

Honorable Chair, Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Azerbaijan, as well as to Secretary-General Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin and the ITU team, for hosting such a significant event. This is truly an important historic milestone not only for Azerbaijan, but for the entire CIS region.

One of Kazakhstan's key priorities is full digitalization.

This requires a strong digital infrastructure as a base.

Today, 99 percent of Kazakhstan's population has access to the Internet.

However, in some remote villages, the speed is not enough.

Our country is very large — 2.7 million square kilometers, and bringing fiber optics to every settlement is not an easy task.

Nevertheless, we are moving forward actively and investing a lot in infrastructure.

Ten years ago, we had only 10.5 thousand kilometers of fiber optic lines. Today, it has reached 127 thousand kilometers between settlements. We are moving forward with the process.

The most hard-to-reach areas are provided with satellite Internet.

All big cities and regional centers have 5G technology.

One of our key projects in 2026 is laying of a fiber optic cable along the bottom of the Caspian Sea, which is being done jointly with Azerbaijan. This project will become another digital bridge between Europe and Asia.

Data processing centers are being built in parallel.

A zero tax rate program, state support and infrastructure are being developed for data center Construction investors. Northern Kazakhstan, with its cold climate and cheap electricity, is particularly promising.

We are forming an innovative ecosystem and supporting the startup industry. Tax and visa benefits are provided to partners for IT companies and specialists.

Kazakhstan is one of the world leaders in digital public services. It ranks 10th in the world according to the UN Online Services Index and 24th in terms of e-government development.

Today, 90 percent of government services are accessible from a smartphone, and 85 percent of banking transactions are cashless.

Serious attention is being paid to cybersecurity issues.

Digital Code is being developed.

Artificial intelligence is becoming a new strategic goal.

Just yesterday, the Law on Artificial Intelligence was signed. An artificial intelligence center alem.ai and the largest supercomputer center in the region **alem.cloud** have been opened.

This confirms our readiness to move to a new level of digital transformation.

Kazakhstan is ready to be a reliable partner, and is open to dialogue and joint projects.

We highly value the role of the ITU and are ready for close, productive and long-term cooperation with ITU and with all Members aimed at strengthening digital sustainability and promoting innovation in the world. We are considering the nomination of Kazakhstan's candidacy for the ITU Council for 2027-2030 and kindly request your support.

I wish you a productive wdtc 2025
Thank you for your attentionp00000.