

WTDC25 – High-level Segment

AUDITORIUM: 16:05 – SEATING ARRANGEMENTS (speakers terão área separada de assentos. O pódio estará no lado direito do palco). Máximo de 3 minutos por discurso.

Mr. Samaddin Asadov, Deputy Minister of Digital Development and Transport, Republic of Azerbaijan will open the session and will invite each speaker on stage.

ANTES DA FALA PR BAIGORRI: Mr. Philip Marnick (General Director Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA)- **Bahrain (Kingdom of) – Obs. com quem foi celebrado MoU na WRC23.**

SPEECH (est. 2.5 minutes)

Good afternoon, Your Excellency Mr. Rashad Nabiyev, Minister of Digital Development and Transport of Azerbaijan;
Madam Secretary-General of the ITU, Mrs. Doreen Bogdan-Martin;
Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, Mr. Cosmas Zavazava;
Chair of the Conference, Mr. Samaddin Asadov;
Your Excellencies, Ministers and Ambassadors;
Distinguished Chairs of Regulatory Authorities;
Honored delegates,

It is a privilege to address you today.

Allow me to begin by expressing our deep appreciation to the Government of Azerbaijan for its warm hospitality and for hosting us in the vibrant city of Baku. The exceptional organization and steadfast support provided have created ideal conditions for a productive and forward-looking WTDC.

It feels distant—yet remarkably relevant—since the ITU came together in WTDC Kigali to chart our collective response to the digital challenges unfolding around us, and to reaffirm our commitment to making connectivity a true enabler of sustainable development.

Since then, much has changed. We have witnessed the adoption of the ITU Strategic Plan at PP-26; the advancement of global digital cooperation through the Global Digital Compact; and the significant outcomes of WRC-23 and WTSA-24, each carrying implications for the development agenda that deserve our careful attention. But beyond these important institutional milestones, the world of technology—and the societies it shapes—has evolved even more rapidly.

The consensus is now clear: connectivity must be meaningful if it is to transform lives, empower communities, and sustain economic growth. Expectations from our citizens for this level of meaningful connectivity have increased markedly—and justifiably so.

Simultaneously, communication technologies have advanced at a pace that challenges our traditional frameworks. Are the terms “new” and “emerging” still sufficient to describe what we are witnessing? And are our established approaches to study, support, and program implementation still adequate in this landscape?

The reality may be that they are not. Not when we consider the growing ecosystem of space-based communication technologies; not when we reflect on the urgency of quantum and post-quantum issues; and certainly not when we address the transformative and disruptive dimensions of artificial intelligence.

The recent milestones in digital cooperation—combined with this accelerated technological evolution—require us, at this WTDC, to act with both foresight and courage. They call on us to seize every opportunity to advance the development agenda within the United Nations’ leading technical agency for digital transformation.

For Brazil, we arrive with a clear set of priorities—many of which are embodied in our regional proposals. They range from our longstanding emphasis on strengthened cybersecurity deliverables to the modernization of consumer protection frameworks to a more effective and actionable approach to child online protection, among other key areas. In essence, our priorities converge into a single principle: that ITU’s development outputs must reflect the state of the art.

Only through this alignment will we be able to prevent the deepening of gaps that, regrettably, continue to separate different groups of countries.

I conclude by reaffirming that the Brazilian delegation—and I, as its Head—remain fully committed to serving as a bridge toward solutions and consensus. We stand ready to contribute with both technical expertise and constructive, feasible proposals.

May the winds of Baku guide and inspire our collective ambition.

Thank you very much, and I wish all of you a successful and impactful WTDC.