

High Level Segment
Session 1 14h30 - 15h45
Monday 17 November 2025

H.E. Dr. Takuo Imagawa
Vice-Minister for International Affairs
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Excellencies, Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,

Good afternoon.

I am IMAGAWA Takuo, Vice-Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan.

It is a great honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Government of Japan here in the beautiful city of Baku.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Secretary-General, Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, Dr. Cosmas Zavazava, the ITU Secretariat, and the host country Azerbaijan for their dedicated efforts in organizing this conference.

I would also like to congratulate His Excellency Mr. Samaddin Asadov on his appointment as Chair of this conference.

ITU-D plays an essential role in advancing our shared global goals for sustainable development through ICT.

In particular, its activities form the foundation for improving the quality of life for people around the world.

Japan shares this vision and has actively supported ITU-D initiatives for many years.

Among these efforts, we place special emphasis on “Connect2Recover,” a global initiative to ensure available, affordable, and resilient digital infrastructure.

Japan has collaborated with ITU to launch and support this program, aimed at strengthening digital recovery and disaster preparedness in the post-COVID world.

Based on our extensive experience with earthquakes, Japan has developed advanced alert systems, such as the Earthquake Early Warning system, which can also be introduced in other countries.

Our contributions go beyond technical assistance, helping countries address connectivity gaps and establish policy foundations for resilient communication infrastructure.

In several countries, particularly in Africa, we have conducted assessments to improve ICT strategies and emergency communication plans.

Insights gained through “Connect2Recover” are now being shared globally, in coordination with ITU regional offices, as part of the “Early Warning for All” initiative.

We have also supported the development of systems applying digital technologies in essential sectors such as education and healthcare.

Connecting schools to the internet and introducing digital tools in medical services are important steps toward achieving inclusive and sustainable development worldwide.

Capacity building is equally vital. As a country frequently affected by natural disasters, Japan has long worked on disaster preparedness and shares its expertise with nations across the Asia-Pacific region. Our contributions to ITU-D reflect our strong commitment to advancing digital cooperation and realizing a digital society that leaves no one behind.

Japan will continue to strongly support ITU-D activities and work closely with the international community toward an inclusive and sustainable digital future.

I sincerely hope that discussions at WTDC-25 will mark a meaningful step toward this goal.

Thank you so much. Domo Arigato.