

Your Excellencies, Ministers of ITU Member States,
Secretary General of ITU, Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin,
BDT Director, Dr Cosmas Zavazava,
ITU officials,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is both an honor and a pleasure to speak before this distinguished assembly of leaders and decision-makers. I deeply value the opportunity to take part in this important dialogue.

At the outset, I wish to congratulate the Government of Azerbaijan for hosting this landmark conference and welcoming us with such wonderful hospitality. I believe that it is through platforms like this that we can explore our collective potential and exchange ideas.

We are here together to learn, adapt, and seek collaboration through dialogue and innovation. all.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We live in an age of technological revolution, a hyper-connected and fast-paced reality, which transforms our world into ways we could hardly imagine. Distances are measured in megabits and – more recently, in gigabits per second, making the world more connected and accessible than ever before. A message can fly faster as a thought, a voice can span seas in an instant, and the barriers that once separated us now fade in the glow of our screens.

In this new changing landscape, traditional laws and regulations can quickly become not only outdated, but sometimes even obsolete. Emerging technologies such as cloud computing, AI, Internet of Things, robotics, 5G connectivity represent huge opportunities but also challenges that we must respond to. To keep pace with new business models and innovations, we must systematically develop and adapt new strategies and policies.

However, today, a third of our world is not properly connected to the internet. For them, this door remains closed, because they cannot afford to. The Conference's theme reminds us that technology is not just about innovation, but about inclusion, opportunity, and shared progress.

In a well-integrated global economy, no one can achieve prosperity on its own. I believe in enhanced cooperation and collaborative approaches to improve inclusiveness and to open opportunities for people around the world.

How can we achieve this together? Promoting regulations that support a competitive market and encourage innovation is essential. Concrete actions are needed to improve access and affordability.

We need to develop strategies and initiatives that incentivize investment in digital literacy, connectivity, and skills.

Romania has a dynamic digital ecosystem, supported by one of the fastest internet networks in Europe and a thriving community of tech companies and startups. However, the digitalization of

the economy and public administration is still evolving, and challenges such as the urban–rural digital divide and gaps in digital skills among different social groups persist.

Connectivity is not just about cables or 5G signals. It is about equal access to opportunities and social equity. Our main investment should be in people: in children who are building the skills for tomorrow, in teachers who cultivate digital literacy, in entrepreneurs who create new opportunities, and in seniors who embrace the digital world with confidence.

Romania aims to build a coherent digital infrastructure, boost digital skills and education, promote inclusion, and enforce strong frameworks for cybersecurity, data protection, and IT ethics.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends,

The pace of technology is thrilling and so is the impact we can make together.

Thank you for your attention!