innovation in resilience that I said today. I didn't know how many times but it is indeed important as also energy efficiency and security of networks. So we propose to attract international companies. Again, representatives of those countries are also in here. To localize R&D and manufacturing activities in Ukraine focusing on resilient technologies, future proof telecom technologies and et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. So we, again, invite technology partners to codevelop and test new solutions in Ukraine and innovations developed in Ukraine can help define the future not only of the European region but also the telecommunications which are resilient globally and to conclude my speech, Ukraine's ready not only to receive support but also to contribute knowledge, experience and solutions because the full scale invasion that is now happening for the fifth consecutive year is unprecedented and we invite ITU and all partners to move from fragmented support to strategic long-term cooperation and partnerships and we're very... we're very good to start communicating on that where Ukraine becomes not only partner for a policy development but for practical implementation on such initiatives. Thank you very much that's all from my side.

>> VALENTINA: Thank you, we have two contributions from the university so please the floor is yours.

>> I will continue on behalf of State University of information and communication technologies and we will talk about our contributions. So, the first is about project grant activities. We plan to establish original center for digital competencies to attract founding for the modernization of our laboratory facilities and for testing advanced ICT solutions. In addition, we will develop pilot projects focused on cybersecurity of critical infrastructure. This practical step provides a comprehensive support to the European regional initiatives of the ITU. Ranging from infrastructure development to strengthening trust in telecommunications and fostering innovation ecosystems. Also experts will actively contribute to the work of the ITU-D study groups. They will help develop a recommendations on the digitalization of education and inclusive access to technology. This is our direct contribution to the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. Particularly, in the areas

of quality education, industry and innovation and effective partnerships. So the second our contribution is about international conference that will take place this year. On 17-18 June. In Istanbul. Which is titled digital transformation, AI, and shaping the trust of the digital future. This event will be held with the support of the ITU. And co-organized by three partner university as a State University of information and technology system and Morgan State University. At this event will serve us an effective platform for the exchange of experience within the partner to connect initiatives with a particular focus on providing connectivity and developing new systems our goal in this area is to bring together academic partners from more than 20 countries with a business and public persons, public relations, creating unique opportunities for effective partnerships. So here it is.

>> VALENTINA: Thank you so much now I would like to pass the floor to the United Kingdom. We have five contributions which means seven and a half minutes. One from the Ofcom and four from the UK center. So, I would like to start with the Ofcom.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: The contribution from Ofcom is about our experience with our mop your mobile online tool. In short there are only so many drive tests that a regulator can do. So, what can we do to know about coverage in our markets when we have limits to our resources the example that we've presented is what we think is a relatively successful application of using a private sector complement of crowd-sourced data to build out and expand the dataset. That allows us to understand coverage in our country and whether it exists or not.

How good is it or not? So the way the tool works is you enter your post code and it says of the four major operators in the market is it good coverage, indoors, outdoors, bad coverage, spotty coverage and it's down to a 50 by 50 meter grid so if you think about running in any direction about 20 seconds you're into the next point in the grid and you get a new assessment so, yeah, in essence it's where we see good practice for us to work with other stakeholders in using, creating, presenting data to empower users.

We're happy to share this experience and happy to hear from others. I will keep it short and stop there, thanks.

>> VALENTINA: Thank you.

>> Thank you, chair. We often speak about connectivity as infrastructure; building is a digital society so the full contribution from SWG for learning are 11-14. That society is under quite a strain not from lack of access but unfortunately lack of safety and readiness which will erode what we're fighting to build. Across Europe and far beyond we're seeing

the same pattern the technology is scaling faster than our ability to govern it and to protect people within it and faster than we can understand its consequences and then when the gap appears, it's not just the technical failure it's a democratic one because when people feel unsafe online they withdraw from participation. We lose voices that democracy depends on, we see this with gender-based violence which is not only a harm issue but a national security issue because when half the population is pushed out of digital spaces we weaken economies, institutions and democracy ourselves. Our women are under constant harm and look at contribution 14 on cross border cooperation on violence against women and girls especially nonconsensual image abuse. We also see the misuse of AI and the erosion of trust. This is an economic issue. We can set four practical steps reflected in 12-14. Let's build AI governance and risk literacy is because AI education is a nice to have or even a should it's a foundation of the future we're trying to build. Third, invest in child online protection systems because the safety of our children today is the assurance we must build into the society of tomorrow. There is no tomorrow without the safety of our children today. And fourth, we must create regional trust frameworks where governments, civil society and industry act together not in sequence but in coordination. We are here to build them together with ITU, with governments with those who understand the digital development without safety is no development at all so this is an open invitation to move from fragmentation to coordination from reaction to prevention because if we get this right, we don't just build networks we build societies that people are willing to belong to. Thank you so much.

>> VALENTINA: Thank you so much and with this we close the round of interventions from the member states. And the representatives from the organizations from the member states. And pass the floor to international organizations in our partners. So, I would like to start here with giving the floor to ICANN who came with one contribution, so please, the floor is yours. Okay, I guess colleague stepped out of the room, yeah, probably they're preparing for the upcoming event. Social event. And now I would like to move onto the Regional Cooperation Council, RCC we have two contributions so three minutes, please.

>> (Speaker far from mic). Thank you. So, both activities proposed I relate to the common architecture plan, so the plan based prepared for the whole region should be implemented until 2028. So, both activities proposed, both contributions were in a very short period of time agreed with the, all the rest of Balkan six dealing with telecommunications meaning ministries

and the regulators. We really think that cooperation is the key, I repeat it once again and let me just say briefly about the contributions so the first one is capacity building in the area of radio frequency spectrum in a very short period of time we received so many proposals from the Western Balkan six that one moment I said, okay, don't share it anymore we will just talk to the ITU and we agree on what we choose so let me just mention some of them so spectrum licensing framework for 5G and 6G networks cross bordering interference in 4G, 5G. Four megahertz regulation of frequency use in the aerial terminal stations, et cetera. Another activity proposed is capacity, sorry, awareness campaign. On a new technology assignment it mentioned during panel so we would like to work on the initiatives that we will still late demanding the rest of Balkan six on new technologies and services. That would be all just to at the end I would like to say it's always a pleasure to cooperate with the ITU, thank you, guys.

>> VALENTINA: Now I would like to move to the universal postal union, we have one contribution.

>> UPU: Thank you very much. In light of the fact that many groups are still excluded from the digital society.

And digital economy, including the ruler populations, small and medium enterprises, women or people living in poverty, the UPU launched a global initiative called call connect dot post, to provide populations in need. This can be e-commerce, digital financial services and others. We are very open to cooperate with different partners. We are, of course closely in touch with other countries. We post operators by also with financial institutions and private sector.

So, this is also a call for everyone here in the room who would like to cooperate with us, to connect in communities, especially in rural areas, please let us know. We are also in the framework of digital inclusion efforts. Closely collaborating with the ITU. So just this year, we have actually codeveloped a course together with the ITU economy on digital inclusion for the public sector which precisely shows how hosts could be leveraged for this kind of inclusive digital transformation. The course will be an online instructional ed course that will take place this may the registrations are still open.

It's a course dedicated specifically for digital policymakers and digital regulators, I think a lot of people in this room who are interested are particularly welcome to join us and we are also aiming to strengthen our collaboration with the ITU initiative which aims at connecting schools so it's a similar effort just like we are trying to connect post offices we are trying to do these things together so as to connect as many people and bring them to meaningful connectivity they need.

Thank you very much.

>> VALENTINA: Thank you so much, and last but not least we have a statement also to be delivered by our ITU generation connect Europe youth envoys.

>> Thank you, let me briefly show the contribution we made. You can read it online I will not repeat every point by point. Just reiterating the importance, the strategic importance of the generation connect youth initiative of the ITU.

And in general, the importance of youth engagement in global connectivity discussions. Also paying tribute to the global youth celebration that was held in November last year and the call to continue this at the plenipotentiary conference this year also regarding the member states and ITU.

Including young people in the implementation is crucial as I mentioned earlier especially in euro three and year four. The priorities on skills development, trust and confidence in the use of ICTs, we welcome the inclusion of youth specifically under year three and we encourage the ITU to continue the very successful enjoy initiative and we would like to invite member states and ITU to consider, to continue to engage its alumni in order to retain their expertise in the future. Thank you very much.

>> VALENTINA: Thank you so much and we have ICANN back in the room so please the floor will be yours, one and a half minute for the contribution. Thank you.

>> ICANN: Thank you very much. Indeed, I can make a submission to the forum and the... and it is not surprising that the focus -- focus was on the universal acceptance as well as the decisions, the declaration of WTDC of 2025 in which the member states are encouraged to work over universal acceptance. Our presence today in the forum with interventions as well as post-event reception all that goes in a direction to convince all present in this room on the need to put effort to foster universal acceptance, thank you.

>> VALENTINA: Thank you so much. Now we'll be moving onto the next session. I am passing the floor back to Jaroslaw.

>> JAROSLAW: As I mentioned at the beginning of the session we try to summarize and categorize all contributions according to the priorities of the region to make the links and to transform this into an actionable plan which will be following from now on. I will now make the query who opened the document but I assume that everyone was browsing through the document whether the presentations were done. We can open the document so everyone knows where to find the document when you're going to the Regional Development Forum and the contributions on the top you'll have the description. Informing you that the summary is very invaluable. In the so-called draft regional roadmap which

is with you today with you noting the document transformed into the regional roadmap for regional initiatives which is a living document which is also the document which relies on the participants we will be building together I encourage you to take a look at the structure of the document.

Where you will always see the description of the original initiative listing of the potential partners, the beneficiaries, potential actions, and then of course the link to the potential service and products of the development sector that we will be building upon and the study groups. And the global digital impact also you'll see the strong emphasis on the technical assistance. I think the impact which we are doing at the working with the countries, gives a lot of pleasure to those who are supporting those but those who are also transferring the knowledge, know-how and seeing that things are moving at the country levels. A level building the capacities and harmonizing also the approaches across our region so that is where you'll find the block of technical assistance and as we mentioned not more than one platform driven by the regional initiative. So of course you'll find some other platforms. Which are offered or supported but it doesn't mean that we'll be controlling the content of those platforms we need at least one which will bring our community to discuss the partnerships and to develop further and implementation steps for the regional initiatives. And of course the last component, relies on the different offerings as you'll see quite a lot a number of the offerings has been tabled already today. Which brings a lot of inspiration and we've heard already about some countries speaking to each other during the coffee breaks and checking high the support might happen, this makes us really happy that this exercise helps to matchmake and of course we are remaining to your disposal.

To facilitate further operationalization. Sometimes there's a small support needed in order to bring the two stakeholders to work together in this triangle to advance on the implementation. Of course, there are, there's the last component of the long standing commitments which are coming from our side as the function of the IT office for Europe. Which needs to navigate, to inspire and also bring additional stake holders to the table and which is to the outreach in the nontraditional stakeholders in your countries.

Also very much or very often facilitating access to those who I will hear about the ITU for the first time. Also to the line ministries which would not know how to start a conversation with the ITU thinking we are a group of engineers but this dialogue's a really necessary and we have heard today an example of one of the projects in the agriculture which was used, how this works in reality. So with this, we would basically ask as a

Secretariat to note the document. And based on this, we would put the document as an annex to our outcome report of this event. But we will come back still to this component when we'll be closing the event. So, with this, I would like to thank, oh, just one item maybe to draw your attention the last chapter of the roadmap includes also the cooperation with the U.N. This is something where we are also providing three contributions. I think we didn't present them but we are inviting you to take a look at those as I mentioned earlier, we are driving a lot of conversations at the regional level and at the global level, at the national level so we try to capture those functions. Which are necessary in order to be relevant and not to work in silo. So, it's really important for us that we are as following the one U.N. approach, building upon the mandate and trust which you are giving us as the membership to exercise for certain functions. So, I think with this presentation of the roadmap we, I will ask if we can consider this document as noted. And the silence is speaking for itself so thank you very much. And congratulations to the whole region

>> AUDIENCE: (Applause).

>> Having said that I think we will be closing this session and moving to the last session of this event. Which is the closing ceremony. And on behalf, of the Secretariat I would like to hand over to our master of ceremony to guide us on further steps.

>> Thank you. Thanks very much to all speakers and participants for this presentation very inspiring contributions. And this conclude Partner2Connect matchmaking roundtable. And as Jaroslav said we will have a closing ceremony shortly and in the meantime, we invite you to continue your discussion informally and explore further potential streams of cooperation. So just a couple of minutes while the stage gets prepared for closing ceremony and stay in the room, please. Or if you want you can join me for a small stretching exercise. Maybe just stand up and make some... stand. Excellencies, now it's working. Distinguished guests and participants, we have come to the closing to conclusion of ITU regional development for Europe. That's been a truly inspiring and productive event. And we're rather grateful for your active participation. And insightful contribution offered today. I would like to announce the commencement of the closing ceremony. To chair this session I would like to invite chair designate Mr. Vilém the deputy director of the electronic communication department, and Ministry of Industry and trade of Czech Republic. Thank you now I need to have a script so there's no improvisation we need to do the final stage as appropriate and really clearly and properly. So the time is coming for the final summary and for

the final outcomes of today's forum. I would like to confirm that the draft report is ready and the already posted on the web where at this point, I would like to invite back our secretary Mr. Jaroslav Ponder to present the main highlights of the report. Please.

>> JAROSLAW: Thank you very much Vilém it is my great pleasure to inform you that the outcome of this meeting has already been completed.

The Secretariat was making sure that the main thoughts are well captured you'll find all the information which were expressed during the forum but also wherever you'll find, look for the details and go to the captioning to make sure that had information that is correct or more detailed there. Of course the main highlight of the forum is the roadmap which you took note of just a few seconds ago. We had great participation in the meeting we had quite a number of contributions provided by you which we presented all of them. And of course from we had three sessions which have been described in the opening, in the outcome report with the main highlights giving us a little bit more even insights what we would, what we should prioritize in the future, implementation of the roadmap. So thank you very much for not only contributing in written form but also with the proactive participation in the all panels and most important, with the Partner2Connect matchmaking exercise which resulted in several good outcomes. Of course we also would like to in the final conclusions thank all of those who made this meeting happen. And in particular our host so you'll find this in the outcome report. In addition to this for the record, we put the all listing of all contributions in the annex tool and the roadmap in the next frame so with this research chair designate we say thanks and handing over to you.

>> VILÉM: Thank you very much. I think it's clear and thanks for the presentation. With this waiting for a couple of seconds because now I would like to ask the regional development forum to take note of this draft report. So, is there any comment or remark coming from the floor? And seeing none, means that we digested it quite well at the moment and with this I declare that the RDF took note of the draft report and there also is the time window of 10 days for any of the delegations to suggest amendments if necessary. That should be done through the office for Europe if I understand well. So, we all have the contacts so feel free to do what is necessary. On behalf of the host, I would like to only say at this moment that it's been an extreme pleasure having you here today for the development forum. Which proves to be a good event good share of information and best practice. And with this at this moment allow me please to invite Dr. Cosmas Zavazava the development director to give his

closing remarks, please

>> AUDIENCE: (Applause).

>> COSMAS: To the audience we want to say thank you and a small token which serves as a memorabilia for the future. And encourage you. So, thank you very much. I think can we have a photo? So, they often say that even the good things come to an end. And it was a great day. The representation speaks for itself. Europe is for the six countries and we had 45 here present and we had participates participating remotely. It is really a good pleasure when you are in a place where you feel you are welcome. And I feel welcome here the dedication, the facilities, and the facilitation speak volumes of the commitment of the Czech Republic. We are committed to make sure that we fully implement all the original initiatives that go beyond because besides the original initiatives of course you know that we have got five topics that we were instructed by the membership to implement. One, universal meaningful connectivity, two, digital transformation, three, creating an enabling environment and to that extent I encourage you to come to Türkiye from the 12-15th of May.

For the global symposium of regulators who will have a bouquet of new materials for you to use in addressing the evolving digital ecosystem. But we also have a call for international cooperation and resource mobilization and that is the basis on which we met today. In this Regional Development Forum. International cooperation is fundamental. It is the foundation that will make us move from our thoughts and from the plan to action. And from action to impact. Finally, cybersecurity, particularly in this era of AI and even before, helps us to connect everyone. And to remove doubts. To bring confidence and trust. So that people feel safe when they are online. And critical infrastructure remains secure. And of course we are celebrating the future that today we have about 2.2 billion people who remain offline, so our celebration is not a holistic celebration. We moved it from 2.6 billion people two years ago and I think we are doing good progress and we are moving in the right direction and that is a good thing but the six billion people who are connected today probably skeptical with the era of AI that will be protected. Some are worried about jobs and job losses. And that are skeptical because of defect and other elements but we want to assure you we are working tirelessly to make sure that technology becomes a tool. And that a tool must have a human face and we are working with partners as you know ITU is 194 member states. Very diverse and in composition in developing states, in developing countries, at least in the developed countries but we too have among us ourselves in the private sector. Over 1,245 members are still growing and we

celebrate that because when we pave the way, one-third topic that I mentioned enabling environment for who? It is to pave the way for industry and private sector so that they can bridge the infrastructure gaps and they can also express themselves and develop technology which is relevant, reliable, and robust enough to address our human needs. And thank you, again, I will miss you. I know almost everyone here so it has been a long work. We have been together for a long time and I look forward to all the session tomorrow to join the CEPT and Com-ITU before I depart midday tomorrow. But thank you so much and we look forward to your participation at TDAC in Geneva where we are going to present to you the work we've been doing and our plans for future in total fulfillment for the Baku Action Plan. Thank you so much

>> AUDIENCE: (Applause).

>> VILEM: Thank you very much, director, also many thanks for the certificate of appreciation. I promise here in front of everyone that it will be appropriately conveyed to the director general. Without any harm and with that, it's time probably for a few words from my side I promise it won't be long. In my view the discussions today have reaffirmed that universal meaningful and affordable connectivity is not merely an aspiration. It is a prerequisite for inclusive and sustainable development across our region. Through today's substantive sessions we have collectively addressed the state of development, translated the outcomes of WTDC 25 into concrete regional actions and advanced the partner to connect matchmaking agenda.

The draft roadmap towards the implementation of the Baku Action Plan marks a significant step forward and we definitely comment ITU and CEPT for their continued leadership and thank all participants for their valuable contributions. The Czech Republic remains firmly committed to continuous multilateral dialogue. And to advancing ICT development in Europe. For myself I would once again highlight like I did last week at the margins of the cybersecurity conference that it also shows that the international cooperation is not a luxury.

Although we, from time to time are being accused from some people around ourselves of well, misusing the fundings. No, it's not a luxury it's a complete necessity and a must. With this on behalf of the host country and the team, I would like to thank you for participating at today's Regional Development Forum. I would like to thank our team by there's one particular person that are deserving a huge round of applause. And because of all the preparations in the background and before the forum. And during the ceremony so please a huge round of applause for Eva

>> AUDIENCE: (Applause).

>> VILÉM: And with this, at this moment I think there is a time for a little surprise coming from BDT team as well. So, is it a director, please?

>> COSMAS: Thank you very much I didn't want to spoil your very nice talk. We would like to invite you to watch the highlight of this RDF and of course we are going to pause the video if you want to download it for, as a memento to your families or your friends. Feel free to share so can we have the video, please?

>> (Music).

>> When you meet at the development forum you have a team to celebrate the success that we are making together.

>> (Music)

>> AUDIENCE: (Applause).

>> Nice, as usual. Keep the memory. Oh. Once again, no, no, no as many times as you wish. It remains online I'm pretty sure. So the moment has come to finish my role here today. By pronouncing the Regional Development Forum for Europe 2026 in Prague finished. Thank you so much

>> AUDIENCE: (Applause).

>> Thank you, quick I have only a final announcement that we will have a social event, a special social event on the observation of universal acceptance day. That will start directly after this session in the same room. It will have two parts. And the first part in this room and the second part will be a reception starting at six. So... and as I have a final word, let me -- it was a pleasure to guide you during this day. And I just would like to thank all the participant and especially my Vilém, my colleagues, and their team for this. Thank you

>> AUDIENCE: (Applause).

>> Thank you very much and it is our real pleasure to be able to celebrate universal acceptance day at the end of the European Regional Development Forum and we're grateful to you and the host country for giving us this opportunity. This today's event is cohosted by ICANN and EURid and at the beginning of this celebration I would like to invite Dr. Cosmas Zavazava to welcome this celebration.

>> COSMAS: So thank you very much, the last time you are going to hear my voice. I have to follow protocol. Ambassador Janice for assigned names and numbers icon. Ms. Regina. EU. Distinguished partners, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great pleasure to join you today on this great occasion, Universal Acceptance Day. A reminder that the internet must work for everyone, everywhere, every time. I would like to thank the commitment across the borders advancing this important agenda. Of course, we had a workshop together with the R2 about a week ago. And we saw a great occasion. The program of RFDF is in

this nice reception, universal acceptance is and I hope you agree with me, fundamentally simple.

It is about ensuring that all valid domain names and e-mail addresses are recognized. And function seamlessly across platforms, services and across any location globally. While this may appear to be a technical matter, its implications are deeply human. At this this is about inclusion, about enabling people to access digital services in their own language, and script. And to participate fully in the digital economy and society. This objective closely aligns with the common telecommunication union to promote universal activity. As the U.N. specialized detailed technologies, ITU works with the governments, regulators, industry, and the technical community to build in the operable, that's our standards, infrastructure, strengthen detail capacity and the digital ecosystems from supporting multilingual development and digital public infrastructure to advancing cybersecurity and detailed skills. ITU contributes to creating and enabling an environment in which universal acceptance can thrive. Indeed, we were mandated in this regard that we held last year in November. And the resolution 82 which commits ITU-D to preserving and promoting multilingualism on the internet for inclusive information society. With that I conclude the outcomes of WDTC more widely have enforced the commitment of all membership to detailed transformation worldwide. They are working to ensure networks, applications and detailed services are future ready. Capable of supporting internationalized domain names and e-mail address in the nationalization. By working together, across institutions, regions and communities, we can ensure the benefits of detailed innovation, accessible to all. Let us continue to strengthen cooperation and translate the vision of universal acceptance into concrete progress on the ground we look forward to continuing to work closely with ICANN including through coordination with Africa which is doing so much to supporting the region's digital economy. On that note, thanks again to ICANN, EU read and UNESCO for joining forces and for bringing us a step closer to universal acceptance. Thank you very much

>> AUDIENCE: (Applause).

>> Thank you doctor for your remarks. And also, for cooperation on the topic. So now I understand that that's me and Regina who stands between you and reception but still the reception needs to be earned so to say so a few slides from our side as I promise that I would tell a little bit more what ICANN is doing itself. In terms of universal acceptance and I can just repeat that our goal is to make sure that all valid names and e-mail addresses work in all software applications. And this is ultimate goal in order to make sure that our citizens can use

fully the benefits of digital society. Why it matters? First and foremost, because this is the question of our cultural identity and our values. As we also, that is the way how to empower citizens that they can freely express themselves online that is to bring more economic benefits to societies by enabling greater competition, innovation, and consumer choice. It is also to create social and business opportunities and actually create jobs. For software developers, for system administrators and other IT operators.

And finally, what is important for governments that is to enable governments and policymakers to communicate with their own citizens. So, what ICANN is doing, so we are engaging with the technical community with the big internet service providers, platforms, talking and trying to convince them that their operations should be fully UA compatible operations and services they provide. Since a number of domain name system machines servers run on open-source software ICANN is working to make that software fully UA compatible and also fixes its own systems so today all ICANN software, owned software is 92% universal acceptance ready. We have created three years ago an event called UA. Universal acceptance day and this is what we also celebrate today. Together with UNESCO, we organize events all around the world with the aim of promoting universal acceptance in that respect we have had... we have supported universal acceptance initiatives specifically in Africa, China, Commonwealth of Independent States and Eastern Europe, Europe India, Sri Lanka and Thailand and also developed the curricula which has been accepted as part of the university technical program in about 400 universities around Africa. And this is what I will also mention that academia here in Europe could use that curricula to introduce that also in their own programs. And finally we're working together with intergovernmental organizations including UNESCO and ITU to include adoption by the public sector.

If you look to the numbers, so this year we will have about... we had 70 proposals from 45 countries and territories to organize universal acceptance events we retained 30 events in 30 territories. To give you an idea how that has been in the past three years, specifically I would draw attention to the lower right chart that would give you an idea that about a third of the events are awareness raising events but about a third of events are practical technical training events. Where we gather engineers, software operators, administrators and train them to use universal acceptance compatible software. So, with these I would now like to invite our cohost. Miss Regina industry relation manager from EURid to tell us about what is happening in Europe.

>> REGINA: Thank you very much and I'm definitely the last point between all of us and cocktail reception. I would like to share with you a few remarks from the perspective of a CC TLD, the domain name in all three scripts of official U.N. languages. So not only Latin script with all that but also AU in the Bulgarian script and epsilon for Greek. And despite being based in Brussels there's a small office here in Prague where I come from and my two colleagues who will also be glad to talk to you later on. Let me give a concept of universal concept. We are here among experts so I don't need to explain what a domain name is on the example in my slide it's this dot INT for top level domain, ITU for second level domain, together ITU dot INT is what we call a domain name this part doesn't need to be only in Latin script. It can have special characters, hooks, accents but it can also be in a totally different script as an example here you may know this. A website in Bulgarian script that won web awards in 2021. And it's a good example of how to reach to the local community and address consumers in the local market however having selected dot EU might be an offensive thing but as long as you are able to use it in all your daily online activities it's maybe something like having a fully electric car without having a developed network of charging stations or I don't know if this parallel fits but maybe having a GSM mobile phone in a network without boosters. We can discuss if this parallel fits or not later over a glass of wine. However, having an e-mail address is technically possible but the question is, if you can really use it in your daily life. If you can register with this e-mail for an ITU original development forum. If you can file your text declaration. If you can send an e-mail which is well-received to our colleague abroad. And this is basically what stands behind the concept of universal acceptance. That you can use your language, your script, regardless which application you are using. It's not only for our technical fun but this is possible, it's also a fair and stable part of the WSIS system and also it reflects the sustainable development goals, the concept of linguistic accessibility, digital inclusion that nobody can be left behind. However, challenges still persist for this universal acceptance to work. EURid started 20 years ago. We are celebrating soon in one month our anniversary. It was a project by the European Union to support single digital markets. Single market and digital sphere and also to allow businesses, organizations and citizens to tie themselves to the whole Europe rather than just to individual countries and as a part of our mission and commitment, we are providing the registrations in all scripts and languages of the European Union. Just for your information

to quantify a bit, the situation with IDNs, EURid has 3.8 million of registrations.

You would say just 1% are IDNs but it's actually the worldwide average is 1%. And the advancement of universal acceptance is expected to grow. We are also running a project called IDNworldreport.EU. It started in 2012 in cooperation with UNESCO and other partners and we are updating on a yearly basis with new data and also a sentiment survey on what needs to be done to advance universal acceptance and also, we are bringing case studies from countries around the world with their experience with implementing IDNs. Some of the key outcomes of the last published edition showed that many TLDs are experiencing negative growths, more remarkably under generic names. Also the market is highly concentrated to the IDNs account for three quarters of all IDNs worldwide and also that there are still challenges not only in adaption but also in awareness and some of the case studies, for example, were to be further Israeli, DLD showed that despite relay a lot of marketing and awareness raising it was just too difficult or too quick for the users to get used to the idea that they can use their script in a domain name in their online activities. And let me conclude maybe a bit in a poetic way to have some thoughts offline and online world. This picture it's a Sámi singer and those of you who might have visited IGF in Norway last year.

Might have heard her, had a beautiful singing. And I'm sure that this talented young person would sound amazingly also if she would have sung in English but at least a huge part of this experience would be lost. And as much as we try to preserve the offline world for the next generation, we should also try our best to use the offline environment and join forces to enable this experience online. Also, together with young generation and for the young generation. This interesting thing, when I was searching for indigenous languages in Europe because we are in the middle of a U.N. indigenous languages decade, just now, I found out that this Sámi language is actually the only one in the European Union. But still deserves their letters to be part of the technical tables. So, this remarks I would like to thank you all for attention to ITU, ICANN for their efforts and invitation and I am giving back the floor to Janis for the conclusion.

>> We're inviting you to the reception hosted by EURid and ICANN.

>> AUDIENCE: (Applause).

>> The reception is where the registration of the hotel and then further down towards the restaurant.