

High-Level Policy Statement

World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025

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Title: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Member State: Bahamas

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Secretary General of the International Telecommunications Union, Mrs. Doreen Bogdan-Martin,

Chair of WTDC 2025, Mr. Samaddin Asadov

Deputy Secretary General,

ITU Bureau Directors,

Ministers,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Good afternoon.

On behalf of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, I thank the Government of Azerbaijan for its hospitality and the ITU for convening this important conference on the 30th anniversary of the Telecommunication Development Sector.

We gather at a critical time when universal, meaningful connectivity is key to digital resilience, equity, and sustainable development. As a Small Island Developing State, The Bahamas prioritizes digital transformation in our national strategy, focusing on good governance, inclusion, innovation, and climate resilience.

In 2025, we launched DigiLearn Bahamas to train over 7,000 citizens in digital skills by 2027, reflecting our belief that every Bahamian deserves digital opportunities.

Our Electronic Communications Policy (2024–2027) treats connectivity as a right, aiming to connect all islands and communities regardless of geography or demographics.

URCA, our regulator, is strengthening the national connectivity ecosystem through technology-neutral improvements in mobile networks, satellite coverage, quality standards, and universal service obligations, to improve access, especially for underserved communities and persons with disabilities.”

At this Conference, The Bahamas supports regional proposals to redefine underserved areas, enhance emergency communications, and promote equitable access for SIDS and vulnerable groups.

Resilient ICT infrastructure is vital for us, particularly given climate change. Our Disaster Alert System and News App provide real-time warnings across islands, and we are enhancing maritime connectivity based on lessons learned from Phase 1 of the Smart Seas project.

In 2024, The Bahamas launched its first National Cybersecurity Strategy and a National Computer Incident Response Team with ITU’s support.

Achieving a just digital future requires shared responsibility to ensure connectivity creates real opportunities.

We urge support for the Baku Action Plan’s focus on results-based planning, resource mobilization, and inclusive participation, especially for SIDS.

Let us commit to a digital future that is connected, just, secure, and sustainable for all.

Thank you.