

ITU WTDC-25 High-Level Segment
Policy Statement
Mr Ömer Abdullah KARAGÖZOĞLU
President & Chairman of the Board
Information and Communication Technologies Authority (BTK)
Republic of Türkiye
18 November 2025

Mr. Chairman,
Madam Secretary-General,
Elected Officials of the ITU,
Distinguished Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of **Türkiye**, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government and people of **Azerbaijan** for their warm hospitality and the excellent organization of this important conference.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to **ITU Secretary-General Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau Dr. Cosmas Zavazava**, and all elected officials of the ITU for their outstanding leadership and tireless efforts to organize WTDC-25 and to advance digital development worldwide.

The theme of **WTDC-25**, “*Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future*,” resonates deeply with Türkiye’s national priorities. We view meaningful connectivity not only as a matter of

access, but as a foundation for social inclusion, innovation, and sustainable economic growth.

Türkiye has taken determined steps to build a digital future that empowers people, strengthens communities, and drives sustainable growth. We are fostering innovation, encouraging public–private collaboration, and creating opportunities for our citizens to access and benefit from digital technologies in every aspect of life. Through these efforts, Türkiye continues to ensure that digital transformation becomes a driver of inclusion, resilience, and shared prosperity.

From our perspective, affordability and meaningful use of connectivity are key to transforming access into opportunity. This requires building trust, skills, and local digital content — ensuring that connectivity truly empowers individuals, businesses, and public institutions alike.

At the global level, Türkiye firmly believes that digital transformation should serve as a bridge — not a barrier — between nations. We attach great importance to the work of the **ITU Development Sector** and actively support regional and international cooperation, capacity-building, and joint initiatives that advance sustainable digital ecosystems.

We stand ready to continue our constructive engagement, strengthen the ITU’s development agenda, and work hand-in-hand with all Member States to achieve universal and affordable connectivity that leaves no one behind.

Since its founding, Türkiye has been a strong and reliable partner of the International Telecommunication Union, actively contributing to its work and shared objectives. Guided by the belief that inclusive and affordable digital connectivity is key to development and equality, we are committed to further

strengthening our collaboration within the Union. In this spirit, I am pleased to announce that **Türkiye is a candidate for the ITU Council for the term 2027–2030, representing Region B (Western Europe).**

We convey our best wishes for the success of this important conference and for fruitful outcomes that will benefit our global digital community.

Finally, it would be our honor to welcome all **Heads of Delegation and one accompanying person** to a reception hosted by **Türkiye** this evening. Shuttle busses will be ready outside after this session. Please join us and enjoy world-famous Turkish cuisine.

Thank you.