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>> EMCEE: (No English translation)

>> MIGUEL ALCÁINE: (No English translation)

Sustainable Development Goals, the Baku Action Plan with the Strategic Plan of ITU. That is going to be adopted in the next Assembly where we're going to incorporate Regional initiatives. So ... having said this, all the scaffolding of things, because the Baku Action Plan and its operativeness is based on Study Commissions and testifies done by BDT but also in projects that BDT does. But BDT is the Secretariat of the ITU Secretariat.

The ITU-D is all of us hereby present and a whole bunch of people and stakeholders that are not here present, but comprised of the Development Sector of the ITU. The staff is only the Secretariat. So ... along these lines, the questions are the following. Not just what you are doing in your institutions and Regions with regards to these goals that we heard before. But on your behalf with other stakeholders that also cooperate with us, what are you doing to give life to some of the proposals from ITU? Specifically, what are you doing from your entity or country that responds to the CNDT25? Let us begin in order to avoid confusion. Go ahead, Luis.

>> NICOLAS SILVA CORTES: Good afternoon, everyone. Special greetings and gratitude to ITU for allowing me to be part of this luxurious panel. Pleasure to share with you. What interesting questions we have especially at this point where we're at the point where we are made to think not only what we need to do but also how we can do it and how we have been doing it. That is why I think these are highly relevant question. I work for a very technical Agency, which is the National Colombia spectrum Agency and from this point of view, being on the spectrum itself, I would say there is a keyword, which is to democratize the access and flexibilize the action of

the spectrum in all possible senses. Why?

Because we come from some rigid schemes related to services or how can we profit from this towards a scheme that spectrum becomes a resource that is not simply a technical thing, but it becomes a strategic resource for all the Sectors of the country, including the productive Sector, including connectivity and also in other realms, such as defense and sovereignty of the countries.

But this is a very important point. How to implement it, of course. Schemes that are flexible for access to the spectrum. Schemes that from the administration side that would represent our everyday more and more simple, more recurring and that also allow the different types of agents that require the usage of this research, have access to it in an optimal way. And with a caveat of guaranteeing the spectrum is used for its intended purpose. And this is part of the huge challenge. I will stop here now, but I will focus on this point right now.

>> LUIS SOTO: I will tell you what you are doing with respect to the agreements, what was legislated to the 2023, what the National Plan with the purpose of reducing the digital gap. Prioritizing education, safe and public safety, that is. Guatemala is betting on the technology changes, we know technology moves fast. The boys and young will make the most of the connectivity. In Guatemala, we have a plan, an educational plan in 2032, in which we will have already integrated the whole array of institutions, educational institutions. We currently have 37,000 educational centres out of which 30,000 have no digital connectivity. It is alarming and delicate because this is the future of our country. So we're betting on it. And it is important for us that we take firm steps. We started this plan last year. Especially particularly in December. And what we have right now is 500 schools with connectivity. It seems to be a little. Seems easy. But to provide connectivity to one of the centres. Means to educate the teachers, equipment, beyond just the simple quickly. Guatemala is working along these lines and also working in two Sectors. Number one is health Sector. That is obviously very important for the development and the public safety Sector. So we continue to work with this. And we go hand in hand with different ministries. The first thing we did was to sign institutional agreements with different Ministries. For example, the Ministry of Education is a ruler of education in the country. And the telecommunication superintendent cannot speed up or slow down the educational process. Nor the Ministerial plans.

So we take the pace that they have. We face important bottlenecks in this process that are hindering us from moving forward quicker. But we're moving along with firm steps and moving along the reduction of the digital gap and the National development plan.

>> CESAR CACERES: Thank you very much, first and foremost to thank ITU for allowing me to be here to share our country's experiences here. Thanking the possibly of being in this beautiful City of Cartagena, it is a pleasure. As for us, CONATEL Honduras, it is important in with the Baku Action Plan the administration shift

that just happened, and the President of the public brought focus to the management of the Telecommunication Sector. Obviously, we are glad to have our tourism ministry. We're interested in developing also tourism, and we want to develop policies and also define which are going to be for the priorities in our four-year Government that is fully committed to achieving this. We have appropriated the Declarations like everybody else in here that are key. How can we develop a country if we don't have telecommunication? And necessary development to reduce the digital gap and improve connectivity and the coverage nationwide. We have the support of the ITU to develop the new legal framework, in 1995, we're working closely with you to have in the next weeks the draft. So we can disclose it with all the stakeholders and bring it to the National Congress. We also have the commitment of the personnel of Congress and the Board of Directors on speeding up this and acknowledging the importance of complying with the goals of the Declaration.

Simultaneously, we are exposed because Honduras is one of the least developed countries in terms of telecommunication, and this forces us, within the development framework and approval of this to work simultaneously with different stakeholders.

With the leadership of ITU and the installation, we also intend to have it happen at the end of this year.

But especially to rationalize the amount of resources that we receive and are in the hands of different stakeholders that are seeking to improve the connectivity or the coverage.

Stakeholders are being coordinated and during this two months we have been in the current administration, to make an effort to improve connectivity but with a sense as Guatemala says, we have 22,000 schools that we wish to connect and we have offerings of different stakeholders, but this cannot be isolated. It needs to be done coordinated. It is not just to install the quickly, but it is also to give them the skills and training required. What are we going to transmit? And all of the effort, we want to do this real quickly, but we cannot do this without a guidance. And without achieving the impact that we want to get in the community. So we're trying to -- develop with the ICT the National topics that we're developing with the leadership of the President. Of coordinating all of the stakeholders, not only in the education Sector, but health Sector, tourism Sector, in particular. Development Sectors where we can integrate more of the connectivity and use the new tools like AI for applications like agriculture, infrastructure and industry that are important.

The challenges that Honduras has is to launch all of this. And we also recently authorized in the necessary processes to give concessions. We don't have 5G bands, so we're going to get it. And lower frequency bands that allow more connectivity and coverage. But focusing not only in education Sector, but integrating the municipalities that in the end are the authority where we don't have connectivity, they have not yet felt the connectivity through landlines, but we're going to try and find with the new technologies

we can provide small projects that will allow us to reduce the digital gap. And this is what we're doing right now in Honduras.

>> Good afternoon. Thanks to the ITU to allow us to present what Panama is doing with regards to the pillars of Baku Action Plan. (Edwin Castillo) and it is aligned with the four main pillars, but based on regulating regulations to Ally to have tools that have parameters and features. Which is measurable in time and achievable. Based on this and seeking connectivity, which is no longer a display to provide coverage. It is more than this. Latency, speed, devices, and the usage of the proper usage of the devices. Panama then, with this vision in this last year has attributed as of last year, more than 490 megahertz of spectrum in the 2.5 band and 3.5 bands, gigahertz bands, which are the most enabling bands for the display of the 5G networks.

What we see with this is that the operators can expand their networks with 5G. Especially in areas that are secluded and rural audience as well. We have created or modified laws. So the operators can share amongst them the additional spectrum without doing roaming. Also we have provided the possibility that cell phone operators can retransmit the signals. And cellular through satellites that have low orbits. And LEO orbit. Even now a cell phone operator that has agreement with a satellite company to retransmit the signals that is through satellite in rural areas and secluded areas where currently there is no signal. You with that this is one of the first countries that are providing designated spectrum for the cell phone operators.

With this we are expanding connectivity towards the most vulnerable areas. On the other hand this is -- this is something very trade secretive. To being the third operator in Panama can use the 3.5 band at an affordable price. We consider this is one of the cuts that the spectrum is the lowest and most competitive price. Very low, it was approved by the National Government and this is available for those interested in participating as an operator in Panama. This is with regards to strategic Alliances, I think that it is necessary that we see clearly has Panama has set out Alliances with ITU and CITELE showing once again the capacity of our country, being able to undertake this role in the last CCP1 that took place in April with a total success. Three years ago, we had another CCP1 in Panama and we had COMTELCA already established as a regular Regional institution. In the headquarters for the Central America Caribbean Region led by our friend Miguel Alcaine right now. I will stop for now and give the opportunity to other participants on the panel.

>> DOMINIC SMITH: Thank you, just in time because the battery just died on the transmitting device. I want to say a special thank you to my colleagues, the distinguished colleagues part of this panel. And of course, the ITU thank you for the opportunity to sit here and speak on some of the most important topics that the world is facing at the moment for Trinidad and Tobago we have ventured full force into what we call our digital evolution. Our Ministry, 13 months ago, we transitioned what was formally called Ministry of

Transformation to public admin and artificial intelligence. At the time, we were one of three countries, in Latin America and the Caribbean that had a designation with artificial intelligence in the name quickly we realized that this was something that was transforming disrupting many Sectorless and economies. Typically in the Caribbean, small island developing States have always been on the back foot when it comes to emerging technology, we saw this as an opportunity to be at the head or the start the race at other Developing Countries pace. So this was important. We spearheaded into it. How do we -- what can be learned from other Nations that would have done this. What were some of the mistakes that and we need a whole approach to the all Government Ministries, including what some colleagues mention, health, Ministry of Works, importantly, the Ministry of Education, a number of other Ministries. We quickly realized to really be at the forefront of this Digital Transformation, the human resource side had really been something that persons didn't consider. How do we deal with the disruption whoop we started looking at multilateral organisations for support. UN, UNESCO, and all of the organisations we reached out to see what was possible in tomorrows of removing and reducing the skills gap of our citizens and importantly our public servants they were facing.

We initiated an Open AI education programme in partnership with Open AI. We partnered with a company, many of you will be familiar with, Grammarly. And we started to train our public servants in artificial intelligence and how to use it practically in the day-to-day operations.

We immediately saw gains from that. We had about a 75% increase in productivity across many ministries with simple adoption of artificial intelligence in the work notice and work stream. Moving ahead, we said, okay, how do we know speak to some of the main pillars the ITU supports? The digital public infrastructure being one. We joined 50 and 5 in New York and that was significant. We assessed the methods on provided by the UN. Quickly after that we did what was called the artificial intelligence landscape assessment we have been going through the ropes in what we learned is possible. We learned this needs to happen at the country level and everyone has to be included in the process. When you are speaking about the technology and the connectivity are we including communities left behind? We started looking at the telecom organisations and how they support that. We quickly moved on our rig agenda. Which is the helping advance some of the good work we're doing. So in collaboration with the attorney general's office, we began looking at what is the legislative stalls we have and what were the bottlenecks that began to move, we began the policies and bills and all that is super important as we transition to use the technology and prefer the use of AI and do it in an ethical way. Technology must never surpass our humanity. That is a crucial theme in the Ministry that I run. We always are trying to see what is the added value to the citizen and to people and to have the technology amplify the benefit to people? So I know I said a lot. We politicians tend to do that. And I will pass it on

to my colleague here for her comments. Thank you.

>> LEDENIKA MENDEZ: Thank you, have a gratefulness to ITU, Carlos for the invitation. I want to let you know, of course you may know it, a year ago, Mexico has a new law in telecommunication and for the first time in the story, Mexico has a Minister. On the digital telecommunication. And it is gathering all the systems that before were in a state sub-Secretary. Right now we have a new dependence on this nature. We were work on topics related with Digital Transformation, with the telecommunication policies. By Cybersecurity and nowadays, also the AI topics. That are recently launched. Like school that the Government is publishing a programme for the spectrum and connectivity plan that are in the social coverage in this framework of institutional planning the Commission of communications I'm a part of. We're lending all of the public policies. We have seen and several conversations that looks like the regulations are going one side and then the other strategies are going to the other side. So we have this opportunity. But nowadays, we have a large gap and Mexico has the fortune that the regulatory policies and on the strategies are merged in a unique initiative. In this framework, the Commission needs the activities to discuss mostly the colleague from Colombia was saying of the spectrum. On these seven months that the Commission has been working we are really new. We are working with intensity on the new activities. The public conditions, registration, authorizations, business, this idea is a regulatory framework that is more flexible, according to the needs of the Sector and the new interest, I want to highlight the parts of the publications. First of all, management simplification, nowadays, we're working and doing efforts to reduce paperwork. And this is something really important be closer to the Sector. On simplifying the public registry and 63% of this paperwork is being done and the idea is to have only that portion with clearer requirements sharable with some other paperwork that you have to do. And we have a public platform. The spectrum where the operators, or the possible stakeholders are going to interact with the consultations and if you want to look at it at the Commission page and also recently from another consultation, we made some guidelines for the social spectrum consessions, specifically for the population from the Indigenous People in Mexico and there is the Commission also that is focused on this population that being historically left off. We're talking about technical issues and as angel has mentioned before, we are learning on the new requirements. And they are closer for the first time are the Indigenous People from Mexico. And now we're closer to the individuals and we are making dialogues, and not only because I'm here, but we are doing Roundtables with the stakeholders. Thank you very much. This is all I have to say.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much for all of your answers.

I want to highlight some of the things that you have been mentioning. And I want to let you know that in the next questions, we're going to start over there. What I want to highlight is first of all, three of you spoke about spectrum. Or four. Maybe four. Was

it a social use of the spectrum or whatever terminology you use in two countries, Colombia and Mexico? Colombia with the 900 megahertz frequency that we mentioned before, it is new for me that they're doing some ... new reforms in Mexico they're doing it. I think it is really interesting. What Panama is doing, with spectrum partition. That is easy to say, but if you share passive infrastructure, it is hard. Imagine to make an agreement between some operators to have a shared spectrum. That is really hard. Colombia and ITU is working and we are so glad that they did the 900 band. And with Guatemala, all these connectivity plans, I believe will be known and strengthened because we had been more than one year working and racing in a geo-localized way, the infrastructure for telecommunications, recently we finished, so you can start modelling and taking decisions with more criteria that just having on the head where the things are or where the signal is or where it is not. And also recognizing like in Honduras, we have two projects running right now. One for the establishment of the CERT and the other for the new law. And recognize also, in the sustainability priority saying like with Guatemala, in Honduras, we requested a new sustainable connectivity method. You're doing it also in Colombia. But in a different way. That is the community is taking the solutions of connectivity that we're providing and that way it is sustainable.

>> MODERATOR: Congratulations to Panama for having that much spectrum located. And congratulations first reading spectrum for 5G, like the it was mentioned, in the regulation Summit, it has to be done with a vision to make the coverage wider to strengthen the economy. Not necessarily like a vision to collect. This is really important. I'm going to start in English now.

Trinidad and Tobago, I recognize the work and effort you have done in reorganizing the Government to going to emerging technologies, like AI and others. And it is interesting to know that only by kind of training and implementing the gravity of the Public Sector, you have been able to get that 70% of product. That is a lot. That is a lot. And we cannot forget about the training for the citizen and the people. With AI, there is another gap that is coming to us. It is the gap of people that can use AI and people that cannot. People that have critical judgment and people that are not used to using critical judgment. It is huge.

Coming back to Spanish, the ITU, it is also cooperating with El Salvador and we're implementing our free code. A framework for the AI. It is in El Salvador. The app is named gene. It is in agricultural topics. That we hope to be delivering in October this year. It is also doing great work in emerging technologies. From the United Nations point of view. Like ODS. So what this means is we are supporting the free code and open font. And we have a programme or a free code and open font. The invitation is for all of the countries to come closer and see what we're doing. In this part, AI, as well as delivery of the public services. Electronic public services with the initiative that more than one of you are knowing. It is for the dial. It is ONG. The informatical ONG.

Finally, I want to recognize your organisations understood the work several of you are doing. Starting in Mexico that has a Ministry and also aligning the times of the Minister part with the regulations part, so now, hopefully you can preserve this for a long time, synchronized. It is happening a lot. You have the same Agenda and delayed on time, it is not the same effect. We recognize there are some organizational changes that we need to do. For this to work. And recognize the framework that are working for that. And if we cannot modify the load for the registrations we can do like Panama is doing. The second and last question because of the timing, it is very easy you may answer this in five minutes. What did you find, how did you solve it, what are you doing? I will start with Ledenika Mendez.

>> LEDENIKA MENDEZ: Hello. I believe that one of the main barriers that we found on this path is difference in timing and the distance between the Agendas. For regulations, with the Government strategies, and thinking in a different perspective. So this is something that mostly our countries have planning every four or five years in case of Mexico every six years. We have a new development plan. And we're aligning the other Sectors, according to this plan. So I consider that the main challenge is the precisely the alignment of timing and Agendas and the policies and regulations. Today, for example, one of the learnings that the acknowledgment of the different stakeholders. And each one from their point of view can give something that the development to have an agreement because we all have the same end, the same goal. And it is the individuals. It is not the Government. It is not the leader. It is the individual that we're working for. And I'm sure that the Mexican Government is thinking about the individuals from different Sectors.

And there is no decisions on public policies or regulatory policies that is not thinking about the individuals. That is why the most important change on the Telecommunication Sector is to have a new law. Because the law, the previous law, was not allowing you to change, but now the new law, they take adds for the use of the spectrum, they need registration. And the use, the temporary use of the spectrum that now we're using with the WorldCom, because we have some guidelines that approve to use the spectrum in a temporary way during the months that the workup is going to stay in the areas where right now, having the events because we were waiting more than 25 million tourists. So to do this, we implemented this. With the previous law, we were not able to do that. So it is very important for this Sector to have new technologies and have this flexibility on the framework. This is helping us get more information on the Sectors where now we have regulations. But I'm repeating, the individuals, they have to continue talking together in the Indigenous People and the other parts of the scientific development. Of research and innovation. So this is also a challenge coming as a regulatory framework that should be flexible. What is the perspective for the next year? That is the challenge that we need to place over the table. And when we need the cooperation of all the stakeholders. Thank

you.

>> DOMINIC SMITH: Thank you, again, Chair. I think a big challenge for us that we didn't recognize we would face such difficulty is the Cybersecurity challenges we faced. Very early on into the Ministry's introduction of AI. We had deepfakes and fraud related publications online. We had to essentially set up a Committee to treat with some of these things. So that presented a challenge. That required consultation with Private Sector and Ministries and departments that were typically we treat these things in silos. So the gaps emphasized, in the challenges. The silo is in every department and Ministry is a challenge. Not just Cybersecurity but ICT implementation across the Board.

We have taken the approach of consultation, one. Using best in class advice and technology to support but then also benchmarking activities and solutions so that we can essentially tackle these challenges head on with the most effectiveness.

The second challenge, I would say is adoption. When we started to rollout some of the digital public infrastructure solutions, we started talking about interoperability and e-identity. The Caribbean is a taboo place. Some things didn't resonate with the people. Even digital wallets. These are concepts, though many accept, there are those that the adoption is a challenge.

We went to the EI impact Summit in India. They were telling us one of the challenges they had also was adoption. This was also attached to the nature of the culture. I think that is an area that countries don't consider when they're rolling out technology is whether or not the people can identify to the technology rolling out and what are the adoption rates after you roll out the infrastructure and then don't have the usage? That naturally was a challenge we face. The third biggest challenge I would say, a really important one is the regulation under the regulatory environment, the legislative environment often lags behind. We had issue of Cybersecurity but didn't have data policy and data protection laws. So we needed to aggressively look at how do we align ourselves with best in class policy and the way we tackle that issue is working with multilateral organisations such as UN and UNDP and many of the organisations have a policy. I know ITU as well provides support and advice on policy direction as it relates to these things. I think for us our approach is don't reinvent the wheel, we need to speak with our partners, collaborate as much as we can. And learn from the mistakes that others have made to create a better situation for us as a country in the rollout of our transformation Agenda. Thank you.

>> I'm going to spread this in three different ways. One is technology. Technology is going forward in huge steps and regulations are behind. That is why Panama and some other countries in the Region are participating in the Sandbox project of the ITU that Carlos Lugo Silva is managing. We hope that we have technologies without having to focus on regulations that haven't allowed us. That is the first obstacles that we're trying to overcome, not only with the Sandbox, but also we're participating in the CITEL project of the regulatory

improvements with the same goal. Some other aspects is symmetry between different Regions, the Indigenous Regions. Rural Regions. Regions with -- and the largest difficulty.

For the connectivity to the schools. To the different homes and with education Ministry, we achieve to execute a project that is taken to provide Internet to all the schools in the country. It is more than 3500 schools that are receiving Internet. And it is in the installation process, through the company that had the initiate taking this to the schools and the Internet and the equipment and the education.

Previous education for the students to know what is the Internet for. Why do we use it? And what results and benefits can we have from it? The third thing is the financial economical topics that is the largest barrier. Because if you don't have economical sustainability, all can stay just in paper.

In Panama, we have access and service, universal access and service law from 1989 that ... and that means the service in the access areas where the principle and established guidelines by the law that I won't mention, because it will take a lot of time. But even though it is not only for the servers of the cellulars to have connectivity through the radio but also optical fibers and wireless access that is used through the universal service access law. And the barriers we have there is basically the economical facility. Because it is not enough to implement and take that infrastructure to the areas that are required but still working to improve and two years ago we passed this to the Board of universal services and access, and 25% of the money that we collected from the assignment of the radioelectric spectrum. And all the bands through the state is assigning, all that in the amount 25% is given to the project of universal access.

>> CESAR CACERES: From Honduras point of view, what we found is a lack of communication and dialogue between the different stakeholders. Not only the Private Sector and Public Sector, but also inside the state, different stakeholders that have duplicate competences that are not respecting the limits and it is hard to develop the internal communication that will justify where we need to go. We will have action spread with different stakeholders. If we don't articulate the efforts, we are going to have the criteria. Like the way we always manage it. So what we find in Honduras. How can we articulate and define and clarify the functions, after that, to have a communication with a Private Sector. Because we were divorced in the last years between the servers and different stakeholders with the regulators and other stakeholders. So going from this clarity, defining which ones North and knowing how are we going to develop to reduce the gap? Not only with isolated projects connecting in the schools, if we don't have the sustainability, and equipment and the responsibility and who are we going to train? It is so hard to go forward. Right now, we are obviously the importance to have the experience and the good practices that are the neighbour countries can have shows like Costa Rica with the 5G and connectivity

in Paraguay with the education and Indigenous languages. All of that programmes are allowing us to present to the Private Sector. That is it our friends. And generate connectivity and obviously having the security of the Cybersecurity. And all of the elements from the new technologies like AI and obviously going forward, on that path. Having clarity on the challenges and our interests, where are we going to go?

>> Thank you. I believe the common practice is to have modern laws that are in effect to allow us to go with the technology. In Guatemala, (Luis Soto) the greatest obstacles is law, from the contractors to fight corruption. But 20 years in the technological development, obviously we need to change it, make it modern to allow us to go with the technology and advance of the new technologies, et cetera. Basically our biggest obstacles are the laws. And the second one we have a battle neck where the communication servers that are in the making of installations are really slow. We realize this because it is also a law matter. We have municipalities that have 40 majors that decide how much do they charge, how they change. And if they also rise any infrastructure in communication, electricity, et cetera. The service cannot get to the places where we need them. Just the places where the demand is enough to cover the payments for the municipalities. So we're promoting the law initiative to achieve the standardized, the values and have the investors secure and how long for the permits and studies to begin working. That is what is delaying us. And social factor. We have more than 1800 Indigenous communities with 20 different languages. Mayan languages. Also have other languages. That is our official language. Although we are close to the Mayan language school and the other programme is not that we have 20 languages, but also the problem is that the seniors older than 40 or 50 years old. They only know the mother tongue. They don't know how to read or write. So this is a terrible issue because we cannot give them Internet or technology because they don't know how to read. So Guatemala is focused on the education with the children and youngsters and for 2032 we will have 32 schools with Internet and bet on the future of the new Guatemala standards that are coming behind. Thank you.

>> NICOLÁS SILVA CORTÉS: I know we are short on time. I will be very specific. I know we share several things in the connectivity programmes in the mechanisms that I believe are all of this is very important. It is something that each one of us with the needs and particularities are trying to manage in the best way. I want -- in the best way. I want to go further. Which one of us is regulatory. We have to be critical. Because always we want to be pleased with ourselves. But how can we think among the framework. That is the greatest challenge. How can we see inside the model that I have, that the innovation application is something that is both, not to go to the innovation office or innovation area. So how can I do this in a better way? How can I simplify this format that I'm asking 300 things that are not using them or this information that I'm requesting, that definitely is not worthy. So I will face this as

part of the challenge that we have as the public Authorities. And the other thing, how much do we know our customers. How much do we know our relationships? Because we're used to users of telecommunication services. And what happens in this environment where the communications and technologies are going cross wards. We found ourselves a spectrum Agency, which are at the spectrum level. How can we translate the needs? We have a great responsibility to create culture. It is not only to train indigenous communities or children or minorities. It is a huge challenge in how to be a catalyzer and facilitate all of the Sectors. And lastly, I believe that it is very aligned with the last topic. How are we taking advantage of our data? How can I obtain data from other Sectors? And also from the things that I'm doing inside my organisation, inside the technology Sector, how can I be more efficient in the user data. This is something that is really important. It is not only to have some reports and the statistics and how to cross this with geo reference distance. Whether we have more demand on the spectrum inside the areas that I can make skills that are more dynamic. Those are the largest challenges that we have been finding. I have to go progressively. But we have to self-recognize what the things I have without prejudicing my institution and improve the Governance of the situation in the countries.

>> MODERATOR: I have one question -- time for one question and for two panel members to give the answer. Anybody have a question?

>> ATTENDEE: Thank you, Mr. Guterres from liberty Latin America. I want to respond to what was mentioned about the decisions taken in Guatemala with the Panamanian authorities and the spectrum for the investment and long-term solutions. And Edwin Castillo was mentioning in the serving in Panama. I would like to ask Edwin Castillo about that? How is the Panamanian Authorities related to the third server? Panama is a country that has a market of telecommunication that is been evolving.

Initially they had four servers and now three and now two. What is the long-term -- how can you consider that a third server can generate conditions for the investment and sustainability of the communicates market in Panama?

>> EDWIN CASTILLO: Yes, thank you for the question. Excellent. Basically the conditions that we have from 4 to 2, basically, where directed to activity. Each server made what was convenient for the company and at the end, the results were not the ones that we expected. That is why we only have two in the market. The expectations about the third server that really started, basically ... can take a look to the prequalified conditions and in August 11, we're going to see if there is some interested. One of the conditions that we want to have it first, expenses because they're very competitive. It is no less than \$250,000 per megahertz. We're assigning 100 megahertz on the 3.5 band. It is going to start, based on the 48 megahertz. With the possibility for another 60. And the other band that the other organizations have. Basically, we built another document with the cruise to modify the interconnection expenses of a mobile fix, fixed

mobile, that is a barrier also. That is an aspect that we are trying to work with to make it attractive. And also, Panama has a digital hope and international area hope. We have fiber optical fiber that is National. And we have many facilities on the infrastructure and technology that we consider that is going to be making this a very attractive investment in Panama. In other hands, there are loss and judicial security are very good. This is also an aspect that we consider we have interest in classify in December.

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>> MODERATOR: Okay. To finalize the panel, I would like to rescue some of the ideas, quickly in two minutes. I will go over one minute.

First, regarding AI, to acknowledge the cyber safety risk, which was mentioned, and to acknowledge the unseen risk, adoption or nonadoption. This is also very important risk for new markets, new technologies and so on. And it was also regarding the self-critique that Nicholas here mentioned. Besides institutional change or we also have a space where we can see if we can improve what we're doing. The laws can be a problem, especially if the laws were designed for a purpose that no longer exists in society.

I want to rescue what Cesar Caceres said with regards to managing and opening in the Public Sector. But with the other stakeholders and telecommunications as well, because -- and beyond, because telecommunications reach goes beyond.

We cannot improve this, if we don't have the diagnostic or if we don't know where we are standing. This is absolutely paramount. So I will close with the idea of Ledenika Mendez, which is the opening of the Information Documents the people are the centre of what we do. This is the glue that brings everything together. When we have a competence between regulations and please I invite you to put ourselves in the chew shoes of the user and citizen. And what does the citizen or user require, and from that standpoint to resolve it all. And I want to thank the panel members with an applause and therefore we will close this section.

>> EMCEE: This applause is also for the Moderator of course. Great thanks for valuable contributions in this Roundtable that has just concluded.

We invite you to enjoy some coffee, do some networking, and we will meet again at 4:00 p.m. to have the Roundtable number 3, Roundtable on the implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives for the Americas we kindly invite you to have a delicious cup of coffee.

And for those interested in using the connectivity and everything. You can have your coffee now.

(Break)

>> EMCEE: (No English translation) we invite you to enter the room and we will start tomorrow at 8:30 so you can be here on time and we start our programme Agenda.

We will start our Roundtable number 3. We have our members and panelists. Remind you to put on silence all the cellular devices and we will start.

Welcome again. Now we start with this Roundtable number 3. That is Regional Initiative for the ITU of Americas and Roundtable on the implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives for the Americas the initiatives address infrastructure, resilience, digital inclusion, and digital ecosystems, emerging technology, regulatory frameworks. This Roundtable will be moderated by Mr. Sergio Scarabino, Representative of ITU for South America, which I call to come join us on stage. And he says joined as panel members, Mr. Oscar Leon, Secretary-General of CITELE. Mr. Rodney Taylor, Secretary-General CTU. And Ms. Angeles Ayala, Executive Secretary of COMTELECA. And Julissa Cruz development digital of Latin America development bank and Mr. Christian Oflaherty, ISOC and Mr. Mark Reynolds, Board of Directors member of CANTO. Our Moderator and panel members, we invite you up-front. We would like to have a photograph at the beginning of the panel.

In the same order that you are, and please join us here on stage. We'll have the Group photograph that remind you once we finish the panel we will have cocktail and we can share your impressions of the first Day of Different topics we're addressing that summons us for two days of intense information. Of where the reception will take place and we can share. Picture with everybody.

I will leave you with Mr. Sergio Scarabino.

>> SERGIO SCARABINO: Good afternoon, how are you? Good. We're good. I like it. I like the Manager. Okay. As you might have seen, we order the Roundtables and panels to bring you from the trends, global trends, that is, and ICT, digital inclusion and the results from the previous panel, and the view of the results applicable to all the markets in the world. What we will do is within the results of the Conference we will discuss the Regional initiatives, most of you are familiar with the process of the initiatives. In any case, while we will review them real quick, there is a work that is done of coordination that is mainly done at CITELE. Oscar told us a bit about it. Maybe now he will elaborate more. It is done what we call inter-American proposals and we work with the Documents that are going to be discussed and the Conference, and we define the Regional initiatives. The Regional initiatives are very wide. They have a very wide spectrum, five of them were approved during the last Conference, there used to be four. The one that is separated as a new initiative during the last Conference is regarding the Cybersecurity, that is a growing topic in the Agenda of the countries.

With the importance that it has to provide security to the users, that are on the networks and the user services. The services user. I have been coming for the meetings for a long time. I need my glasses now to properly see.

First one is related to infrastructure with developing infrastructures that are resilient, that allow the display and connectivity that is universal and significant. It was underlined recently in the previous Roundtable. The second one is regarding digital inclusion and the digital capacities. Third is with innovative digital environments. And fourth with the Cybersecurity

which is mentioned. The last one is related to enabling regulatory frameworks and Governance for sustainable Digital Transformation. As you can see, it is quite wide. And I think that from the Region, we are asked as ITU to focus our job, our work on these five recipients or directions that are quite wide in the universe of information technologies and digital inclusion. Along these lines, I made an -- I extended an invitation to the panel members. I must say that this is like the dream team of Regional Organizations. Of the Americas and the Caribbean. And I'm super happy to share this panel with all of you. I know all of you -- I have known you for a while now. It is quite a pleasure. An invitation I extended at first, and now, I'm going to give each one of them the mic. But the invitation is to first and foremost, to tell us, in each one of their organizations, I don't know which is -- out of the Regional initiatives, which is the one they work the most, because they probably work on all five. But to which one or in which is the priorities that they have in each one of your organisations? So while I take a seat, Oscar, if you wish to start, please go ahead and tell us.

Then we will move on to the rest of the panel members. One thing I wish to convey today, mentioned by the Director in the morning, Cosmas Zavazava, what we are seeking is the matchmaking. And they're going to tell us what they're doing and the intention that we have is based on what they say. You identify opportunities for action. Opportunities of implementation and achieve concrete tangible results. Not just let them talk. And we just leave back to the cocktail. But to be World Cup gamification spirit. I say we will have a prize, before we finish the panel, one of you raise your hand and says I want to do with some of these people what you said you were doing with the organisations. This is what we're after, this is the matchmaking from the initiatives from Partner2Connect that we're incentivizing. Because what we want is a concrete activities, tangible results and implementation. So I leave you with a challenge, you will have to seduce some of the members of the audience for them to raise their hands, and I'll disclose what the award is later.

>> OSCAR LEON: Thank you, Sergio. Two or three countries are working together. It is an additional incentive so we can move forward with one or two or more of the countries that have mentioned a wish to work in this part of the process of closing quickly this work. To avoid being inaccurate, I wanted to take the five Regional initiatives and try to indicate in each one, what are we doing? I can't do, because we work one more than the other. It is complex to reach an agreement with the activities. Which exponents the wording to have these initiatives. And we're working on all of them. Of course, some of it will be more developed than others. We have the same interest in all five. First, I want to talk about the initiatives of resilient infrastructure and significant connectivity, something important here is the work that we're doing together with the Member States and Associate States. We have done so many studies in the Region, that it becomes a point to say no more studies, let's do something concrete. It is practical guidelines for the

implementation and we're doing technical accompaniment to the countries in this moment in the implementation.

The good part about this, not only the process of talking with people that are interested in Government entity, but it is multistakeholder situation. Others participating, Academia, guilds, operators, National and international. This makes it a comprehensive assessment with the assessment of the other to see what happens or what works or not. This is part of the important process. This is a model trying not to innovate because we're not reinventing the wheel, but we're trying to figure out externally the Roadmap of what is to be done and the implementation process. The concerns hear what they're seeing in the award. I'm summarizing, if there are questions we can talk later. But out of the most representative projects, the second initiative, which is the digital inclusion and capacities is important work in the development and delivery of scholarships to the countries. We have had year by year. But right now, we're between 22 and 28 Member States to have AI last generation satellites. A lot of great amount of scholarships between \$2,006,000 a year. It is in the initiatives. It is a community network. We have our partners here. ISOC, with which we're doing training of the communities where they themselves can operate the networks in those places where there is it no communication and there will not be communication because it is not financially viable.

So I gave some figures this morning, we're talking about one million children train 460,000 teachers and another large amount of figures that show what we're doing. Not just words, but the reality of the work we're doing. The third initiative, the Digital Transformation and innovation which you are precisely using here. It is a technological step, we're using the AI to do the analysis in the technical accompaniment process. In general, data, so you can see what we're talking about. We're applying the models of learning and LLM of AI to do reviews of the regulations and policies in different countries, this includes more than 59 regulatory instruments, more than 2 million words reviewed to see the consistency of the regulations and the policy and the country, we're talking not just to see them, but consistency assessed by AI to achieve the analysis and the tech, what needs to be changed. And it is part precisely of the regulatory improvement that we will talk much more in detail in the finish of this.

Just so you can see what we're working on in AI.

The fourth is trust and digital resilience. There is multiplicity of priors. Like community actions that we have multiple partners and resources that allowed us to reach out to four or five countries with this initiative of network resilience, especially the most secluded areas, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia and the other Regions. We have emergency connectivity, somehow, I'm sure the connectivity and ensure that it is being used properly. This goes along with the accompaniment to improve the productive changes in the Regional Governance and regulatory frameworks that I want to highlight here the work we're doing with Carlos with the Sandboxes

and a comment done in the previous panels. It is not the same work. They're complementary because if it was signed by CITELE there were 14 initiatives, 14 work guides. Seen is one of the 14. It is part of the state's Member States and member countries to work on all 14. The initiatives the Sandbox is an essential element to entry in the regulatory improvement work that we started with in Panama.

And Dominican Republic. That is what I say we're competing for resources of all three countries. We will see which one will make the use of the resources.

I will stop there. This is a summary.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you, Oscar. Sorry for cutting you off. But it is very good. Rodney Taylor.

>> RODNEY TAYLOR: Thank you, Sergio, it is wonderful to be here in the beautiful Cartagena. This is my second time. I was in Santa Marta a few months ago at a European Union Latin American Caribbean Summit. And before that in Bogota. If I come again this year, I hope I can apply for permanent residence in Colombia.

The CTU represents 21 States and Associate States in the Caribbean. They're not all independent countries, some territories of France or Dutch or British. But we are a part of the CARICOM, the Caribbean community. CTU is a specialized part of CARICOM in promoting harmonization in the Information and Communication Technology policy space.

For us, there are many priorities. Coming out of Baku that we are aligned with. In the interest of time, I will focus really on one.

ITU is a very important partner for us. We cover many areas, many international organisations, including the Internet numbers. I can serve on the Advisory Committee, and Internet and other Regional registries. For us ITU is the premier partner with which we can collaborate.

Resilient infrastructure is critical for us in the Region and resilience has many dimensions to it.

We live in a zone that is consistently hit by hurricanes every year as a result of climate change. My colleagues are here from Jamaica and they can tell you just last year, the devastating effects of hurricane Melissa.

The Director of the BDT spoke of the assistance that Jamaica received from ITU. And that assistance was critical in restoring communications when networks are down.

We also worked at the CTU with a Spanish company called HISPASAT, with the support from the European Union to deploy emergency communications.

There in Jamaica the equipment is still deployed there and still in use supporting Jamaica. For us, it is important because we know hurricanes will be coming. They're getting stronger. To build the resilient infrastructure, first of all. The infrastructure should be built in a way that is able to withstand. I believe this was mentioned this morning in the opening ceremony.

Of course, many of our networks are not built in a resilient

way. Therefore they will be impacted. Therefore how do we leverage communications to ensure when terrestrial networks are down, you still have access to communications or communications can be reestablished at the earliest possible opportunity.

So for us, resilient infrastructure is important.

As a part of that, if even go back before the hurricane hits, we want to ensure that our Member States have the capacity to warn their citizens of impending disaster. Climate resilience early warning systems, in particular, using technologies Excel broadcast is important. I was working at Grenada a validation Workshop, a project funded by the World Bank, supported by the ITU to deploy early warning systems in five of our Member States. This is critical. And lastly, I will say, we want to ensure for example, vulnerable communities or vulnerable Groups like small scale fishermen through the smart seas initiative that we already deployed in Trinidad and Tobago. We're working with Grenada. The small scale fishers, they go out to see and maintain communications because it is important if in case they go adrift that they're very vulnerable Group. We can community. This was demonstrated in Baku in the WTDC, the impact this project is having within the region.

So there is a lot. I mean, under resilience, we can speak of cyber resilience and therefore the cyber drills we have been working with the ITU on is very important for us to ensure as we roll out digital infrastructure that it is rolled out in a secure, resilient manner.

I will stop there for now. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you, Rodney. Thank you, Rodney. And to underscore something Rodney said, that from the ITU, we have resources to go later after the natural disasters and unexpected interruptions with the network. We set some satellite equipment to mitigate the effects of it and it is important in the work that we do to display resilient networks and in the systems of early warning. Especially because this is the way to save lives when we have hurricanes coming or earthquakes in all the countries, or flooding in other unexpected storms.

Something I didn't say before is to ask yourselves amongst yourselves, quick questions you can answer real quick. But obviously invite all the attendees to ask questions. This could be any point in time because I have prepared questions for them. I think the real value of this is that us from here can answer the questions that you have.

To have the right relationship with your needs beyond what we can propose from the stage.

Angie, the floor is all yours.

>> ANGELES AYALA: Thank you very much. Now I come on this panel to promote the new COMTELCA Strategic Plan. I want to mention this work is quite demanding work done with the technical teams in different countries, including other members of COMTELCA that participated.

It was done approximately a year and a half. It was a

comprehensive review of all of the initiatives and all of the topics that are addressed internationally, obviously.

One of the priorities of the priorities of ITU. What are the strategic priorities of ITU? And the path where we adopted the new Regional initiatives for the Development Sector in this case, for the countries of the Americas, all of our Strategic Plan of 2026, 29 is based specifically in certain development. Sustainable Development Goals and Regional initiatives, we saw all the impacts we have in this context.

We saw digital Agendas in the original way of not duplicating efforts, but to add to what was already existing to contribute from COMTELCA to the initiatives. We also saw initiatives of the Global Digital Compact and some mechanisms for collaboration, for example, Meso-America project and also with the Regional digital strategy. ERBI from SICA the umbrella entity and converge in the best possible way. We're saying these are the same countries. Maybe there will be one or more additional. But the intention is to work mainly coordinated along these lines. We join with the Regional initiatives with the initiative of the new strategic access. And for example, at first access, it is regarding significant connectivity and data which is the same of the Regional initiatives of ITU. It is important to mention that what we want is to see how multiple stakeholders can contribute to this development. We have important Alliances and work with ISO and LACNIC and other instances that cooperated in this regard to promote larger connectivity that is impactful in people's life.

And there are some projects that have been developed. And the interesting part is that to place again at the centre, the people. So the digital literacy topic is one of our main components and scales. And all the stages and within this we are starting to establish collaborations with some academic instances to get help to replicate these types of proposals. So we're going to start adding up actors for those of you who that can contribute with them. It is axis number two. I think that was quite well, it is important to define critical infrastructure for telecommunication systems. If we don't make them resilient or to be really resistant to all context that we get like the climate change natural disasters, cyber attacks and mechanisms that impact the connectivity, we can't be able to reestablish them in a proper way today.

In this point we have information for Digital Transformation. If we don't move forward with the public policies that may be to be a little bit reflexed as time goes by, UAE said this before. We won't be able to reach near. We will start from scratch as if nothing has been done.

It is important to mention at this point that the large amount of countries in COMTELCA is working on the modernization of the laws. And this is important because these laws are very old and there it was mentioned a while ago. Even though the Mexican law was not that new, was over 10 years old, it didn't enable certain mechanisms that today can give us and provide better approach to this establishment of policies. So it is important to mention this. We also have the

part of management, efficiency of the radioelectric spectrum is our vital resource.

This is our water in this Sector. We can't leave it behind. And especially to know that spectrum, even though it is the most complex part that we have to share, it literally is our most valuable resource.

So the Radiocommunication organization is working hard with the spectrum notification to know how to optimize and use it and enable it for new technologies.

And in this context we are working on this point. Also the particularity of new technologies, how to enable the radioelectric spectrum for the establishment. The satellite issue, it is new for the new networks, generation of networks. At this point, it is important to identify how can we benefit from the new technologies.

Lastly, we have the part of the regulatory improvement accident which is precisely one of the mechanisms that we're establishing with the ITU specifically with the project of improvement in regulatory framework, as I mentioned. It is not duplicating efforts, but the School of Regulatory improvement, or Group of regulatory improvement is going to be the space of conversation where we will share the Best Practices.

In general, what has been implemented in the sandbox project, the mechanisms are being established. And to disclose also that this is an Ad Hoc Group that does not intend to stay in this area and extend the cooperation links with others like CANTO and other instances to share good practices. And to also have enabling surroundings.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you. And from what you said, I stay with what we are to make compatible the laws with the concept of Digital Transformation. Sometimes us that we have been in the Sector for a long time, we're deeply entrenched with the networks, but the data of the transformation provides a different view. The previous panels also mention many things that are related to this, that are related to each though the person at the centre of what we want to dork the Digital Transformation should be a real transformation of everything we do.

It is a large challenge especially for those that have been doing this for a while. We thought we lost you when you left IndoTel. I'm glad to see you sitting here I invite you to tell us how it is doing.

>> JULISSA CRUZ: In reality for me, it is a pleasure to be here to talk about making match. Because the challenges of the Digital Transformation and mainly the need of making investments. When we need to invest, we face a big challenge, which is the budget constraints.

So a panel like this to have the representation of the development bank, I'm here to offer the money that all the Government needs and your institutions need to develop Digital Transformation project.

And in this context, I tell you about my new role. I had been up until two months ago, at the Telco as an Executive Director. After 25 years, I left and I continue in the Sector as a digital sustainable

infrastructure Director of the CAF.

My moment of glory now that I have the microphone, to tell you all the projects that we can support. And I hope this is the beginning of the conversation with those I have not had the bilateral conversation to have it in the next few days.

Latin America development bank has launched a strategy for Digital Transformation. The Regional bank for Latin America and the Caribbean and in this context, it has created the Digital Transformation management office that has two or three important items.

One is for sustainable infrastructure and want enabling infrastructure for all of the economic and social development of the Nations.

A fixed digital infrastructure and submarine cables and talk about the resilience of the satellite industry that allows the closing of gaps in secluded areas and also ensures the resilience in the face of natural disasters.

Mixed infrastructure, last mile mobile networks but everything regarding cyber resilience. Everything that is related to cyber safety is part of our responsibility and the strategy of CAF to support the countries.

There is an element that both rod no and Angie mentioned, which is the need of the Regions to start thinking of projects as a Region, integrate projects. CAF was born as an integration project back at inception, 50 years ago. It was called the fostering cooperation, the name was just Indian countries. It has grown to all Latin America and projects due to the amounts related so one country alone cannot take it. For example, the satellite infrastructure, we can only hope that all of the countries are as prosperous to be able to launch their own satellites to guarantee sovereignty.

But there is a possibility of having shared infrastructure of this kind between various countries.

There is a possibility. Here we have CAF to help in the structuring of the project by the funding of the types of projects for the countries. Same with Cybersecurity. Same with early warning systems for Caribbean countries that endure. The most vulnerable areas in the Region. And we talk about climate change effects. We talk about every more at more phenomenon that are more powerful than ever. To have shared in this in the Caribbean at this time could be a quick solution. We're here to take care of this.

Now when we talk about infrastructure and make all of the effort to achieve to have all the different offers, offerings for digital infrastructure, we think what for? So based on these enabling infrastructure, we should establish mechanisms for the Digital Transformation of the state to have more efficient States to have a public digital infrastructure that allow about the same and use of information by the citizens. I forgot to talk about the data infrastructure. The development of the data centres that is so relevant, so many public use data centres, as well as the attraction of private investment for this important industry. And in Latin

America it is in a position of disadvantage than others in the world.

It requires us to speed this up in the industry. And CAF will support this.

Going back to the use of AI for the design of public policy and execution, handling of citizens' information that is so important and relevant for the States. And the access to the information. Now that sizes require it's it has more important uses throughout history.

I think all of the information management interoperability is highly relevant in this context.

And lastly, but not less important is the development of the Telco economy.

Before starting this panel, I was talking with colleagues from Paraguay about the importance of promoting the digital economy in our countries, and the Indigenous communities, this is the tool to speed up the productive development, social development and work with clusters and development for payment systems and can land in the little communities to close gaps.

None of this can be built if we don't have the important programmes for the digital skills at all levels.

From the small communities, but also from our countries have AI strategies, strategies to attract investment in the semiconductor industry. National strategies for Cybersecurity. But it requires a specialized workforce to attract investment with the topics.

We lack this workforce. I think the generate public policy to -- for the National development strategies of our countries are associated to training programmes of these workforce required to attract these types of investments to our Region.

The workforce, the and the policies should be again rated according to the development strategies of each one of the Nations. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you. Thank you, Julissa Cruz. I just realized I was very unfair. Because we have a bank on the panel. When I said that I said that someone in the audience was going to earn something, I wasn't considering a wallet on the panel.

>> JULISSA CRUZ: Yes, I'm here with money.

>> MODERATOR: I will take you out of the competition, Julissa Cruz, it is very everybody else. Christian Oflaherty.

>> CHRISTIAN OFLAHERTY: It is hard to compete with Julissa Cruz. It is with the Internet and to be reliable, open and safe. The programmes are totally aligned with the Regional initiatives.

So I wanted to tell you about the opportunities that we have in our programmes, so you, from your countries and organisations can use them and work together.

And infrastructure topics, we have as Oscar mentioned and others, so on. The programme to connect those that are not connected. The goal is that Internet reaches everyone. We're convinced it is a tool for good. We want it to reach places where there are not there now.

In particular, we have the infrastructure from the communities.

We make ourselves available to the Government. Tools to create pilot, and the barriers, and then we have suborganizations which is the Foundation that submits these projects once the conditions for regulatory allow it and communicates themselves build their infrastructure.

This year, we're focusing on Indigenous communities, migrant communities and entrepreneurial women.

These are our target populations. So to use this opportunity, you can contact us. We will have a bunch of tools for the pilot.

Another related is the interconnections and Internet. Internet is a network of networks. It is important that we have many networks and a lot of things are connected. The more interconnections, the more resilient the service is. It is more scalable. We saw this during the pandemic where we thought that the Internet was going to collapse, but it didn't. Because precisely many of the interconnections are and it is met it is no longer needed to limit the capacity.

It is important to have capacity and simplify them.

The second programme is related to the creation of the traffic exchange, to facilitate the interconnections and share the development of the local operator Forums for them to meet one another and work together and in infrastructure and connectivity.

And the third topic that we do have with the WHO is the fiber optic infrastructure. In our country, trying to work with the standard which is ... so the fibers, the small, large, informal operators, it is documented using the same format.

The regulators can collect the information in this form. So it is comparable. Information can be shared, and go to the content created as fiber to see if they can strike some commercial deals.

This is a standards -- ITU is already using it as a standard. It is being used and it is to be a role of the Secretariat to make sure it is used more.

With regards to the digital inclusion.

The second initiative, we're aware of the fact that the new Internet users, all of the people that connect for the first time are vulnerable. And this responsibility that you have, or this effort that we do to connect them has to be joined by the responsibility of having a safe Internet. And we are launching this week, a hub for good and reliable use of the Internet. A work that we started a while ago to collect all of the tools and organisations that are part of this Internet usage. And to place them in a place that is simple to generate policies and have resources that can be used in Governments and Workshops. It is a hub that it is in a beta version now and soon enough all of the countries will have access to this information.

Third, on the digital ecosystem, this is a topic of organisations, since inception. We call the ecosystems, all of the organisations. You are going to see us pushing the multistakeholder model and the involvement of all of the actors that are participating. We have initiatives that will be of your interest to train decision-makers in topics of Internet. The solutions in Internet are very different than the solutions in all the telecommunication

topics. Regulators, sometimes they have tools that don't work without Internet. For that, we have a programme for example, of policymakers and IAPF is where we create all of the standards and protocols for the Internet. We bring them to the meeting so they become aware of what is the development style of the Internet protocols, which is completely different than any other technologies in telecommunication.

Also within the innovation topic we accompany Parliament and public policies that are related to online crime, or online situations where we are trying to avoid.

Our company mandate is related to how to resolve these problems. To join legislators to stay on track. And sometimes, it is at risk.

We make ourselves available. We countries in all of the Region, Peru Paraguay and precisely for this legislative proposals are on the right track. Directed in the digital model. And we make available a tool for measurement. That is highly related to cyber resilience.

And initiative four, what we do is collect a bunch of measures done by different organisations on the Internet and present them at the portal of measurement. So you can assess for your country, how is the safe technology display? Maybe technologies you have not heard about, about safety, new protocols for encryption on the web. Technologies that operators need to implement that the regulators in the Ministry can implement this and only place is convincing the operators. These are more tools to incentivize them and not to force them. But in there in the portal you can see the display of the technologies in your countries to be able to compare with other countries or take specific actions for about each one of the technologies.

Luckily, Oscar already mentioned the accompaniment that we do for regulatory improvement and the recommendations. And I'll stop here and wait for the questions.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you. Thank you, Chris. Remind me that I want to give the word to Mark so he has the opportunity of addressing the audience and gain their vote.

>> MARK REYNOLDS: Okay, everyone. Last but not least. I present at different position to what my colleagues do. Because CANTO sits as the intersection of the operators, the persons in the society, the Government, regulators and everyone meets in one ecosystem and one place.

We have dialogue throughout the year.

What we have and we are 42 years old. We consist of 130 Member States and 35 countries.

And what it is pretty much is having effective dialogue. And whereas looking at the five objectives that you outlined, I think the one that rezones it best at this point in time is digital skills and inclusion, in terms of where we're at. The ITU, I think, I'm observing it as a young professional coming up, has been very effective in terms of defining what the framework is that we're supposed to operate in.

I remember it very clearly in 2019, when Madam Secretary Doreen

Bogdan-Martin said there is a need for cross-collaboration. She gave that challenge.

I tell you as a Board Director, we have taken that charge and run with it.

In terms of what we have done and the impact on the Internet region. We have been effective in terms of, for example, in terms of education, of the Sector. So at this point in time, I am pleased to advise that we have prepared and actually published -- made a publication on digital sovereignty to guide operators and stakeholders. It is free copies, if anyone wants it, you can come to me. I can give it to you. We are working on a version of it in Spanish. I do have the English version available for those who want it and pretty much what it is, we have identified that digital sovereignty is a catchphrase. Everyone is very concerned about protecting their data. At this point in time, what I found is that as a Board there is a lot of narrative coming from the EU. Other entities. But there is needs to be translated into the needs of the Caribbean and Latin America. And what we have found is that we have been able to sort of deal with the material in such a way that addresses our needs. It has proven to be effective. And also, we have another publication coming out as a guide to regulators in terms of how -- as a recommendation of how to deal with height touch issues.

We -- light touch issues. We mention G5 regulation. What I have found is that there has been a gap where the Private Sector operates but the regulators are there not getting the information correctly from the situation that is happening.

Operators say we want to do this so it is profitable. There has to be a middle point. What we are doing in the publication coming out in about six weeks is effectively try to find a middle ground between operators and also the Government. So there can be harmony.

Next, what we have as well is we have looked at AI. And I remember that there was, I believe, the regulator from Belize who mentioned the fact that AI is coming and the impact of the human capital.

What we did is we had a human capital Conference this year, that had over 40 human resources, practitioners in one place. Looking at how do we grapple with these issues.

Again, that is then dealing with the issues of digital skills, inclusion and ensuring that HR persons are able to implement things effectively.

To our more grassroots and granular point, we have launched a digital innovator hub. Coming out of that is two winners, two University students. One that designed an app that pretty much links into Jamaica's public transport system, that makes it easier for the ordinary person, downloadable by Android. You are able to plot bus routes. It has proven to be effective in some of the Jamaican schools and some have taken it up in terms of implementation.

Next very admirably who came in second in that competition is a pair of students -- students -- students who actually implemented an application that deals with mental health in schools and also looks to deal with issues of how you deal with neurodivergence and how to

deal with that with technology.

Those are the things coming out from CANTO that are effective. We are looking to partnership.

We have reached out across the Atlantic to the Pacific the Pacific Islands telecommunication association. We have taken out of Africa, where we are looking to sort of broaden the impact between and find commonality between the Caribbean and African States.

I think I will stop there, because those are the key points we are looking at in terms of digital skills and inclusion.

And coming into the next couple of years, as we are here with Latin America and comparing notes. We have our major Conference taking place in Punta Cana where we will look at AI, Governance, sustainability and carrying our major annual meeting in Panama. Not just looking at saying, yes, we want a partnership, we're an organisation of strategically chosen Latin American countries, so we can say, listen, we are ready to communicate with you. We are ready, yes Spanish and English. I will be practicing Spanish with Julissa Cruz and some who I have met.

We really are intentional about building the relationship. That is why we do believe that this event and having you as partners are key to our development and greater inclusion. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you, Mark. We all want to go to Punta Cana. Questions, microphones. Any microphones in the room? Carlos? One second, please. Ruiz and then Caesar. Ruiz, go ahead.

>> ATTENDEE: Thank you, Sergio. Yes, what you just mentioned. We want to go to Punta Cana. I don't know if I got the award already or do we need to do more to get this award.

But ... in the case much Dominican Republic, we highly appreciate this panel. Because we know for many entities, but not on a daily basis. We know what are they actually working or who can be a better ally for a topic that I'm facing. And I'm talking and focused with all of the pressure of my work.

And from there, in the particular case of the Dominican Republic, we are a Caribbean island. And with a number of implants and area one with all of the countries of the Caribbean. I would like to know a little more from CANTO, CITEL what initiatives of proofing, fraud, incoming calls with ghost numbers. Do you have anything in this regard?

>> MODERATOR: I think the question is for you, Mark? Did you get a question? Please, let's try to be brief.

>> MARK REYNOLDS: Yeah, very brief. Thank you so much, at this point in time we have a Cybersecurity campaign run by CANTO, where we will be doing training in Punta Cana regarding how to handle that issue from a Public and Private Sector standpoint. I would be happy to speak to you more about it. There is an active stance to educate our membership about that. We do have a position where it is about building relationships with the vendors, providing them with an opportunity to deliver that to our members. So I would be happy to talk to you more about it in terms of what we are doing in Punta Cana in August, definitely.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you, Mark. It seems like you will be the winner today. Caesar.

>> ATTENDEE: Yes, thank you. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Caesar Diaz. Even though I'm not competing for the Punta Cana prize, I have a question for Oscar. Because at the CITEL, we have accompaniment in the Region the observatories, so on. Which has been the learned lesson with regard to moving from Regional commitments to the actual implementation of the Roadmaps.

>> OSCAR LEON: I think the speed of the implementation is impactful we had to find those a year and a half ago I think as long as they try to do this as soon as possible. We will see the changes. Secondly, we thought that the lack of infrastructure is a problem. But many times, we find it is not the lack of infrastructure, but the excess of regulation or inconsistent regulations.

We're finding regulation that is inconsistent with the goal of ensuring that we will reach everywhere. We are in the process of disassembling obsolete regulation that is creating these bottlenecks for the development.

I think that the third one that -- the third teaching is that the evidence is important for the decision-making. What I mean is that some decisions taken without full evidence have taken us precisely to not having consistency in the regulation.

And another thing that we have learned is the importance of having evidence and to use technological tools, we have a lot of tools to analyze the evidence and be as close to reality as possible. To summarize.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you, Oscar. I don't see more questions. First and foremost, I will ask each one of you, in one sentence, to define the main obstacles that you find in the development of your initiatives and that reminds me of something I want to mention about the work we're doing with other agencies of the UN.

Because you talk about connecting communities in Chile. It is the connected communities. ITU with agro chains in cell Salvador. In Chile we're doing it for the rural agriculture and support of the digitalization of the extension processes. But in Chile, we're working with of MS and working with sepal. So the whole project has a goal to connect communities that are today disconnected but disembark directly with a product so to speak, that includes health, training digital inclusion for women and really transform the dialogue that we're having with local Authorities and the types of attractions that it generates for the mayors and Governors to receive the project and obviously the goal today is subsidized communication cost but the final goal is that this becomes sustainable based on the profit that it is generated for the community or connectivity.

In many cases, it is almost automatic because there are transportation costs that do reach a city to talk to a doctor to justify the payment of the service.

I want to mention this because it was not mentioned before. But the rest of the agencies of the UN have become a good partner for the display networks and searches and digital inclusion. And I think

it was worthwhile to mention while you think of your main obstacles that you are facing today, maybe, so we can get responses from those that are part of the Government and operators, associations, if you have any answers to these obstacles that we're going to list right now. I will start with Mark. Main obstacles.

>> MARK REYNOLDS: Insufficient trust communication and engagement.

>> MODERATOR: Okay. Thank you.

>> CHRISTIAN OFLAHERTY: I think it is lack of knowledge of how Internet operates and how some solutions that are have good intentions are not effective because of lack of knowledge.

>> MODERATOR: If there are no questions I will give you an opportunity to deepen a little bit. For now, a line. Only a line, please.

>> JULISSA CRUZ: I think that the gap in terms of funding. We have -- we live in a Region that has great challenges of investments related to infrastructure. Yeah.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you, Angie.

>> ANGELES AYALA: I have two. The public willingness and the certainty of the policy establishment.

>> MODERATOR: I said one.

>> ANGELES AYALA: Okay. I'm sorry.

>> RODNEY TAYLOR: The commitment to meaningful cooperation.

>> MODERATOR: That is an obstacle?

>> RODNEY TAYLOR: Yes. As much as I would love to -- from a practical shared infrastructure investment, joint investments this is what I would like to see more of. Thanks.

>> MODERATOR: That is complicated.

>> OSCAR LEON: I have a document of 60 pages of all of the problems we find in the Regions. The main one is to think that we're all doing things right and when we go to practice, we realize that things are not the way we thought. First thing that we found in all of the accompaniments.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you, Oscar. And yes, in reality, I think it happens to all of us. When Governments have to be accountable they show a wonderful world where everything works, where there are no disconnections, we need to learn how to deal with it. Is there a question from the audience? With regards to these obstacles that we're identifying in one line?

Back there? Back there. We need a microphone. One second, please.

>> ATTENDEE: Thank you, Sergio, thank you for giving me the microphone. Even though I'm one of the organizers, an apologize for the abuse.

What they mention about the lack of cooperation, the effective Regional cooperation, together with what's mentioned by Oscar about to have a wrong perception of reality, I would like to put them together and find answers of the panel members that we have. Okay, raise your hand now? Mark, go on.

>> MARK REYNOLDS: It is following on Rodney's statement about

meaningful cooperation. Because what I find is that at this point in time, where the industries are at, telecoms, the revenues are shrinking, Governments still have very high taxes on the operations. We still have stranded assets in terms of having to manage fiber. Still a requirement to deliver to the end consumer, we're not seeing the taxes go down. We're advocating for that. At the same time it results in the increasing of prices for the consumer because we have to be profitable.

My thing is to me, in the Region, operations, infrastructure has moved on to other things. We have oil. Guyana, possibly Barbados and Jamaica, and there are possible opportunities elsewhere. There has to be the relaxing on the burden of Telcos and a need for the Telcos to step up and deliver once you get the reprieve from the Governments.

Again, from engagement, what you are talking about is that for example, with the ITU, you will have excellent standards, but at the end of it all, how do those standards and framework translate to the child in the classroom? And how is that issuable and effective? I think that is a gap that is an opportunity for collaboration where we can have measurable opportunities where we look at grassroots. We start from the bottom-up, rather than the top-down.

>> CHAIR: Okay. Thank you, Rodney?

>> RODNEY TAYLOR: Yes, I was encouraged by Julissa Cruz's presentation. I think International Development Banks, so on, Regional Development Banks should promote in the loans and the agreements that they have, that they should be and must be a Regional component. So while each country has its own National priorities, its own objectives, it is important for partners to -- but in the framework of Regional cooperation to almost insist that there is some component of Regional cooperation to make the investments.

We talk about satellite investments. I'm sure everyone would like to say this is my satellite here. It is not, but it is different when we want to talk about sovereign infrastructure or communications. It is a practical sense, we have to invest in these jointly.

I think there is an opportunity for partners, for Regional institutions for CTU and Telco and development banks and World Bank and others to help us get the message across and not that they can force the sovereign Government to join up with another country, but encourage. Support it. Thank you. Or give priority to those projects that promote cooperation in particular from a sustainability point of view.

Thank you, Rodney.

One of the things, lack of communication. There is an experience that I personally had representing (Moderator) ITU and Argentina. We are creating the National innovation ecosystem. We visited the different stakeholders, and what caught our attention is that ... we don't have any ... what we need from others is human capital. And this is what happened when it is one of the parts.

With the operators, they were all identified at different

problems, what may needed was to communicate among themselves.

So from ITU, we promote these types of spaces so we can hear each other and may be the problem we think exists is not such and maybe we can find from another part.

>> ANGELES AYALA: I also want to add something important. Is within the concerns themselves, it is difficult to establish leadership. Everybody is related with the topics. But when it is time to lead there is not a well established Governance within the country.

Sometimes this is one of the other countries that the international entities have. We can have good ideas or willingness to do things. But when we reach and try to implement the projects, nobody is responsible of taking the leadership. So ... it is important with the Intersectorial communication in the Sector and the Region.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you, Angie. Carlos, I think we are done with time. We have -- oh, okay. Should I sing then? We have 10 minutes? We are doing good. So we can close.

Two minutes each, two for them to give their final messages. Two minutes. Two minutes. Random, two minutes. Julissa Cruz.

>> JULISSA CRUZ: I want to reinforce the idea of thinking more to take the Regional, the Cybersecurity, satellite systems and early warning systems. We're talking about lives.

So our Regions in the Caribbean is highly vulnerable. And there are projects that are easy to execute if there is a significant coordination as Rodney said. And another thing, it is very important, since we have many regulators here at present, the possibility of supporting the regulators with the technological infrastructure for the management and monitoring of the radioelectric spectrum and the quality measurement, this is our infrastructure investments for the regulators and that can perfectly something we can support.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you. Oscar. Two minutes, please.

>> OSCAR LEON: Two minutes? I want to use them differently. With many of you, we will continue to talk. But it is something important and since we're here with the Caribbean communities, to invite them to participate and the event to be held in the Bahamas. It is important that everyone participate. It is going to happen in the week of September. It is going to be for the meetings and we have in Paraguay and it is an opportunity that we have there to follow up the implementation of many of the Regional initiatives. We kindly invite you to be there. And I wanted to promote an event that we're doing because in October, Monday 3 and 4 of October, talked ELTF. It is a different mechanism on Internet on how we do this. In ITU and different spaces, and we're going to continue to conduct the training to invite all of the Authorities of many countries there. And we have this process. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Oscar took seriously the cooperation and started announcing what we are organizing the rest of us. Chris.

>> CHRISTIAN OFLAHERTY: I want to use my two minutes to clarify more, the concern that we had in the previous question and that I mentioned the lack of knowledge when we talk measures and decide things and we make ourselves available in Internet Society and

technical community to make a call, training in topics that are of your concern in Internet, that sometimes are have difficult solutions to find regarding the legislation, we need to for children and how can we protect them or exchange of traffic and interconnections, agreements between operators. Technical stuff related to Internet, requires to understand how these ecosystem. And we make ourselves available for these trainings.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you, Chris.

>> ANGELES AYALA: On behalf of COMTELCA, we also want to incentivize multiple stakeholders to cooperate with us, reach out to us as international entities to use us. Because you don't use us. When we get used is when there is a very complicated problem that requires a ton of effort to resolve. But just simply we're here, to help, to support, to enroll. Because many times, even though we might not be at work, there are questions. We might know someone that can help you find a solution. So in this regard, to invite you to be a part of all this work and to know that international entities cannot work alone. We need your cooperation of everybody to produce the results that we need. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you, Angie.

Yes, the international entities, it is you. We work for you. This is the idea. Rodney, two minutes?

>> RODNEY TAYLOR: Thank you, I want to thank Oscar for the reminder of the world telecom ICT Forum in the Bahamas. We strongly support and endorse, as Bahamas being a Member State as well.

I endorse his call for your full participation. There is a lot that I had here to speak about. We're doing a lot of -- we're promoting women leadership in the ICT Sector. We have a Network of Women. We are doing collaboration with Latin America, Caribbean, EULAC space with women. And we're promoting youth participation. Many young people are joining us in these Delegations.

The last ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, we had youth Delegation. We plan to have youth participation, participating as well in the Plenipotentiary Conference in Qatar.

We have a youth network promoting the youth in Internet Governance, with the support of the Internet Society.

And so, there are many other aspects and dimensions when we talk about the inclusion and development capacity within the Region. That there is a lot more.

So I want to just emphasize the need for us on the resilient network side to ensure that we build resilient network infrastructure and that we're able to respond, warning our citizens early and for a pending disaster. We're able to build back and stand up emergency communications in the aftermath of a disaster. I want to thank you for giving me this platform to share our activities within the CTU. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you, Rodney. Okay. So we're reaching the end of the event. We hope that the presentations have encouraged you to approach any of the organisations, in the ITU, of course, this is our idea, and intention of the development. So there is the

question what is the award I have for Mark, which is the winner of the afternoon. Obviously, it is his flag of Argentina. So we can watch the Argentina match together at 8:00 p.m.! It is the least that I can do.

Maybe the awards will improve, but for now, this is all I got! Now I want you to please give a big round of applause to this panel and thank you very much for the attention.

(Applause)

>> EMCEE: Thank you very much Mr. Sergio Scarabino for the moderation and panel members. Thank you for being with us. Right now, we will close day 1, the special invitation. We will see you at the pool deck. Because we will continue sharing there and talk about soccer or other issues and also do excellent networking that you deserve and a moment of leisure.

Also an invitation tomorrow we will start our Agenda at 8:30 in the morning, sharp. We invite you to be here slightly earlier, have a cup of coffee, and start the Agenda that is quite promising. It will be up until 4:00 p.m., since we finish earlier, our Agenda, make sure to arrive on time and early tomorrow. So we can comply with our Agenda. Again, one more round of applause for you and the panel. Thank you for day one of the Regional Development Forum. I'm pleased to join you, see you tomorrow.

See you now at the pool deck. You can join us from now and the protocol team will guide you. Together we'll share and watch the match. Thank you.

(Concluded)

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