

High-Level Segment of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25)

Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege to address this distinguished forum at a time when our world is undergoing profound transformation. Emerging technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence, are reshaping every aspect of our economies, societies, and governance. Yet, as we harness their potential, we must ensure that digital progress remains inclusive, secure, and sustainable, serving all people, everywhere.

Cyprus is deeply committed to advancing a human-centred digital transformation across government, the economy and society. Our national strategies focus on modernising and strengthening digital infrastructure, ensuring universal and affordable connectivity, and developing digital skills and human capital. We aim to empower citizens and businesses to participate fully in the digital economy, while fostering innovation and ensuring that technology serves as a true enabler of inclusion, opportunity and equality.

In this regard, Cyprus is proud to have received recognition at the European Digital Connectivity Awards 2025, where our nationwide Roll-out of Very High-Capacity Networks in Rural Areas project was awarded the prize for “Champion in addressing the digital divide in rural and remote areas.” This achievement reflects our steadfast commitment to ensuring that no citizen, community, or business is left behind in the digital transition.

We place strong emphasis on the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence by establishing a National AI Taskforce mandated to shape a forward-looking strategy that will harness AI to enhance productivity and competitiveness, fostering an innovation ecosystem that ensures its safe, responsible, and ethical development and use.

This commitment to inclusion and resilience naturally extends to another critical pillar of digital transformation: cybersecurity.

In today’s interconnected world, cybersecurity is no longer a luxury — it is a necessity — and not just in the developed part of the world. While progress brings immense opportunities, it also exposes nations and organizations to significant cyber risks, that can cripple economies, undermine national security, compromise sensitive data, and erode trust in digital systems.

That is why cybersecurity development and capacity building are critical — and this conference is a testament to its importance. Investing in secure digital infrastructure, training skilled professionals, and creating robust legal

frameworks can empower nations to protect their citizens and economies. It's not just about technology — it's about resilience, trust, and sustainable growth.

By prioritizing cybersecurity today, developing countries can safeguard their future, foster innovation, and ensure that digital progress benefits.

In recent years, Cyprus has taken significant strides in strengthening its cybersecurity landscape. A key milestone has been the establishment of the ICT Academy, which serves as a regional hub for cybersecurity training and exercises. In just two years, the Academy has organized over 200 events, attracting more than 5,000 participants from over 40 countries.

With all these in mind, collaboration — particularly for small states such as Cyprus — is both essential and strategic. Through the ITU's leadership in fostering partnerships, capacity-building, and policy dialogue, we can ensure that the benefits of technology reach every corner of the world. Cyprus will continue to work closely with its partners and with the ITU to foster inclusive digital ecosystems that build trust, resilience, and prosperity for all.

As we move forward, let us continue to share knowledge, build trust, and work together to ensure that cybersecurity becomes a cornerstone of inclusive and sustainable development. We can empower communities, strengthen partnerships, and create a safer digital environment for all.