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>> EMCEE: To have compliance with today's Agenda, we will start in five minutes, get a cup of coffee, bring it into the auditorium. You will see many more pictures like this. You can have them scanning the QR code you have on the screen on the bottom right-hand corner much the picture. Thank you for being with us. Make sure to mute your cell phones. If you require translation equipment, you can get them right next to the registration desk. You can find your translation equipment. We will start in five minutes. Thank you.

(Music)

>> EMCEE: Please be seated. Cell phones make sure to be muted. We will start. Good morning, Distinguished Delegates. Welcome to day 2 of the RDF-AMS ITU 2026. We'll start with Roundtable 4 and continues with the contributions of the countries to the compliance of Regional initiatives for ITU for the Americas. Part of the process of the Forum is Partner2Connect. This is a Roundtable, we'll have a special presentation remote on smart towns, we're in charge with Mr. Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director of ITU Asia-Pacific and glad to have their presentation. I will ask Moderators and panelists to join us on the stage.

You can see who will join us for the first Roundtable of the day, it is Roundtable number 4. We will welcome Ms. Atsuko Okuda that is joining us remotely.

>> ATSUKO OKUDA: Good morning, buenos dias. First of all, I would like to thank my colleague of the Regional Office of the Americas for inviting Asia-Pacific to make a presentation. It is our honour join you remotely.

Next slide, please. So today, I would like to share with you the initiative of Smart Village and Smart Island that we are implementing in Asia-Pacific. Can you start the presentation? Thank

you maybe we can share the experience while we wait for the presentation.

As you know, the Smart Village and Smart Island originally started in Africa. Thank you.

And we have adopted and have been implementing in over 10 countries. Please go ahead with the presentation.

I would like to start my presentation with the outcome of WTDC. Yes, thank you. Next slide, please. Next slide, please.

I would like us to step back and remember the outcomes of WTDC in Baku last year. Next slide, please. So, if you recall, under the theme of universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable and sustainable digital future. And we have Resolution 85 and then we had Resolution 94, that was in relation to the Pacific. In addition, in Asia-Pacific, we have RI1 and RI2 focusing specifically on SIDS, LLDC and LDCs and harnessing the Information and Communication Technologies to support the digital economy and inclusive digital societies. Next slide, please. Let me dive into what is the Smart Village and Smart Island that we are implementing in Asia-Pacific.

We have a diagram in the next slide, if you could flip. I think you are -- yes, thank you.

So as you know, Asia-Pacific has about 50% of the world population concentrated in our countries. And yet there are still 60 to 70% of the people connected to the Internet. So we wanted to analyze in this diagram the problems and opportunities. So on the bottom side, these are the main problems preventing Asia-Pacific being connected, such as the limited access to the broadband accessibility, affordability, skills and applications. So we turn it into solutions on the other side. So this initiative is supposed to help in the middle. We also highlighted the approaches and principles that we have used to increase the broadband connectivity, affordability, skills, and service.

That was translated into this concept of translating on the left-hand side, the chapter based support of whole of Government. And common ICT building blocks in digital Government and digital services that will deliver the e-health, e-education, e-agriculture and everything in between. We wanted to establish a low-cost available facilities, which is Smart Village and Smart Island to support SDG and its achievement.

Next slide. In order to progress, as you know the community network centres data centres are North Texas new. But the success rates have been quite varied. We wanted to make sure we analyze and develop tools to make sure we learn from the past lessons.

So for example, we have developed the needs assessment so we understand community needs. Second, we want a practical guide to enhance and make sure accessibility is integrated. And third, we looked at sustainability with ISOC. Next slide, please.

The next diagram shows the findings of six dimensions of sustainability, such as environmental organisational, policy, financial, sociocultural and operational.

Based on our analysis, any of the challenges of the six dimensions of sustainability will stall the sustainable access to communities.

So based on the analysis and tools, we have been implementing the Smart Village and Smart Island in these countries. And you can see the Government counterparts in the respective country as well as partners who has been supporting to provide equipment, funding, training, and so forth. Next slide, please.

So as you see on the screen, we have been training between 2020-2025, over 7,000 community members across Asia-Pacific with digital literacy and skills. These are some photos we have taken in each location. They're quite far, isolated, unconnected or underconnected villages in Asia-Pacific.

What do we do in the Smart Village and Smart Island?

As you can see on the left-hand side, there is digital inclusion related activities as well as the provision of digital services. So we start with training youth as well as providing online safety training. As well as the e-health, e-education, and e-commerce and so forth. We have some evidence that we can share with you to verify the positive reception from these target communities. Next slide, please.

So these are some of the stories that we could identify and publish thanks to the support to the communication team, we have very interesting stories coming from these remote communities. And the Group of beneficiaries on the ground. And I would like to encourage you and invite you to take a look at our impact stories from our Smart Village and Smart Island. Next slide, please.

The more information on the project is available from the QR code. We look forward to hearing from you and your feedback on this initiative.

But before a conclude, I have a few more slides. If you can move on to the next slide?

What we also do is to create synergies with other ITU activities. So it is not a stand-alone initiative.

For example, we want to create synergies with policies and regulation and capacity development, child online prevention, digital inclusion and early warning for all, so forth. In addition, we value the engagement and partnership with other UN agencies. ITU members, Ministers, development partners and industry and Academia. I have more to showcase.

Next slide, please. So for example, we regularly invite the girths, youth, boys and young men from the connected communities to participate in Girls in ICT Day event. Over the past few years, we were delighted to welcome and conduct training and celebrate the Girls in ICT Day. And you see some of the photos that we have taken from these occasions. Next slide, please.

In addition, there is strong demand for online safety. We don't want the children to become victims as soon as they're connected. So we want to make sure that the Smart Village and Smart Island come with the child online protect of training of trainers you see on the

screen. We have been systematically conducting this training. Next slide, please. In addition, we would like to make sure that the whole of Government digital Government as well as digital application services are available through initiatives such as gov stack. If you recall the previous concept slide, there were capital level whole of Government initiatives. We want to make sure that there are services which are available so that community members can access them.

So we support and we combine and create synergies across these thematic priorities. Next slide, please.

In addition, as I mentioned, we want to make sure that policy and regulation reflect the need and requirement of the communities. And in the case of Fiji, we supported the development of their Digital Transformation strategy, which include Smart Island as part of the initiatives that the strategy supports. Next slide, please. In addition we want to make sure emergency communication and early warning for all are initiated. And that is incorporated because Smart Village and Smart Island is the last mile of connectivity. Next slide, please.

I would like to summarize that the partnership is really the essential ingredient of Smart Village and Smart Island in Asia-Pacific. And we're very grateful to the partners and donors that you see on the screen. And we are particularly excited to the next stage where many of the partners are investing and helping us to move from the initial proof of concept to the next sustainable stage of the initiative.

Next slide, please. In the phase two, we want to make sure that an increased number of countries, actual now increased to 14, some of the new countries joined and at the same time, we are supporting the existing Smart Village and Smart Island sustainability and business plans, expanded business skills and services with partners such as UN country teams and development donors. And scaling up and replicating the model as well as to create a sustainable Governance and the partnership mechanisms. So this initiative is supported kindly with the Government of Australia. And soon we will have a new project funded by Japan as well as the Islamic Development Bank.

So thank you very much for your patience. That was the last slide. And if there is any question, I will be happy to take it. Thank you very much for your patience. Back to you, Chair.

(Applause)

>> EMCEE: (No English translation) join us, the Secretary and along with her, Ms. Maria José Franco, with DINATEL Uruguay. And Mr. Matteo Banti for Costa Rica, Panama and Central America. And Daniel Araujo for ANATEL Brasil and Christa Medford with NTRC Grenada and Leidy Guillen Cordero with MICITT and Mr. Manuel Reyes Valdez Chief of spectrum SIT Guatemala. And of course, I like to have a picture of all of you, we are moving forward with Roundtable 4 regarding P2C Matching the countries and regional needs with the stakeholders' interests to support digital development across the Americas this is part of the process of the Forum, known as

Partner2Connect. I leave you with this excellent Group of Moderators and speakers.

>> ANGELES AYALA: Good morning everyone. It is honour to start this important panel, because it reflects the commitment that we have been addressing regarding all of the works and duties regarding the Development Sector. This is an initiative promoted and supported by the BDT in general. This is the duties and works and it will benefit our communities. In this sense, the Partner2Connect is developed since 2021 with the mechanisms between stakeholders within the framework of contributing and supporting these digital initiatives. In this sense today, we have a very interesting panel. We have corporations with different stakeholders of the Sector. We have regulators.

We have asked the people that make all of this possible, and for us, it is important to highlight the fact that what is being developing in these initiatives and it is important to call the attention here. This is the initiative Partner2Connect has. They have been showing great results with more than one thousand commitments set throughout those last years.

With that we have more than 80,000 million resources allocated to promote the initiatives in a sense to help close and bridge the gaps, develop buildings and mechanisms that are allowing us to manage all the processes. This is the goal. I hope I am not mistaken, it is to reach more than \$1000 million in commitments.

How can we contribute to actions and plans and to creating capacity building and funding specific actions, in particular, for specific needs that really are pointing at closing the gap. In that sense, I will start with our speakers, and I know we have very short time. So let's try to be as concrete and accurate, please do not take any longer than two or three minutes to respond. And you have already provide insight and this is to keep for the audience a clear and accurate presentation on what is told to generate this interest to create pledge.

And to reach the call of the 100,000 million. Let's start with Maria José Franco from DINATEL Uruguay. I would like to start with you.

You are a great member for many years, you have participated in many different international initiatives. Can you tell us a little bit of the Uruguay perspective, how the Public Administration is -- what capacities and experiences and knowledge do you consider Uruguay can share with other countries to enhance the compliance of the initiatives through this Partner2Connect initiate?

>> MARIA JOSÉ FRANCO: Thank you very much. First, I want to thank Colombia for this event and all the original team that is making this panel possible. Uruguay is a small country in the Region. Not only in territory, but also in population. We are only 3.4 million and we are decreasing regarding population. We are decreasing, so we wonder how a country that is so different that could even be a neighbourhood of Brazil, how can we contribute in the Region that is a very different Region, from the North and south, there is a lot

of differences in culture, development levels.

And those differences can make the proses more difficult, but not really. We can get the best out of it, in Uruguay, I will tell you what we have been doing. Some things we're doing very good, very well. Some others that we need to improve. And in this Partner2Connect project, of course, we need to include new components.

Uruguay has a special characteristic. It is the fact that we have been working in a parallel mode regarding the infrastructure development and also in developing policies that allow the use of technologies.

With regard to infrastructure, we have a strong public investment, which is key and helped the deployment all over the country. Along with Private Sector support. You hear in Uruguay, we have optical fiber and more than 1,000 inhabitants.

And we also have the issue of 94% of coverage nationwide of cell phones and all these provides infrastructure to support all the development we want to implement and deploy.

So we're thinking of investing in policies that are funded by taxation.

So this is investment to foster and enhance innovation. Help communities make technology affordable for communities. Since 27, there is a project in Uruguay that started as a project of one computer per boy, per child. Now it is educational Digital Transformation project.

There is a platform that it has also allowed to reach communities and providing to children that probably wouldn't have had access. For example, for English classes through this platform, and also in other vulnerable population Groups. In one of the panels, we heard access in adults in Uruguay, we have a plan, as a project, that is supporting -- it is supported by the Public Sector. And this project, adults that they all have access to devices and 10 gigabytes free a minute for connection and phone calls.

We're working in this regard, supporting of course the infrastructure which we consider its very good infrastructure.

But also trying to give value to that infrastructure.

And the innovation projects, the support of the public policy regard willing software.

And that's our pathway and that's a lot to do, a lot we're missing, but we're missing in security. That's a topic that emerged yesterday. In some of the panels. And quality service. We have the infrastructure, but we are leaving all of that in the operators hands. The quality service. We're leaving it in the operators hands. And if we need to implement more quality service with our many in control measures. But also promote the quality service in productive change. We're talking about the telecommunications as a human right. Nowadays, it is also a production factor. So we're trying to do is to enhance the demand through value chains, incorporating the value chains to small companies, and I think that's work that we're doing probably more slowly. But that is one of the goals.

And the issue of security is something we're really concerned

about.

And now I would like to share some data from Uruguay regarding security. 92% of the population uses Internet, are Internet users.

But 20% of that population in the last surveys of 2024 says that they do not have digital security skills. So it is true, we have infrastructure deployed. We do things to increase demand. We need to work more in securing 16% of the population, 65 years old. The Internet users. But 60% they do not have any skills to use the Internet.

Then we are exposing them in big risks and you see a lot of adult people are victims of fraud. So there is a big opportunity to work. The same happens with the law, educational levels. 82% use Internet, but only 42% have digital skills. So we want to highlight that situation. We want to continue developing infrastructure. And also implementing quality service. But at a Regional level, we share the same problems. I insist we are a diverse Region, but with the same concerns.

I don't want to forget about children, children online. And that is a problem. Because children are growing up as Internet users, and it is together with their mature process as human beings. A lot of children are Internet users. But they do not have -- they're not mature enough to distinguish when they're being exposed to danger. And based on UNICEF data, kids online in Uruguay, there is something that surprises me and it is data for the Region, I think.

We need to channel that. But three out of 10 children, they have met someone online.

And more data shows children are a population we need to work in at a Regional level. Something that should be highlighted. I will leave you here.

>> MODERATOR: I think in that sense, what I would like to rescue is the part of infrastructure. I mean, to have the infrastructure with quality and service, that is no guarantee that the use of the technologies really providing benefit, if it is not alone supported by policies to promote security. Because we are tomorrow's citizens.

As was mentioned in child online initiatives and those initiatives that have to do with management in the platinum age to become cyber secure citizens. We will not get anything in the future. Sadly the evolution of technology very much can be used for bad things.

And sadly, we need to see how these new criterias can be used ethically and like the use of AI, for instance. But if we're not prepared with the basic things, then it is going to be complicated to reach the higher levels. Thank you for your presentation, Maria José Franco. I hope within this audience that there are some people interested in promoting these alliances and sharing with Partner2Connect for the future.

Now I will move on to Mr. Daniel Araujo who I know I'm skipping European Union. I'm implementing a different strategy in the panel.

And in this sense, Daniel, on behalf of an ANATEL Brazil, what quality initiatives are causing more explanation in your experience?

>> DANIEL ARAUJO: I think that the main things that we should be prepared to use all the mechanisms that are at our disposal to reach universal and meaningful connectivity. And this involves a planning phase, I think it is sometimes a little bit overlooked.

We in Brazil have something called a Strategic Plan for telecommunication networks.

So it is data-driven diagnostic that we do every five years. We keep it updated with the data that we have every year. Basically we collected the data from many sources, public statistics organisations and other countries, other actors in the country as providers.

And we get all of this data. We make a huge analysis. We submit this analysis to a public consultation to get more input from the society, and we approve the analysis. Basically the output is a list of where the investment should go. Where we lack the call, where we lack connecting roads and other infrastructure gaps.

So when we have this list of investments we start getting creative. I think it is something that Nicholas from Colombia mentioned on the panel yesterday. Get creative. We get creative with funding. Because as many countries in the Region, we have budgetary rules. There are very strict. We have some problems using it. So we started to think outside of the box. And we developed some instruments, like auctions that instead of payments for the Government, for the public treasury.

We convert the investments and convert the price of the frequency into investments. And the list of investments come from the plan we were just talking about.

And this is even used for small scale investments we have. Sometimes we apply a sanctions or fine a consumer for irregularity.

Instead of paying the fine we say, okay, you have the opportunity to go and build this in all of the municipalities that don't have enough infrastructure. We know if there is something in a certain city, we know the last mile is usually the investment in a company that wants to be part of this market and wants to have a stake there. So I know that is important in our experience to be prepared to invest in any opportunity that we have. These opportunities also come from things like Partner2Connect and funding from other sources.

It is a very important thing to know where to invest. I think this is my contribution for advice.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much, Daniel. In this sense, it is very important to identify all the funding mechanisms that can be established for these partnerships in different opportunities in many cases some stakeholders, important stakeholders come to us and ask us how can we help. And they have the resources. They ask us how to get engaged and involved. As Daniel mentioned, the resources have been identified. How can they be invested? How can we create policies that can -- in which we can have analysis to enable technologies.

Jesus is going to help us later on with that. But really, it is important to have all of these on the table and for this, I want

to give the floor to our dear Matteo Banti from European Union, who can provide insight in this sense.

What are the areas which the European Union identifies more investment opportunities to generate these Regional impact? Please, Matteo Banti.

>> MATTEO BANTI: Thank you very much. Good morning, everyone.

It is an honour for the European Union to be here. Thank you for inviting us.

On our side, I would like to highlight some key points and specific programmes. First of all, I want to highlight the initiative that was launched by our President three years ago. An initiative called Global gateway. I'm not sure if probably you have heard of it?

Basically, it is about a strategy to enhance, to promote and support the big transforming projects that need investment in key Sectors for the development of our economies and human development. One of those is the digital telecommunication component, of course. I also want to connect to what our partner from Uruguay mentioned, which the role of the Private Sector has been identified as a key element and component and the European Union has seen the limit of what a Government can do regarding investment and transforming investment. And it is necessary to involve the Private Sector in this line. How can the resources be used in a responsible way to enhance the investment of the Private Sector? And along with the financial funding muscle which are the banks, in this case, investment bank. But also with all the other multilateral banks we have relationships with. That is the guideline of the European Union is defined and all Delegate members are working hard on that. Especially from Latin America and the Caribbean. And I want to mention some of the problems that we're launching. And that we are implementing in the Region.

First, digital alliance between Latin America and the Caribbean. It is a continental programme that embrace all the Caribbean Region. Focused on one hundred, in connecting countries around ground matters, like AI, artificial intelligence, and the different components. And doing implementation, data protection, the 5G broadband, and separate computers that are much Roundtables in all of this. And affairs in many countries present here are participating. And also the alliance in supporting connectivity projects in the areas and supporting digital economy.

In particular, in the Caribbean under this project, we're working and supporting initiatives of digital resilience and credit card infrastructure of how they oversee. I'm not going to go too far. We have a session tomorrow. In the programme we're implementing with the UIT. Regarding regulatory framework. And allowing us to decide enabling regulatory frameworks to promote digital technologies in controlled settings. And in Sandbox, so that they can make experiments and how to implement this successfully at a higher scale. So we have been working in these projects, promoting mobile quality services. Shortening procedures and all of that.

Up next, I am going to tell you about a project that is about infrastructure, undersea wires connecting Europe, the Bella project

is going to be implemented. In the European Union with other stakeholders. We're in the project. Stage 1 connected Europe with Latin America with the undersea wires. But there are wires that connect other Regions. And we want to connect Universities, research centres, to foster connectivity between Europe and the Caribbean regarding research and digital development initiatives.

This pipeline is made for this purpose.

Also, I want to mention some of the speakers have highlights the issue of Cybersecurity.

The telecommunication environment, digital environment is full of risks. There is risk of many crimes. So to provide tranquility safely to the user, the Private Sector, we need to work on Cybersecurity. And this is key.

And the European Union is working hard in alliances and also with projects, specific project and it is the Cybersecurity, it is a project to enforce the Cybersecurity capacities and in between the teams, troubleshooting problems, to promote digital confidence.

This is a European Union is investing a lot. Both Europe and abroad promoting international cooperation. Because it is clear, if there is no confidence, we're not going anywhere. So confidence is important when using all of the devices and technologies. And also the new technologies mentioned for data transmission of the 5G. 6G. And we as a part of the concepts because no user or company, they are not -- they do not trust to put that information in a device that is not promoting security.

Now let's talk about attention to climate shocks. If climate shocks in some Regions, it is through disaster Management Team.

I would like to mention our centres. The teams are working hard like in Panama and Chile. The idea is to use the services they offer for free, the satellite network of Copernicus. To use to have many applications deployed. I'm not a technician, but anytime I go to Summit and I discover new applications, and based on these networks, for instance, the forest monitoring is one to fight the deforestation.

The European Union has strong regulatory framework to prevent the deforestation of a specific value chain. So the Copernicus is important in the environment and the human environment and coastal environment. Specific areas.

These are some examples. It is a project that allows the intelligence and management of the water and energy. Some of the initiatives that we are implementing, of course, there is more. Thank you very much.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much, I know you are working hard with a huge range of initiatives, leading some of the very specific and accurate actions and cooperation. I want to highlight here the Interregional cooperation that we have with the European Union, specifically I am witness a big witness of the different projects that have been developing, specifically with the countries from Central America for the issue of implementing innovative mechanisms to promote the regulatory frameworks like the Sandbox, the project

you have with the ITU.

Also incorporate new technologies in that sense, it is essential dissemination of the telecommunication satellite networks. Apply the mechanisms for monitoring the earth to help save lives. It is linked to previous panels. But to be ready for all of this, we will of course need to take actions and to speed up regulatory frameworks. They are more flexible to incorporate all of the different mechanisms. And incorporate all of the mechanisms on a daily basis. So a special thanks for the European Union for the supports and projects that we are of course -- we will of course working together. Of course, you mentioned something very important regarding Cybersecurity and protection. Now, I want to give the floor to the lady who can tell us a little bit about how you have been working in a specific action to capacity building and topics related to Cybersecurity.

Now involving engaging AI and new technologies in Costa Rica.

Can you tell us a little bit more within this perspective of capacity building and the projects?

>> LEIDY GUILLEN CORDERO: Thank you, Angel and Jessie to welcoming us.

Costa Rica has priorities, long-term and short term effects according to the regulatory framework on telecommunication, grounded based on the telecommunication National Plan. This plan is up-to-date. It was written by participation engagement of different services of the country. Private Sector, the Academia, stakeholders, members of the Civil Society, and people from all over the territory. National territory.

This project has a specific goal to identify the main problems. Those Sectors identified as needs and to make sure through public policy if those problems, those needs could be satisfied. Once the analysis was done through the different technical teams, the conversations with the Delegates of different Sectors took place. And then the policies started to advance in meaningful connectivity.

Three big areas of work were said to address comprehensively the elements and exponents from more welfare and a spectrum and the development of skills. Digital skills. And all of these areas and components developed specific skills to get results that at the end of the day will end in developing skills working with the differing elements that promote meaningful connectivity.

In this sense, in Costa Rica, we have the National fund for telecommunication. It is a fund that seeks for developing general and solitary anxiety.

So the meaningful connectivity strategic area, we have interesting initiatives like the developing of connectivity in 262 areas, districts and those are areas prioritized and there we identified verbal population or difficult access. They are not probably trade secretive or appealing for the companies. But in that line, we developed educational network to provide free Internet to schools.

1,032 schools and educational centres benefitted to provide connectivity to pool families all over the country. Countrywide.

Currently, we have connected more than 200,000 families in very poor condition. They are part of the solidarity project. Also funded by the telecommunication fund. Also we develop a strategic area to improve the radioelectric spectrum to harmonize it and place it in the best way. Last year, we developed actions of the spectrum. I'll tell you more about it later. It was IMT and specifically for network development and strategy for development of digital skills. The strategic area was seeking to provide all of the population of the countries highlighting vulnerable populations to develop digital skills.

These three big strategies come complement with the two strategies, one of Cybersecurity that develops differing components, not only to protect the institution of the Public Sector but also topics like migration and it also has a providing public institutions in case of Cybersecurity issues to troubleshoot the incident and also developing an AI strategy focused on the person. And this led to participate recently the development of the Sandbox, along with the OCT for the developing of public policies regarding artificial intelligence. This Sandbox is a practical tool that will enable countries during the designing and implementation stages and follow-up public policy regarding the artificial intelligence.

How can we put all of this together and keep it sustainable in implementing all of the public policies? Having well, you know, public policies must move with the same speed that the Telecommunication Sector changes, that is a challenge. We have a close relationship with all of the Sectors that are engaged in writing all of the policies. This has been the component for the Sectors in the policies, engaging the Sectors, knowing what their needs are and to know how this public policy can address these specific needs and specifically participating in the different spaces and the different to have also the international cooperation and sharing our experience with other countries, knowing the successful cases of other countries. Recently, Costa Rica this require acquired the presidency of this space.

We will propose more meetings and Summits in which we can share the successful experiences and good practices.

>> MODERATOR: I want to highlight the topic we continue to hear all the stakeholders, not just a Sectoral part, but to bring it towards all of the multiple stakeholders. Because from this measure, we can have more concrete actions towards these needs, the experiences that we have had in the past to try not to replicate them. But on the contrary, to have mechanisms that incentivize this mitigation in this context.

We have very little time, unfortunately. Previous presentation took a little longer. But we are going to try to do this as quickly as possible. So we now will hear Christa Medford and from the NTRC Grenada. In this context, how have you been developing the Grenada administration Best Practices in this context? And what can you share as best insights towards the Partner2Connect initiatives? Go ahead.

>> CHRISTA MEDFORD: Good morning to everyone. And the country hosting and the Distinguished Delegates and Moderator. I want to thank first the ITU for the opportunity to share Grenada's experience in leveraging the Universal Service Fund to leverage universal and meaningful connectivity. Before diving into the lessons shared I want to provide context of the Universal service fund. The NTRC, the National regulatory Telecommunication Commission is responsible for regulating the Telecommunication Sector in Grenada and also responsible for the management and administration of the Universal Service Fund.

The objective of the Universal Service Fund is to expand the telecommunication services to unserved and underserved areas to areas such as schools and hospitals, special interest Groups such as persons with disabilities and elderly and maritime areas.

Within the context of this Universal Service Fund it is aligned with the Partner2Connect. Some of the projects funded by Universal Service Fund is public wireless access to public spaces.

This provides affordable access to persons who may not otherwise have Internet within their homes. Thus allowing them the opportunity to utilize the service, whether it is for educational purposes or to participate in the Government services.

In addition, we have also funded a project wireless mesh network connecting the schools throughout the state of Grenada. This project enabled the expansion of broadband outside of the computer labs to include the classrooms. Thereby providing the platform for the Government laptop and tablet per child initiative as well as Regional e-test and exams.

We have supported smart classroom project. This project provided interactive devices to enhance learning spaces to technology enabled spaces. Thereby integrated technology and environment and this specifically targeted the college in Grenada. The NTRC is working with the Ministry of Education to expand this project as part of a pilot to include the primary as well as secondary schools. And we hope to commence this project. We have started the planning but to commence this project in terms of the bidding process later on this year.

In addition, we have also provided support for public safety projects and one of those public safety is the digital trunk communication system project which provides interoperability among public safety agency in Grenada and enable them to provide as part of the day-to-day responsibilities and also in the event of National disaster to enable the Public Sector -- public agencies such as fire, and disaster agency management such as Red Cross so they can communicate in the time of a disaster. This is important as a Smart Island developing state and impacted by the Hurricane Beryl it reiterated the need of infrastructure.

Also, we have the umbrella of public safety. A Global maritime distress and safety project to enhance emergency communication out at sea. Particularly because we have many people that are small-scale fishers as part of their duties. It is important to enhance public

safety communication, particularly for promoting safety at sea.

So these are some of the projects that we have supported. The source of funds is part of the license process.

So what are some of the lessons that we have learned from the project?

One of the key things I will share that is important for partnerships as key through the Universal Service Fund. The NTRC cannot do it alone and requires a multistakeholder approach working with the Government. Because they're responsible for sitting the policy of the Digital Transformation.

Also working with the telecommunication providers who are the ones, based on how the Universal Service Fund regulation is designed. They're the implementing agencies and only ones to be rewarded cracks. Working with the telecommunication providers, Private Sector and community based organisations to develop these projects to ensure that the projects are technically sound. To ensure that the sustainability in terms of continuity of the project.

Another thing that we have learned is the importance of sustainability and this must be built into the design of the project.

From inception as part of the planning, through the Universal Service Fund, one of the key things we have promoted is supporting, maintenance and support as part of the project. In addition to funding the implementation of the project, we also provide funding for a period of three to five years, based on the nature of the project. And what we have found is these are very critical, particularly to community based organize. That support allows them the opportunity to find additional source of funding, such as once the Universal Service Fund terminated they can carry on that project.

It is equally important to support capacity building and build the institutional framework of the requisite Agency to manage the project. So provide training and support.

I want to briefly give an example with the public safety projects, we had training. Not only did we provide training on the user devices for persons that are out in the field of first responder, but also to provide training for part of the system, training for maintenance and support.

Once that contract ends, the persons of Grenada, the police force and others, would be responsible for maintenance and support. This is critical.

I want to add it is important to have your users as the core of what you are implementing and looking at statistics that will drive the type of projects that you would want to implement.

It is also important, as well, to align these as part of Government Digital Transformation Agenda. This is key. In some instances, if there isn't an alignment in terms of the different agencies and what they're responsible for because of course Government utilize other source of funding, whether it is a grant or funding from World Bank and other international organisation. And as a result, this is very important to ensure that they are clear responsibility in terms of what funds would support to prevent

duplications of resources and overlapping, which has happened. What this does is essentially it extends the implementation of the project. So it is very key to ensure that, it is incorporated as well I know we are short on time, it is important to align with the Partner2Connect and it is an personality source of funding to execute projects.

The Universal Service Fund in order to continue to remain relevant, they need to go beyond the infrastructure projects. It is key to expansion of the infrastructure, it is important to focus on things such as digital literacy, affordability and access devices. This is very key. Because we have extensive network in some countries, but for people to effectively utilize the services, it is important. In order to have that happen, the framework that governs the service funds many are regulated on policy, these need to be worded in such a way that they encourage countries to go beyond just the infrastructure deployment, but also to include the digital services. So which basically provides the opportunity, the reason for persons to go online, focus on training skills within the community.

While we have done that at NTRC, we have the intergenerational youth camp, we have the young people work, training the elderly to have the transfer of knowledge.

We have done training. There are limitations in terms of the scope of training that can be done.

If we really want to focus on universal and meaningful connectivity, it is important that digital literacy is a key component going forward in terms of the Universal Service Fund projects as well as scales and the ecosystems -- sorry, that can govern what people go online to.

Do.

In the case of Grenada, with the Member States, there is consultation on the Universal Service Fund regulation and amending the regulations to ensure that Universal Service Fund remains relevant with the needs and digital inclusion policies of the respective countries. And that is very important.

So one of the things we have also included as part of the regulation is expanded to include support for ICT startups. So these are just some of the key things. I would love to speak more because I'm passionate about Universal Service Fund, but I know we are stretched for time.

So thank you. I will pause for now.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much, Christa Medford. And simply to highlight the University funds are successful as well as there are well-established policies pap and in this context it helps more in terms for the Caribbean, because it is one of the Regions that are in most need. Because it is vulnerable to emergencies and other situations.

Dear Manuel Reyes Valdez. We have to close right now. I will ask a question, if you can do it real quick. Please, topic. How the Intersector integration, how is it possible to have collaboration from all three Sectors or three perspectives in particular now we

talk about the spectrum management.

Can you help us to develop these types of actions in benefit of that development? Please, go ahead, Manuel Reyes Valdez. Please be as brief as possible because we need to close.

>> MANUEL REYES VALDEZ: Okay. Thank you very much. Well, good morning, everyone. Thank you for the to the organizers for having us on the Forum.

I will try to be as brief as possible. It is a little hard. This integration between all three Sectors of the ITU is very important. I'm going to mention real quick what we can call an institutional fragmentation and normalization gap basically. So ... this normalization gap is important, because we can generate -- we have generated in some cases from projects that are compliant with the regulations, especially in the ITU-T.

So I would really like to mention results from our country. One of the main ones is the Sandbox project from the point of view of the Governance and regulatory framework, for us it is extremely important to make some modifications to the general telecommunication law of the country.

Basically to include those aspects that will allow us our regulatory Sandbox that is specifically to bring connectivity to the most secluded areas of the country. We can go ahead and proceed to implement this and not have any inconveniences that at last minute to not be able to prevent this so with regard to this coordination that should be preparatory between all three Sectors, I think it is important to mention that a result, low power and a low range networks that we did not do today, but it was a great coordination, later in the part of regulation, we have a very efficient management of the spectrum where this was done by very specialized personnel.

Obviously to be in compliance with ITU we study compliance with the regulation and especially with the interoperability make possible no interference in the users of the networks that especially translate in emerging technology like IoT. It is extremely important. In fact, because why not, we are generating and making possible in the future, these digital towns in our communities. With regard to the development aspects with regard to development, we are developing small and mid-size, with regard to the agriculture of our country. It is very important. Because it is one of the main economic engines of our country. So ... since I have very little time, I would like to share more, but I'm out of town. We will leave it that and talk in person.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you Manuel Reyes Valdez for the great, but brief intervention. Tomorrow we can talk about this more in the Sandbox topic, which continues with this topic.

It is very interesting to see how all countries are developing concrete actions are contributing to Partner2Connect.

I'm going to finalize real quick, what is related to give real significant connectivity to have them at the people, the core, the Cybersecurity citizens to develop and join topics to have special attention in countries that have very established features like our

fellow countries in the Caribbean that have very particular conditions regarding telecommunication due to emergencies. This can help save lives, especially in this area. What is related to policies, developed with Universal Service Funds and in compliance with cyber safety, the capacity creation and rural coverage and in particular in unattended areas. And the topic with the collaboration on how can the three Sectors cooperate and work together to do more? It is precisely what Partner2Connect is. And especially to do this matchmaking with incorporating partners from other Regions to bring. To end, I invite you to join this project we have the new Plenipotentiary Conference of ITU.

It is important, if you have any actions that can contribute, you will be welcome to approach COMTELCA or ITU to get some counseling to get more cooperation on the pledges.

This is a call to action to everyone. So in the measure of the possibilities, contribute with the Regional initiatives and come together. Because together we're stronger.

For today, it will be the end of the panel. Thank you very much for your participation. Thank you to the panel members.

(Applause)

>> EMCEE: Thank you very much to the Moderator and the panel members. Very kind. We continue with Roundtable 5. Harmonizing the needs of the stakeholders with digital development. We continue with the platform which is a dynamic platform to facility the strategic alliances, to speed up the data and competencies in all of the Americas. We will start with a short presentation with Partner2Connect, this is Paul Demba project Manager BDT of ITU.

He will join us remotely and then we'll have a presentation with Moderator and panel members. We have Mr. Paul Demba. Welcome.

>> PAUL DEMBA: Gracias. It is an honour to be here with you speaking. So let me know when you can see my presentation. Just give me a minute to get it up. Thank you very much for the opportunity to share with you the Partner2Connect matchmaking Roundtable. This morning, I will share with you the action framework, which basically talks about the pillars and how the focus areas intertwine to ensure the things that are talked about by the previous panel actually happened. Then we'll go through the global pledges and then focus on the Regional ones that are already put on the table. We will then go into the matchmaking process and look at the contributions that have been made for this Regional Meeting.

Then we'll go into the event and I will close with a visit by the BDT Director to a recent partner, just to showcase how the Partner2Connect actually creates impact.

So to start, let me talk about the four focus areas. Some of you may know about this. You can see that each of the four focus areas have three pillars that ensure that these focus areas are actually being implemented in a manner and a format that can actually create impact to those that are being targeted. So the first one is access, connecting people everywhere that you can see on the left. The objective here is to have affordable, resilient, trustworthy

connectivity for all.

To facilitate attainment of the universal and affordable connectivity through resilient infrastructure deployments that ensure ubiquitous coverage including last mile and low-income areas. I will share a partner from the short presentation.

If I take one of the infrastructure, looking at the core networks, attribution and success networks that are helping to get people connected. So investment in this need to be made to ensure that Governments and Private Sector are able to take that opportunity to roll out networks to reach most of the people who need to be connected.

And then moving on to the next one, which is adoption. Once you have access, you need people to have skills to assess that.

So the objective for the adoption focus area is taking a people-centred approach by ensuring communities are digitally skilled and empowered to use digital technologies, cooperate, for example, e-Governments and use that successfully, inclusively and equally and safely. It is important to be used safely, inclusively and equally. The other panel talked about Cybersecurity so I won't venture into that.

Once we have adoption, we have value creation. Once we have the value creation, the objective is to accelerate fast digital transformation that we built in the first two focus areas in the societies through the whole ecosystem approach, that is not just entrepreneurship. Innovation, startups, SMEs, trade and with all of that, we have job creation that comes through collaborative policy and regulation practices.

In fact, on the policy and regulatory frameworks, I would like a little bit talk about standards that underpin the operation of digital technology and infrastructure that oversee the efficient, safe and reliable functioning of a digital economy.

So that is critical. And once we have those three, once we have access, we have adoption, we have value creation then we go into acceleration. And what's the objective here?

The objective here is to structure innovative financing models and incentive I've Public and Private Sector and sustainable investment for financing meaningful access and affordable connectivity.

In fact, the panelists from Uruguay and the USF administrator from Grenada brought it very well on how the impact of Universal Service Fund is reaching many people that are unconnected.

I will leave it at that. Those are the four focus areas and each of those are the pillars you can see on the screen there.

Let me now move into the pledges of Partner2Connect. I will give you an update as of June this year. So on the left, you can see the pledge mobilization that happened. We have a 1,076 pledges submitted by 500 entities. A number of countries have made 149 of them to tune of 82.91 billion.

How is that reported. 45% of pledges reporting and 50% of entities are reporting progress.

That is critical. Without progress the pledges are just pledges. We don't see impact or movement in enabling communities and businesses to happen.

We've also got a couple of matchmaking and sharing experiences, that is the third tile in pink. We revamped the P2C pledge portal and some magazines to access. That is available now. Some events will happen and I will share with you as well some events we have planned for the other half of this year.

The last slide -- the last tile there, you can see some of the champions. P2C champions that are driving and investing. Making mega investments in the various communities and various ways to ensure it happens.

Look at the number down there. The 30 UN agencies that have rallied around P2C, to ensure it is strong and enabling various areas to have impact.

Now let me move to what is happening in the Americas Region. On the left, you have the total pledges to Americas as Region of pledge implementations. These are pledges that are coming within the countries of the Americas as well as those outside.

On the right, you have pledges that are for the Region by the Region. Why is that critical? If you look at the pie chart down there, the pledges by focus areas and pillars, the one on the left, what is critical here is the digital skills, the investment in the digital skills, the investment in digital inclusion and the connectivity and digital infrastructure.

We see a lot of investment going in there, as for the focus areas we talked about in the first slide. We see the same happening again, if you look at the right. Same type of interest. By investors, from the supply side and on the demand side on digital skills. So we can see that is critical. We want digital skills. Connectivity and digital infrastructure. That is critical. That is important. As we have heard from the panelists as well. I will move on now to the matchmaking process. In this Regional Meeting, we are having the contributions that we received by all the stakeholders. This will be discussed in this meeting. We thank all of the contributions to be received on the supply side and the demand.

Now, I say that by the end of this presentation, I would like to share with you the experience the Director of BDT. That is ITU, led the Delegation on the part of June to SES in Luxembourg. That is a space and satellite company that has made significant investment in space technologies. In fact, they were able to demonstrate to us how they made investment in the geo space and near space and Leo constellation space. What is the point of that. With the pledge to connect 100 schools stay online for three years. In fact, there is progress. There are five schools online already. Impact is seen in the schools from the stuns and teachers.

Project goes on. 55 schools in African and 35 schools will be in Asia-Pacific and 10 schools in Mexico.

This is an example of how this is turned into impact and impact is turned into our -- in this case, students getting the benefit of

having that education in a rural and remote area.

Last year, we had some events as well. The one for the Americas in Paraguay. I will not go through that.

For this year, two vents already happened in Europe and Africa. And this one of course is ongoing in Cartagena. And three more events are planned in the Arab States, to get some dates. If that happens, three events will happen before the end of this year.

Along with that, we have a couple of P2C events coming in the telecommunication Forum in September. We have another P2C event in WSIS just around the corner in July.

Another event in July is AI for Good and Partner2Connect will go on and showcase how the supply and demand areas are brought together to achieve impact in different areas. And of course, the digital UNGA event to be embraced by P2C.

That brings me to the end of my presentation. I thank everyone for listening. Let's listen now to the panel. Thank you.

>> EMCEE: Thank you, Mr. Paul Demba for starting this Roundtable 5. And we're inviting the panelists, speakers with us Mr. Cleveland Thomas ITU Representative for the Caribbean. He will be moderating this session.

Mr. German Dario Arias with SBA. And Cesar Diaz, LACNIC. And Alberto Menguini, Cooperation European Union, and Cristina Cardenas for Coursera/Udemy. And Mr. Antonio Pulido head of social advocacy and public policy from Spain. With this panel of Roundtable 5 let's give a warm welcome have a round of applause.

>> CLEVELAND THOMAS: Good morning to you. Let's start again. Good morning! That is better. It is my pleasure to be here to have this panel, I distinguished panel Group. Thank you for being here. I will not go through the names of the individuals and what they do.

You have the beautiful pictures up there and you have them in life here. You don't need anything else.

I know that most of you are busy on your computers and on your phone and you have a lot to do. Give us about 30 or 45 minutes of your time. Because this is an important segment for the session.

We are talking about Partner2Connect. You had previous speakers and presentation on an item that is important to all of us. My name is Cleveland Thomas, as you heard. It is my privilege to steer this critical dialogue today.

It is a dialogue. Because we -- they promised us we would have a Roundtable. This is not a Roundtable. It is a lineup of people here. As you notice.

It is six experts, no backs to you. One line. Perfectly aligned. And zero room for dodging any hard questions. If you have any hard questions, they're all here facing you directly.

Our goal is simple. Ready to facilitate strategic dialogue on bridging the Digital Divide with an emphasis on digital skills.

You heard the Global guidelines. You heard the figures. While we have billions of dollars pledged, brought by many of the operators and those in need and so forth. While we have over a thousand pledges, and more than 500 entities making those pledges we still have work

to do.

For those of you familiar, we have a lot of good progress in the Americas. On one hand, the infrastructure footprint is expanding. But according to the ITU figures, Internet penetration has reached high figures. 88%, up from 76% in 2019, despite this, we have work. The momentum we had recently from the matchmaking accelerators on Guatemala and Jamaica, based on the progress at El Salvador and Paraguay, proves we can mobilize and sign not only pledges, but we're excellent in signing and making commitment.

How do we do in terms of implementation? Today, this is our emphasis. I have clear instructions to make sure today that we get at least 10 more pledges in this room.

If not 10 more pledges, we want to match make at least 10 in this room.

I was told that if I get 10 pledges from my panelists here, together with matchmaking in this room, I will get a bonus. I need you to help me get my bonus this morning, okay?

Can we agree to that?

(Applause)

My boss in front here clapped. So that is a sign I will get my bonus, okay? I need your help

So without further ado, have these five panelists here. And what they're going to do, because of time, we initially shared some exchanges of some questions. We will not get into too much detail other than hear from them for two minutes. Please, just two minutes, broadly what your agencies are doing as far as pledges are concerned. Very broadly. And then we will go into some questions. We want to hear from you on the floor as well.

Because a couple of people already met me in the corridor, asked me some questions and I said to them, when my panelists are up here, ask those questions to them. Okay?

So let us start first with -- we have Your Excellency, please.

>> GERMAN DARIO ARIAS: (No English translation) different members of the value chain and sometimes people forget that we exist. People think it is only a mobile phone. It is unbelievable. But the mobile phone, it needs people, we need the towers, they're not beautiful, but we need the towers. When I go to Summits and Forums, and there are trending topics. The satellites are important. We need the towers to have the phones. And from CBA, it is a company that has 45 sites. I'm in charge of nine countries, South America, the coverage, it is a nightmare in South America to get permission to install a tower. It is not that easy.

I leverage the Summit spaces to remind people the importance of the towers. Especially the ones that work on public policies and regulatory frameworks. That is why you see this document. Principles to deploy infrastructure. 10 principles based on the best international practices that any one that is working in policies can implement. These are neutral. No biases. Good for everyone. Good for operators, the cities, the people, for everyone.

So now, I'm like a seller. I'm selling this document. I'm selling

the document. I'm not selling it. I'm giving it away for policymaker. Anyone that works in the principles, any regulatory framework, comply with this to reach meaningful quickly.

Thank you, now let's talk about it.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you for taking two minutes time. Excellent. Can we have Mr. Cesar Diaz, please, your brief intervention?

>> CESAR DIAZ: Thank you Mr. Cleveland. We are going to contribute here. And definitely from LACNIC, first of all, I want to thank ITU for the invitation and Colombia, welcoming us here in Cartagena.

In Caribbean and Latin America, we facilitate resources for initiatives. We have been around for more than 20 years, concentrating in first creating capacity building for the Region. We are aware that not everything is infrastructure. To contribute with the skills training, in that sense. We are promoting differing components in capacity building. Wanting technical knowledge, training, creating technical knowledge in direct and in San Bernardino, IPTC, towers, Internet and all of the things

And also we have worked hand in hand with Governments. Later on a can breakdown to you some examples of alliances. Trying to create capacities in creating public policies. And no doubt, also we are thinking that as trainers, as they're key to the capacity building processes.

And also with LACNIC, the gaps are not closed. I think that as many gaps that must be closed. So the differing Sectors must engage in the development of the Internet and the digital society in the Region.

I'm leaving you here and not to extend more. I will be responding to your questions later on.

>> MODERATOR: Ms. Viviana Vanegas.

>> VIVIANA VANEGAS: Thank you Cleveland. Thank you for the organizers, sometimes we're talking about the same topics. And if you allow us to share but also, that is what we're here for. And right now, I am supporting with a project with ITU in Colombia. I will tell you about that later on. And I want to tell you cooperation is key. That should be another part of the value chain, to close and bridge the gaps in the concerns as German mentioned. I will mention it more. But sometimes we don't know about how the Sectors are engaging in the countries.

For example, here in Colombia, I don't know if you know the investment, the European Union is the most important investor of the telecommunication in Colombia.

So it is important to know how we're contributing. Because at the same way we are showing what keeping a balance and importance and incorporation. I will leave you with this in general. But I will tell you what we do with cooperation as a key enabling stakeholder to support all the partners we have in the concerns and later on, I will give you more details about that. Thank you very much.

>> MODERATOR: Excellent. With all the panelists, you notice how my panelists are working, they're giving you it to the point and

direct. This is lovely. Let's continue. Ms. Cristina Cardenas.

>> CRISTINA CARDENAS: We will be addressing the issue of meaningful connectivity and Coursera are key tools to develop the skills. That is something very important. That the main contribution I want to share with you today. Coursera is growing. We're now Coursera/Udemy. And this is offering tools, training tools with the best knowledge content and smarter platforms that enable what probably Steve Jobs dreamt of to take education to everyone. That is at course era, every day, you see how there are more apps and innovative apps.

One that I tried the other day is how to develop soft skills with AI. That is wonderful. At the same time, you are getting live feedback. Something that is really important in the Coursera bridge to the conversations is the data we have. Fusion which enables more than 240 million users, worldwide. 30 users in Latin America. We have the content and cooperation of 315 Universities and 9,000 experts that are in cooperate working with all of the Regional Universities, Governmental entities. This is helping us understand the trends and the opportunity and the behavior changes. And the last contribution, which I think is relevant and bringing here is scalability. Scaling. And now we're talking about how to contribute. Coursera can bring the tool. But we need Governmental operation and strategic alliance. We need teamwork to enhance the programmes, not to have them in only one country. But to have these programmes at a Regional level and to launch and provide benefit to everyone. Thank you very much.

>> MODERATOR: And thank you. Last but not least, Antonio.

>> ANTONIO PULIDO: Thank you for inviting us, we have been around for 20 years in WSIS and ITU. We will have live event and Workshops and participating in Civil Society event.

In volunteer organisations, we are giving 25 years. We are growing up in the initiatives and our achievements and we have trained 280,000 people in-person training. In big projects, we have launched digital training camps for 17 teenagers in Cybersecurity in creativity, et cetera, et cetera.

These are figures that we have because of the competitive models with the schools and Civil Society and network. This model I will tell you about later on to promote digital access and affordability, engaging public institutions, Civil Society members on the ground and institutions they know the capacities, the needs and the needs are there on the ground.

We know how the solutions over the last three years, we have been training. A network that it is in El Salvador and Chile and other areas, it is projects to do the gap. And to transfer knowledge and the experience in open content, tools, procedures and the management of technology, the volunteers. 3,000 volunteers, they're the DNA of our volunteers, of our network, our volunteers in Latin America and the Caribbean. And our goal is to reach 25 countries and train one million people. That is our goal.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Thank you for that excellent information. From your own experiences, what is the most critical

area of competency that you recognize that is needed, given that we do not want to fall behind. So perhaps I will ask the question, starting with you, Cristina Cardenas. If you can what is the most critical component as far as digital literacy requires today so Americas remain ahead of the game?

>> CRISTINA CARDENAS: No doubt, the development of competencies, in the artificial intelligence, as I mentioned, we have a lot of data in the region. And Latin America, it is head of the demand for the content last year. Grew more than 100% of the people that are interested in consuming the artificial intelligence cooperate. And this demand is aligned with the conversation. Coursera/Udemy had a growth of 70% of demanding the platforms. That means a lot of demand. Because probably the offer in the system, the educational system is demanding it. And also, the demand in training and soft skills. And digital skills for the citizens. And the most important here is to understand that this demand has to be supported. What happens after they get trained? Do they get a job? Are they safe online? What happens after the training? What is the follow-up we're providing after the training?

>> MODERATOR: Any other panelists, do you agree?

>> GERMAN DARIO ARIAS: I strongly agree. I want to provide examples. In Guatemala we have a project that is to train 600 people. With the portfolio of courses for rural areas and the most demand of the courses is skills for entrepreneurship and skills for developing trading skills. We have more than 600 people for training next year. And using resources.

In municipalities, the mayors don't want the communication towers. Why don't you want the towers? Because I don't want kids, children to be online on social media. I don't want the tower here. They say, I don't want to get cancer because those towers they cause cancer. How can you say that, especially for Indigenous People in Guatemala, it is normal to say you can get diseases because of the towers. The Internet, it is only for people, for kids, for children to watch TikTok. No, we need to work in soft skills.

Teach them what is Internet. To teach them skills for entrepreneurship and work and housewives for weaving. They're demanding soft skills and digital skills.

>> ANTONIO PULIDO: I think it is important to work in the vulnerable Sectors, it was mentioned previously, all of the elder people, and rural areas, those are the settings, the environments to get in. Basic digital competencies, the skills to improve daily basis, relationships, healthcare, for instance. The ones related to public services. The ones related to access to deployment and Cybersecurity, it is relevant, to make online, connectivity safer for children and also the skills related to the setting of entrepreneurship and access to financial services of small entrepreneurs. Of sales, access to what is a business, for example. You can set it up on WhatsApp. And don't keep inside the issues related to critical thinking.

And fake news. Access to information should be filtered.

Children, teens, old people, adults, they should have access to quality information.

>> MODERATOR: Can I ask you Viviana, given you are hear about challenges that are happening as much as AI and digital skills being a focus, what, from your experience you recognize as a big hurdle in your administration seeking to execute or implement -- thanks. What, from your perspective do you have as your experience has been a tremendous challenge?

>> VIVIANA: I wanted to close this part because what German says is true. We need to start from the basics. In Colombia, to give you a bit of context, the policy regarding digital inclusion is complex. We talk to the same people. We have budget gaps that cannot be closed. Regulatory gaps. So we enter a moment of despair. We don't know how to think differently, what mechanisms can we use that are innovative? So this issue in Colombia to achieve the poorest, vulnerable households have basic IT baskets. Elements, that are access to Internet, a mobile device. Maybe a computer or tablet. And basic digital skills. And after that, we move on to how do we give the conversation in Colombia. We think of having a poverty Index. Not only thinking of multidimensional or other poverty, it is also digital poverty. How is this created? It is a way of starting an outrage with other Sectors. Because the outrage in figures are the ones that have us look, which other methodologies or courses of action can we use? With that in mind, we have the global gateway project in Colombia, which is the sustainable investment strategy. For them to be sustainable, it is not just a European Union topic or the IT. It is a topic of all the Sectors. The first thing that we do in Colombia, clearly, it is like the EU, we make a digital position paper, when we realize out of 100% of the foreign direct investment in telecommunication, 23% comes from the EU? Because there are companies, safe companies, reliable companies that are betting and helping us.

Not only that, a pilot and how we think of them and with other Sectors. In fact we're managing a project with European investment bank and with others, because we cannot do this alone. We need to stop think this is a competition between Sectors. In the end, as German mentioned we're a link in the value chain. The global gate away project, this is what it is. It is articulated in different Sectors. I am running out of time. I will tell you later. Because we know that we are running out of time and that is the case.

>> MODERATOR: The same question to you, what particular challenge do you experience and especially a hurdle in pursuit of the Agenda as far as advancing digital skill also in the LACNIC.

>> CESAR DIAZ: Yes, it is interesting. The context of the question, especially that we are in multiple Sectors. Here German is in infrastructure. We are in the funding, financing, Civil Society, Academia.

So from the technical perspective, our challenge is basically to keep the Internet we know for today. We keep for granted that Internet will be there safe, stable. But from the technical

community, we have focused on the fact that Internet continue to be what we already have. We cannot think, for example, in Internet freedom, infrastructure, if we break the Internet. So from the standpoint of the capacity building, we have focused on capacity building for the technicians, so the Cybersecurity is addressing in a responsible way. And somehow, the topics of routing, technical topics as such, that connect people and wires and configuring the devices to be stable and open. So the perspectives or the users are I completely agree. We need to focus on multiple Sectors and from the technical part, we need to lift our gaze up and see what we want for the future.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you. Each one of your entities that you represent would have made a pledge, is that correct? According to the ITU? Is that correct, yes?

Okay. Based on your pledges, in one minute, because now I want to invite you ... the audience, here. Many of you have also made pledges or you have a specific need. It is a matchmaking moment.

Based on our experts and panelists, they can share with you what they are doing. And have shared with you where they have cons interest rated, et cetera. What is important at the moment.

You in your own country, agency, also may have made pledges. But how do we then bring those together? To move away from just pledges to now working, collaborating and implementing these things. So I want to invite you, one at a time, if you can just show by raise of a hand, first, identify what Agency entity you represent and then ask a question and what possibly our colleagues might be able to respond or assist or partner with you as it reels to your needs and or the support that you have.

So we ask you -- we have a few hands up. We will take those hands.

We ask you please, because of time, be very brief. We give you one minute to give your question. And we give our colleagues, equally a minute to respond. Because we have five of them here. Yes, the gentleman here. The young man here? Yes. Very young.

(Chuckling)

Can we give him a mic? I will give him the mic. Identify yourself, your question and if you want to point it at any one of the panelists or in general.

>> ATTENDEE: Good morning, I'm Leo Mercedes from the optic from Dominican Republic. Our institution is in charge precisely of managing the government-to-government services for the Digital Transformation as well as the digitalization of services in the Dominican Republic. Within a row, we have the task of bringing some policies like training or promoting the Digital Transformation in the population that we have programmes that are quite interesting like digital ceilings and that takes the just graduated from high school, youngsters that due to their socioeconomic conditions, do not achieve to enter the University or a superior education institution. We created a programme that is directed to those that do not work and do not study it is an immersive 10-month programme in digital capacities, math, languages.

>> MODERATOR: You have used up the minute.

>> ATTENDEE: Precisely, I want to know what do you offer to strengthen similar programmes and will allow us to expand this. Our first version was 2000 youngsters applied. Only for 50. Then 100 and 94 out of 100 graduated. We only have 6% dropout rate.

The motivation for this programme transformed the lives just for the young itself. But their families. The University gave full scholarships to all 94 participants.

We continue with the programme with internships and the Government. We need to expand this programme. What do you offer for this?

>> MODERATOR: Anyone in particular want to take the question? In one minute. We have a few more that want to answer.

>> CESAR DIAZ: From the technical standpoint, from LACNIC, we have been working with alliances with Government. Next to you is Luis, I will tell a little bit, that LACNIC has worked in the capacity building in terms of the protocol related to the U.S. and Costa Rica and Uruguay and Panama can talk about the initiatives that we have tried. Undoubtedly, we believe that the formation of trainers, which I think is the nursery that you are creating with the young people is the future.

Of the next generations, can replicate the knowledge that we give from the technical standpoint. So from LACNIC, we have been doing this for a long time now. And if we can talk in depth later, I can give you more information. To build more capacities in Cybersecurity and other things.

>> MODERATOR: We have another question. We will ask you to respond to that. Yes? Very quickly because we will take two other questions.

>> VIVIANA: From the Global perspective of the European Union, we have the mechanisms, so we have scarcity of resources. So the investment to be sustainable, what we did is invest some donations in places where there is no connectivity, we start creating alliances with key companies. We get the guilds together, we do this in Colombia through private Public Sector and Academia and bring Universities to create sustainable ecosystem for the certain Regions.

Number two, we have exchange programmes. So sometimes we use satellite, data from Copernicus. And they go to Europe to get training. There are many mentions in another space we can share. But right now, we have traditional and nontraditional cooperation.

Because not just the donations, the grants, but it is not used -- I want to -- I think that you like a lot Cartagena to invite you this year, 1-4 in September, in Colombia, come as a guest. That is the most important telecommunication event in Colombia. You are welcome to attend.

>> MODERATOR: The gentleman in the back. The very tall, tall gentleman there. If you can give your question within a minute, because of time. Yes.

>> ATTENDEE: Hello. Good. Buttes -- buenos dias, as I said yesterday I'm from CANTO. I will get to the chase. Moderator, I have

a prospect for German, Cristina Cardenas and Antonio Pulido. Sorry Viviana, based on what you are doing specifically in terms of education, we do have membership from children, Government and operators that need your skills in terms of education for businesses. In terms of the courses, Cristina Cardenas and Antonio Pulido we have spoke at length about it. I wanted to officially as a Director from CANTO offer the opportunity for engagement with our organisation for your courses to be introduced to our membership.

There is a growing Sector of young business tech entrepreneurs that would greatly benefit from what you are doing. Would you be open to that? Putting you on the spot.

>> MODERATOR: Yes or no. Yes or no.

>> CRISTINA CARDENAS: So we have clarity from Coursera/Udemy, I have talked to Carlos to do pilots. Right now we can do pilots for 500 licenses and uptake in the other programme for two months, so you can test what can we do with Coursera/Udemy. There might be something for the other Sectors. Because Coursera/Udemy is one of the many components we need for this to work. What do we train for, if there is nobody to employ these young people? Or there is no content to understand what is the demand of each country and Region? So from our side of Coursera/Udemy, what we have done is create initiatives where we create pilots for a period of time in which we incentivize that the participants to bring a strategic ally to implement the programme. But specifically to know what happens after the programme.

We have programmes like the call of the opening doors. For those in agreement with the Private Sector and chambers of commerce. We have donated the licenses. The World Bank did the training and monitoring of the programme and designing of the content. And altogether, we did a programme that was not just granting licenses, but training and rotating licenses to help and benefit more people in a short time and also involve the Private Sector to see who can employ the young people with a capacity. As a pledge, we donate the licenses to have them in pilot environment. But we incentivize you to not just Coursera, but if there are other organisations that can contribute to this training chain for it to have impact. Because the impact is not how many people graduated, but the real life transformation. Better qualified worker in the Public Sector or people that were in jail to insert in regular life.

>> MODERATOR: Now we will take Antonio Pulido in less than a minute.

>> ANTONIO PULIDO: Yes. Thank you. We believe from the Foundation Fundación Cibervoluntarios to represent projects for children and young people for the generation of talent and vocation. Vocation is important. In the case of girls it is much more important for the STEM careers and other technological professional pathways. I highlight the digital camps over 100,000 children, with one of the things that was key was to form technological vocations. Employability, job search, based on the different more wide realms. We do it in the rural areas. I think it is much more necessary to

impact. And those areas and municipalities with much of the poorest municipalities. I like -- it is not just to measure how many people are trained. It is not just a number. We need to make an assessment and strengthen the entities, reuse reasonable materials. Share methodologies. Collaborations with social institutions and I highlight the others. It is called hacker challenge, it is a training for hacking for children and young people that are vulnerable, for those people which to feel more secure to see children that can dedicate themselves to this.

>> MODERATOR: Ladies and gentlemen, our deepest apologies. We initially had almost an hour. But because of time, we have to cut it short. Let me first apologize to my panelists. I wish we could continue this conversation for another 30 minutes.

We don't have that time. But before I close, I'm thanking them, is there anyone in this room who has made pledges? Pledges under want ITU, put your hand up, please.

There will be a picture taken of all pledgers in this room. Can you put your hand up, if you are? Can we see? We have (counting) Keep your hand up, Secretary-General CANTO. Keep your hands up. Yes. Anyone else? Please. Wave. They're taking a picture of all the pledgers in the room this morning. They're taking a picture. Thank you. Excellent.

Now, those who need information on pledging, please after the session, you have our panelists here who themselves are prepared. You heard some of the things they are doing and they can work with you. Is that correct? Yes? Work with you.

So without further ado, I thank you very much for your time panelists. My deepest apologies to have to cut our time short.

But you remember tremendous. Give them a round of applause please. They were excellent.

(Applause)

I just got a note from my boss telling me that he think I passed the test so I might get the bonus.

And I thank you for that contribution. Have a wonderful time. Again, thank you so much.

(Applause)

>> EMCEE: Thank you, Cleveland and this distinguished panel. You know there are different spaces for you to have a deeper -- we will have 10 minutes coffee break. We can bring it in because we need to get back on the Agenda so we can fulfill all the programme spaces in our Agenda. So we invite you to have a quick coffee break and we will be back in 10 minutes. Recommendation we can take what you want, bring it in the room and we will prepare for Roundtable 6, Governance and enabling regulatory frameworks for sustainable Digital Transformation. See you in 10 minutes.

(Break)

>> EMCEE: We will begin Roundtable 6. The Group picture, the QR code, the access to the different photographs and memorable moments in this Forum. We will invite you, if you consider it convenient, scan the QR code and have access to all of the pictures

of what we leave here. Day 2 today and sharing different topics.

The Regional Development Forum for ITU addressing different topics such as the next one. Governance and enabling regulatory frameworks for sustainable digital transformation. Highly relevant topic that we will explore in the next moment. We invite you to join us in the room. And we will be attentive to invite Moderator and panel members to join us on stage.

Remember, if you need translation equipment, you can find it on the table next to the registration desk. And also, you can come in with your coffee or your snack that you have for the break. You can bring them in the room. We're about to restart our Roundtable 6. We're strictly starting off the commitments that we have. We thank you very much to start taking your seats to restart. Thank you.

We kindly call everyone. Please come into the room. We're ready to restart our activities. Regulatory frameworks for Digital Transformation is the topic that brings us together again. We're ready to begin. So please we thank you for coming in the room, each with your coffee or snack. This is one of the pictures that we had in the event. You can download the QR Code and have access to different moments that we lived in this fantastic Forum that in its day number two.

We're ready to begin. Roundtable number 6 Governance and enabling regulatory frameworks for sustainable digital transformation. We invite you to kindly be seated so we can start.

For those of you who just entered, this is one of the pictures among many that were taken during the two days. You can scan the QR code to have access to the picture and others that were taken. You can have mementos of the beautiful event. We kindly invite you to join us.

We have the sixth Roundtable. It is Governance and enabling regulatory frameworks for sustainable digital transformation the Commissioner Colombia regulatory and invite the panel members and Mariana Gomez of OMR of El Salvador. Juan José Pimiento Director of SENACYT Panama and joined by Dustin Santos CONATEL Honduras and join you go, Jose Gutierrez Salazar of Liberty. And Mercedes Aramendia Executive Director of Dig.ia-lac. We invite you to join us on stage and immediately we will take the photograph of those that are joining us in the panel. We are ready for the picture. We will have the picture taken now. We will go until 12:15 and then we will have lunch. We will give you Governance and enabling regulatory frameworks for sustainable digital transformation. The Roundtable will start now. Go ahead Dr. Claudia Bustamante.

>> CLAUDIA BUSTAMANTE: Good morning. Good morning all of you it is a pleasure to join you for Roundtable 6, we have experts from different countries, in different roles in which we will talk about Governance and enabling regulatory frameworks for sustainable digital transformation. We will talk about this during the two days of how it is important the role of creating trust in the countries for the investment to come and development to occur and close the gaps and enhance significant quickly, it is not only to reach out

with infrastructure but solutions that enable a real change and a real progress. So our society, every day moves forward and makes the best of these digital technologies today. As you can see in our distinguished panel, we're joined by Mariana Gomez from the OMR of El Salvador. Ms. Mercedes Aramendia from Dig.ia-lac and Juan José Pimiento from SENACYT and Dustin Santos from CONATEL Honduras and Jose Gutierrez Salazar with Liberty. It will be interesting to see how the approach in public policy is here.

To have a quick bit of context, let us remember that ITU has some metrics and monitoring that allows us the digital tracker that we classify in the progress of the regulations in each country.

In the tracker, there are four categories. Generation 1 through 4 with a collaborative approach. And in here is where I want to stop real quick to talk about a Region when we talk about Latin America and the Caribbean, we have two countries in Category 1, two in Category 2. 13 in Category 3 and 10 in Category 4. G4 which is the highest. Latest one, we have Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and also the United States.

So what we see is that there is a path to transit in the updating of the regulatory framework for the rest of the countries in the Region.

It is important to understand which are the priorities, initiatives and Best Practices that have worked in other countries. Additionally, the ITU has another tool that is focused on the evolution of the Digital Transformation that limit the trying to. And we have leadership, advance and in this moment in our context, in the leadership role we only have three countries, Canada, Brazil and U.S.

In advance we have 10 countries, we find Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile Argentina. In transition, 18 countries that are the largest Group of them all and in limited we have four.

So having said this, and with these figures in mind, that convey the levels of progress that are uneven in a Region, but we still have similar challenges, we're going to move on now to have a talk with our panel members about how do they see the challenges and with proposals do they have for us from their experiences. So I'll join you here.

Starting this talk, I would first like in this Q&A session, ask you how do you see the updating need? So I would like to start with Dustin Santos. With being since this last day that we are seeing fast and logical evolution, it is a reality, it is not pretty much reflected in our framework. In the regulatory framework. In the ecosystem of Honduras what is the legal regulatory framework about the one you're implementing to understand what vision do you have to incorporate the digital changes in the 5G development and AI. What can you share facing this challenge?

>> DUSTIN SANTOS: Thank you for the question and invitation. It is such a pleasure for us to be here in the ITU, in this panel. You know, in Honduras, we are experiencing a new Government. We are

in the middle of a transition. The former Government did not have the vision of pro development, of the Private Sector.

However projects were implemented with the UTC2025 to check the law that we have currently. And then we have retake with a new vision. And we want to go to a different generation and we are still like stuck in this kind of a restrictive regulator, that implements their public policy and will not allow the market to move with restrictions, stopping the market to move fast with different services to go to a different approach of regulator, enabler, someone that has a vision of cooperation with the different stakeholders of the market, cooperation with the Private Sector and acknowledging the technologies as a key item for the Developing Countries here. Having the broadband impact the growth, the economic growth of countries, especially Developing Countries. So we are proposing a law that we are going to this bill with Congress in the principles. In the former panel, refer to principles, that must be said to have a good business climate to have the infrastructure, promoting competency, the competition of the meaningful connection issue in Honduras since 2014, the project of University connectivity through a fund that taxation of 1% to chart to operators to promote universal connection. However, little is done regarding meaningful connection. That is part of the projects we are implementing. Another issue included in the law is Sandbox for the innovation, we're going to talk about pilot projects, in general we want this new law to enable investors and the Private Sector to have certainty towards investment. We don't want a law for next four years attaining this. We want a law for the next 20 or 30 years, not to put restrictions, you mentioned the AI the develop technology. It is used in many countries, it is key to promote competitiveness of the nation. The ones, the ones that leverage best will have more benefits of growth and going to the condition. It is another technology. Many of the technologies that are developing nowadays. We want to provide guidelines that we can foresee and more in line with the law. That is the idea as a general view.

>> MODERATOR: Now let's go to Mariana Gomez. Okay. You are coming from improving an organisation and of improvement of regulatory framework and that is something we have been promoting here. So can you tell us on the one hand how did you see or think it can be done with the regulatory framework how the OMR set the pathway for the regulatory framework?

>> MARIANA GOMEZ: Thank you for the question, I'm happy to share here with you in this panel, it is such an honour to participate. Regarding the regulatory frameworks, we face challenges, big challenges and I would like to start with three exponents. First, regulatory framework cannot be stopped in the investment in the firsthand. On the secondhand, I would like to say that regulatory frameworks must enhance more benefit than cost for the service supplier, for the population in general. For the citizen, even for the Public Administration. And the third place of the investment, environment, the trials and procedures they must be based on law,

regulatory framework however regulatory frameworks and prepares should be shortened to the smallest not to create obstacles or stop businesses investment. Shortening or void the non-needed requirements.

On that this case, we move to the El Salvador case and the regulatory framework.

El Salvador in 2020 created the digital Agenda. The digital Agenda seeking to plan the regulatory frameworks regarding Cybersecurity, AI, data, protection. In that sense, in the same year, only let's say the administrative procedural law was created. And that law provided a framework for the type of technology and options for enabling business. And back in 2021, 2020-2021, we have the regulatory framework improvement law to facilitate the competitiveness and business, and keeping the premises of improving equality of regulations, why we make laws and create rules and what are the objectives we want to reach with this regulatory framework to get more benefits than costs? If will you allow me, I will introduce a term here I like in linguistic area, it is metacognition. The regulatory framework, improvement of the regulatory framework for those that have heard of meta connection, it is related to a vision.

It is alert, it is paying attention to changes that take place in the regulations. The framework and what we are, we regulating and the impact of the specific regulatory framework. The impact within the economic and social development setting or environment. So this approach in El Salvador enables the regulations not because they were done like that in the past. No. It worked, but we're disrupting and improving the regulation in such a way that it can impact positively the supplier Private Sector and citizens. After the regulatory improvement law, we have a gap for regulation regarding Cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and for that, we create agencies. We have the artificial intelligence Agency, and we have the Cybersecurity Agency of the state. El Salvador also has the e-commerce law and there is another regulatory framework related to protection, intellectual protection and laws or rules that will lead us to the best pathways to regard to the regulatory framework.

Then we have enabling recycle frameworks that also can be implemented and to promote compliance and right, I was following the AI guidelines, technological platforms that have been implemented, they're using artificial intelligence, that is the case for the needs platform. That is taking it to denigrating preinvestment actions or initiatives in the territory. This platform enables us to know where the best investments take place, especially in El Salvador and know information about climate change heat waves and it is created, designed a platform to improve regulatory frameworks to lead us to see the diagram maker. To build diagrams of the process flows or chart flows under the approach of the business model with AI. How long to take the flowchart to modulate the process. Two or three or five hours. With this tool we can create it in less than a minute. Because the tool is AI based or AI driven. Another tool is CBS for telemedicine

consultation through artificial intelligence. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you. Wow, we're learning new tools and developments the concerns are using. How interesting.

Now, let's ask Juan José Pimiento who is coming from the science and technology and innovations criteria. What did you consider should be the role played by agencies in science and technology together with the regulation Agency? Should there be an articulation, what happens when there are emerging technology that have life cycle that can be in the experimental stage.

>> JUAN JOSÉ PIMIENTO: Thank you, Claudia for the question. With SENACYT I will talk as a former development and research centre. I will talk about as a researcher. Not always you have the emerging it is to experiment as you mentioned. The role of CTI on the research and developing worlds first and create the innovation, the innovation as trading of that development that was done. If you do not trade it, you are not doing innovation. You will need to see what the effects are. When you analyze, looking into the effects of it when the consider the emerging technology, the AI, and the technology, Cybersecurity or technology, or technology like quantum computing, all of that, you are in the grey zone. You need to carry out studies and understand what can be done and what cannot be done. And then the results of the research of what is done. And you have results you are articulating the case in the Public Sector. There is an authority joining us today. They get the information and proceed to the regulation after they get the information.

In our case with the use of the ITU, and we are introducing the technologies in the Sandbox. What are we doing? We're creating an AI general rule for us. We decided many years, not to regulate first to implement, first to analyze, look into what the innovative tool will point at. This is a tool that is powerful upon the early regulation can kill the innovative component. I mentioned that at the beginning. We are working on a legal framework that we hope can go to the multiple Sandbox execution piloting phase, that will be in different Sectors. And in the research and academic Sector, which will be implementing in the best way to regulate the tool. We think of it as an electrical grid and see the algorithm analyzing it and see how it is working. They work different compares to the algorithm of the social network. The idea there is to implement first based on the data we think of regulatory framework. Thank you very much.

>> MODERATOR: Okay. Here, we're gathering good ideas of the differing countries. And now we ask Secretary, we have to refer to the investing needs, expanding networks, optical fiber. All of the data analytics need the best of regulatory framework. From the Private Sector, view what kind of adjustment or regulatory adjustment have you lawsuit of to make this converging digital ecosystem to promoting the growth to support the meaningful connectivity we are talking about in this Summit? .

>> Thank you, everyone. This is what I want to start with it is both the authorities and operators seek a common objective, which is to connect more people faster and at a low cost. And of course,

to manage to do that, which is a big challenge. And we need to create a condition that create conditions to foresee, when there is feasibility and legal certainty. How many of the telecommunication companies do business. Many of the rules were done in times when the Internet was just starting. Many of the rules need to change. We need to point at our regulatory framework based not on technology but principles. Regulatory framework that enable matching or enable narrowing the differing rules and adjusting it for the moment and back then we were the centre of the digital ecosystem. Now we have emerging suppliers, cooperate emergency suppliers, online content emergency suppliers and satellite suppliers working on the ground. We have the artificial intelligence and of course, all of the makes the digital ecosystem assorted made up of different components. The conclusion here is that we're not seeking for modernizing or looking for more regulations, it is important, it is important to be on the right path. And keep the same rules. As the former panelists mentions, there are technologies that you want to see how they work, first. Not to stop the innovation moving. And there are other technologies, more traditional, they're in the ecosystem. That we need to regulate but we need to create the conditions first. It happens in all industries. Everyone is afraid of a dollar. Everywhere you want to invest, you need certainty and enabling conditions. That is the setting, the environment to generate in the communication world. That this first particle of the presentation the message is more focused on thinking of regulation the regulatory framework based on principles, not on technologies. Based on the same principles and rules.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. The end of this Roundtable, we have Mercedes Aramendia. As Jose Gutierrez Salazar mentioned. Somehow, we have and we need participation of more people in the digital ecosystem. But we refer to AI data centres, big data. We have infrastructure agents that are playing a key role in the ecosystem. So from your point of view how do you consider the regulatory frameworks our Region has. How do you consider they should evolve to promote investment and improve services with the vast technology to promote the citizens.

>> MERCEDES ARAMENDIA: Thank you, Claudia for the questions, and thank you for the Summit enabling us to share or learn from the successful or not so successful cases to have a better development and inclusion at a Regional level. Thank you, my dear friend Carlos for this beautiful Summit. I think it adds a lot of diversity and value for everyone.

First, I want to introduce the alliance of the digital act. This digital alliance is in 2025, this year, working in digital infrastructure, precisely because open Internet and infrastructure are for inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean. We are called and trained by different companies, Amazon, TikTok, and others. And we have elite members and Civil Society that are working to keep Internet open and continue developing for everyone. Enabling more people access, making it affordable and promoting meaningful

connectivity for everyone. I'm happy to hear the presentations. From El Salvador and Honduras showing how they're updating. They're updating with a specific purpose because the law has many years. We need to change it. We need to do it not because we need to change it because of the purpose in changing it. There is a need. There is a specific need. I find it interesting to highlight three criteria. First, are the importance of understanding how the digital infrastructure works and how the Internet works. We are facing architecture that is open and interdependent. But mainly, I think it is fundamental to highlight the fact that we are in an ecosystem that is based on and made up in layers. Each layer, each tier has specific conscious and not all of them are the same. Because if we do that, we do not respond to realities and needs. And we affect the functioning of each layer or tier.

The first criteria we need to highlight that we are working and facing a tiered based ecosystem and they are independent.

We go to the regulatory framework. We will regulate, we will regulate more. No, no, that is not the case here. Here, I see you, the approach of regulatory framework there is the logic for the risk and emerge or bring more obligations and controls. The controls are important. I'm not saying no. And the public interest. The approach here, the regulatory framework is something that enables development and works hand in hand with competitiveness. And improving our countries. And this is a virtual topic. We consider this as important to bring to the table all the stakeholders that are part of the ecosystems. No doubt the regulators play a key role in the competence function. But there are other stakeholders. They are transversal and should be engaged in the ecosystem contributing from their perspective, when we refer to infrastructure. Digital ecosystem. We refer to many levels and tiers that are part of the ecosystem and we need to bring this investment and infrastructure and this innovation we need a clear vision on how the architecture functions and what is what we need. Because many times we are referred to regulation but it is not regulation. It is to reg as Mariana mentioned, what is the goal? What is the purpose and here, the balance. We need to see where is the failure in the market. Or what is the intervention that it is the purpose for the regulation. It is important to mention, the control and barriers. No, we need to see it as an enabling tool.

As mentioned we need to see all of the agreements in the industry. If we want to strengthen. We have a lot of agreements. Let's see the good practices and principles as a way to enhance the development and to deploy the technology bringing all the investment, all of the infrastructure that we need in the Region to improve and provide better opportunities to the citizens in all of the countries.

>> MODERATOR: I think that what Mercedes Aramendia shared, it opens the road for the next question for you. Which will be related with priorities in one hand. And on the other with this collaboration. Because definitely, while each one of you do want the property effect if you isolate it. And I will start with Jose this time. Precisely,

how the collaboration in the ecosystem can make feasible the growth of investment and business development and also social development for our countries. >> JOSE GUTIERREZ SALAZAR: Very good question. I like to bring to the table, the topics, the empathy. The regulatory empathy. It is understanding the investments and the limitations of the different stakeholders.

Hardly here anybody can disagree in the fact that the Sandboxes are an excellent tool for innovation and this certainly is like that. What we need to understand with the Sandbox is that you have to have a life cycle, you have to have Roadmap and series of landmarks, to see how quickly they can be incorporated and teaching from the Sandbox in the technological framework, what cannot happen is the topic of the Sandbox. For example, it is always to add it as a step that adds up bureaucracy. When I talk about empathy, I mean that there are things already there. I was talking as an example. Talking about mobile networks and satellite. Satellites are complement of land networks and we were -- the directed the device. 96% of the world population is covered through land mobile networks. 4% that still have no connectivity. And this is certainly a dimension of the digital gap. The digital connectivity and use gaps. 4% is not that large%, but it is important that 38% of the population today has access to a mobile network, but it is not connecting. Why? Because there is a huge gap, they don't have the digital skills. They can't afford the service. They find the interesting language. We talk about the topic about collaboration, when we see how to dictate regulation or if simplify, we can think about the topic and how the appearance of the new technologies, what is the role, if they complement or thinking of 96% of the world's population today is supplied by land-mobile network. For example, in Costa Rica, we have a good approach with the direct device. We have the temptation to bring a Sandbox. To see with the device. In Costa Rica, the National distribution plan was out there. We add a protection. It was established we needed the satellite concession. Finally there will be a coordinate in the Agency. I think it is a good approach. It wasn't necessary to use the regulatory Sandbox, and we would be moving forward with this. Because in the end, if the specific case we bring it to the Sandbox and we're going to wait two years to integrate in the regulation, it is necessary to enable a technology like this within a country, and system of device and emergency we have the pandemic.

We can start to reestablish that there are technologies that cannot wait for a Sandbox. Sometimes the best is not what creates more dockets, it is what connections the people.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. I think with this you introduce I will ask Mariana Gomez ... in the implementation bring more bureaucracy from regulatory improvement. You have seen and mention it at the beginning, the larger connectivity helps to transform processes and improve the decreased bureaucracy. How could you tell us about the results you have in El Salvador in this line and how it is helping in the progress of the country?

>> MARIANA GOMEZ: Yes, thank you for the question. In El Salvador

we are implementing this. In the previous speech I talked about the attraction of the victim, -- the investment and the territory and allowing the investor to know before the actual investment, to know the qualification of the terrain to build or not. What kind of buildings they can put up, and the diversity of elements such as if there are rivers or streams that will be impacted. By the building of the construction of the buildings and so on. But all of these platforms that are being generated everyday in El Salvador by different institutions by the state very much likely to have AI. And AI is built on principles. The foster and promotion of AI is going to generate principles related to transparent, accountability, efficiency and also the AI agency programmes strong generation of Sandbox in the research. And the preparation of second-level regulation. Also the digital literacy.

It is the usage of the services in the search of the technological platforms, the usage of AI, the usage of AI and the principles. Beside this biggest challenge we have for countries is to bring more and more to the population the knowledge about new technologies. Professional use, professionalization and training of both the Public Sector as well as Private Sector. To make better use of the tools. I will stop there.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. You are definitely adopting the technology more and more in the process. But as you said before these new development and uses also risks and digital risks, that is, online risks. I would like to ask Dustin, how have you addressed those topics of strengthen institutional strengthening of the agencies in the countries, and how are you collaborating with entities beyond the ICT Sector in Cybersecurity?

>> DUSTIN SANTOS: To complement the topic of regulatory innovation, before I answer the question, I think the regulators need to avoid regulator entities. We have to know that we can communicate with the people who regulate. For example, in Honduras we have the topic of the biometric registration of the Sims. How do we get there?

There was a law in 2017 that was never applied because to make it operational it was too expensive. The failure of which was previously agreed. When it made it to Congress they changed a lot of things and no longer applicable. The operators struck a deal and talked to the regulator and said we will implement a solution and it was set. Right now, there is not a regulator as such. There was an agreement between the regulator and mobile operators.

There are many strategies that is it not necessary just to use the regulation. To interact but experience the market to be innovative and willing to take risks as long as we protect some topics like the protection of the users and Cybersecurity, of course, we acknowledge that in the digital age that we are living. Now that crimes occur online. In the digital world. We went from the physical world to digital world. In Honduras, the law in the regulator it contemplates this fact.

We also want to clean up the house and organize it. The regulator and leading Cybersecurity and leading the project of law for

Cybersecurity in the country, with the support of ITU and other entities, it is also organizing the house. We're seeking and need good signals to the market that we can do this. After ISO nine 1 certification we used to have and no longer do. Also ISO27001. Also the information safety. We need to send the right signals to the market, doing it with formality, professionalism and commitment and adhere to the Budapest agreement, we have taken a few steps in that regard. We want to have a National Cybersecurity strategy. And Cybersecurity law for mid next year. If you look, we have several ongoing projects, one is the framework law for Telecommunication Sector with the restructure with CONATEL, with what I mentioned, all of this to give more credibility of what the regulator is doing. More certainty for the future investment and also the National Cybersecurity strategy, not just prevent cybercrime but give signals to the market that the commercial businesses like e-commerce, including the e-commerce between the Central America Region can be safer and more feasible. Talking about the level of standardization and the Cybersecurity policies between the countries to promote e-commerce.

These are ambitious plans and also an announcement. Because I think after this that by June, we wish to launch this multiband auction for 5G that we don't have in Honduras and 4G for those 700 and other bands to be announced formerly, shortly. This is to give an idea of everything we see at the same time. But we firmly believe that enabler and facts of this provides clarity and certainty to the investors. Both National and international.

>> MODERATOR: You leave us with excellent news for everyone to be on the lookout for 2027 in this process.

I would like to ask what is required for digital implementation, what is the prospective view that you propose that would leave behind those aspects that are not adequate?

>> MERCEDES ARAMENDIA: Thank you Claudia. I will be fast because we are out of time. To see a future view we need to see where to have clarity. And with that, we need good practices. I think it is interesting to bring to the table the cases of Japan and Singapore that are not quite closed, but generally have been highlighted for the dill development and part of the reason is the enabler, the regulation that is progressed and proportional. Having different partners, to see other cases that are not so good. In South Korea, it shows that regulations that generate barriers or artificial barriers without having an actual detected problem and they.

In the infrastructure, it could be in one particular country or other countries. So regulation for it to be an enabler in the attracting of the investment providing certainty is really important to see a clear case here with developing the aspects regarding digital topics that suffer greatly in the quality of the service. And many infrastructure has moved to neighbouring countries because the regulations instead of being enabler and trade secreting the investment infrastructure went in the opposite direction. We need to learn from these cases to see other cases where Japan, Singapore

and technology moves in a universal way. And sees regulation as an enabler to develop and go beyond competitiveness and protectiveness and the talent information that is so important. I to underscore this. Another aspect that is key is go back to the layers, the distributed architecture of the Internet the opening and also the multistakeholder Governance that we know that regulation is one of the instruments that we have the multistakeholder Governance.

It has shown that the digital ecosystem can be developed together. It is very important that all voices are represented. Also regulators have the role to understand the public interests, the Academia has a lot to contribute to understand how the infrastructure works, the Private Sector and everything regarding the investment. Innovation, understanding the challenges. And in general importance of Civil Society, to see the rights of society and seeing all the stakeholders on the table is the best way to move forward together in a sustainable way.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. We heard many aspects. I think Juan José Pimiento has been feeling this precisely from your experience in Panama, how do you consider this institution works in public and private alliance have helped the country to move forward? How do you see this framework to be an enabler of the Digital Transformation we seek?

>> JUAN JOSÉ PIMIENTO: To respect the time, it is already over, according to the timer. We have the regulation that is established the Commission for Emerging technology. But they have different sub-Commissions that we have, for example, AI is represented there. But the Public Sector academy and organized Civil Society. My country is very small. We are 4.5 inhabitants. We learn when we want to create regulation, it can be closed. In my country, it was closed twice because of no consultation, and the participation, and we paid a stiff price for doing it this way. This is the way of doing Government and politics and a way of ruling a country where we acknowledge we're in a representative democracy, we need to hear voices and the real challenge is how many voices can be in one of the tables with the results? Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Powerful and clear. We're running out of time. For the final cut, to thank obviously all of your solutions. I think from here we can find important regulations that will allow to be flexible, adaptable and of course, innovation and regulatory tools can help in this path and in this dialogue with the Private Sector and with the Academia. So innovations that can benefit our community are adapted in the best possible way.

Not seeking regulation. Just because. But doing it when there is an evident need and work from the regulatory standpoint together with those who make this possible and all of the layers of the ecosystem. So we continue to move forward in this transformation from the connectivity to the appropriation. And we achieve a progress of our Region. Thank you very much. All of you.

(Applause)

>> EMCEE: Dr. Claudia Bustamante thank you very much for the

discussion on this Governance and regulatory information. And we will have a pilot discussion and Carlos is part of the Regional Office of ITU, it is important to be on time.

>> One quick announcement. We invite you to a very special to be on time. It is important to be in the room early. The afternoon session will last two years or less for logistics for our colleagues from Geneva. We need to finish on time. It is our closing ceremony. We will have a special presentation of projects. Therefore I want to invite you specially to be punctual.

>> EMCEE: We invite you to have lunch. We will be back at 1:45. Have your coffee and we will start with the launching of the pilot and the experimentation, the topics and then to have the closing at 3:30 3:45 to comply with the Agenda that you have. Thank you, you can exit the room and go out and enjoy your lunch. We'll meet again at 1:45 afternoon. Thank you being on time and participating in all of the moments so far in day 2. We'll meet again after lunch.

(Lunch break)

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