

Allocution of HE Mr Sid Ali ZERROUKI
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WTDC 25 HIGH LEVEL SESSION

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Mr. Chairman of the conference,

Madam Secretary-General of ITU,

Excellencies, Ministers,

Distinguished delegates,

Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the Government of Azerbaijan for the warm welcome and for hosting this important conference. Your leadership has created the ideal setting for a dialogue fully aligned with our shared theme:

“Universal, Meaningful, and Affordable Connectivity for an Inclusive and Sustainable Digital Future.”

For Algeria, connectivity is no longer a simple technical service. It has become a strategic pillar for human development, economic resilience, and digital sovereignty. Our national vision is clear: to build a safe, affordable, and trusted digital ecosystem where connectivity acts as a public good — enabling education, innovation, and full participation in the digital economy across all regions.

Guided by this vision, we are implementing an ambitious infrastructure and innovation agenda:

Nationwide fiber expansion aiming for full coverage by 2027.

Hybrid connectivity solutions — fiber, radio, and satellite — for rural and remote regions.

Over 1,500 small villages connected and 3000 to go through universal service programs.

Commercial 5G launch by end of 2025, enabling high-value digital services.

Integration of AI, IoT, and smart spectrum management to improve resilience and performance.

Strengthened cybersecurity and trust frameworks.

Continuous training for engineers and technicians in advanced networks and satellite systems.

Regionally, we are advancing strategic fiber corridors, including the Trans-Saharan Fiber Backbone linking Algeria with Mauritania, Niger, and deeper into Africa — a concrete expression of our commitment to continental digital inclusion.

From our journey, several lessons are clear:

Connectivity must be meaningful — reliable, useful, and aligned with citizens' real needs.

Infrastructure deployment is only the first step; maintenance, upgrades, and resilience are equally vital.

Partnerships — public, private, regional, and global — are essential to closing the digital divide.

Excellencies, while moving forward, we firmly believe that no African country should remain isolated from global connectivity. Landlocked nations without direct access to submarine fiber must be supported. This is why we encourage the BDT to champion and accelerate dedicated programs for these countries, helping them access regional fiber corridors and affordable international bandwidth — a decisive step to ensure that no one is left behind on our continent.

Looking ahead, we invite ITU-D to strengthen its role in four priority areas:

Regulatory and technical support for developing countries.

Sustainable and inclusive financing models for affordable internet.

Open standards and interoperable network architectures.

Skills development in 5G, AI, cybersecurity, and satellite technologies.

Algeria reaffirms its commitment to universal, affordable, secure, and reliable connectivity as the foundation for shared prosperity and digital sovereignty. Our message is simple: meaningful digital inclusion is a collective responsibility.

Let us move forward with a unified ambition and a shared purpose. Together, we can make connectivity a driver of dignity, resilience, and long-term development for all.

Thank you.