

STATEMENT BY MS. MAVIS AMPAH
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TO THE WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (WTDC-25)
BAKU, AZERBAIJAN

*Honourable Chairperson,
Madam Secretary General & Other elected Officials
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates*

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Ghana, I bring warm greetings—and our deep appreciation to the Government of Azerbaijan for hosting this important conference, and for the gracious hospitality extended to our delegation here in Beautiful Baku.

Ghana fully endorses the WTDC-25 theme of: **“Universal, Meaningful, and Affordable Connectivity for an Inclusive and Sustainable Digital Future.”**

This is not just a slogan—it is a call to action. And it is a call we in Ghana continue to answer. Under the leadership of His Excellency President John Dramani Mahama, Ghana has taken bold, data-driven steps to build a secure, resilient, and inclusive digital infrastructure. We are not just planning—we are delivering.

Through our **Rural Telephony and Digital Inclusion Programme**, we have deployed over **2,000 rural sites**, connecting more than **one million previously unserved citizens**. We are building the backbone of a competitive digital economy—one that leaves no one behind.

But connectivity alone is not enough.

It must be **affordable**. That is why, as of **1st July 2025**, we worked with industry to increase the value of mobile data bundles—giving citizens **more data for the same price**. This is real relief for households and small businesses, and a real step toward digital equity.

Connectivity must also be **empowering**. That is why we launched **One Million Coders**—a national programme equipping our youth with coding, digital, and entrepreneurial skills, in partnership with training centres and industry operators. This initiative is building pathways into jobs, innovation, and opportunity.

And we are preparing for the future. Ghana's **National Artificial Intelligence Strategy (2025–2035)** recognizes data as a national asset. It invests in talent, research, and governance—ensuring that AI is deployed ethically, inclusively, and in service of our people. We are also advancing key legislations—from the **Data Harmonisation Bill** to the **Emerging Technologies Bill**—to provide a strong legal foundation for our digital transformation.

In July, we convened a **Ministerial AI Bootcamp**—bringing together public sector leaders to build the knowledge and confidence to adopt AI responsibly.

Ghana is proud to champion the empowerment of women and girls in ICT. Our Girls-in-ICT programmes—spanning national open days, regional training cohorts, and the Ghana Girls-in-ICT —are equipping girls with STEM skills, mentorship, and pathways into the digital economy. It is worth noting that in his first year of office, the President has appointed distinguished women to chair the boards of four key regulatory institutions in the sector— Because inclusive digital transformation must include women—at every level.

Distinguished delegates, Ghana respectfully proposes that WTDC-25 amplify support in four key areas:

1. **Technical assistance** for affordable, last-mile, energy-efficient infrastructure—Open RAN, solar-powered sites, and shared networks.
2. **Market interventions** to reduce the effective cost of mobile data—through transparency, regulatory best practices, and targeted subsidies.

3. **Scalable digital skills and AI capacity-building**—drawing on models like our One Million Coders and AI Strategy.
4. **Gender-responsive initiatives**—to expand and deepen Girls-in-ICT programmes and ensure women’s full participation in the digital economy.

By combining **affordable access, mass digital skills, responsible AI, and gender inclusion**, we can ensure that connectivity translates into **meaningful opportunities for all**.

Ghana stands ready to share its lessons—and to partner with ITU Member States—to build an inclusive, resilient, and people-centred digital future. We would also like to take this opportunity to seek your support for Ghana’s re-election to the ITU Council and our candidate for the Radio Regulations Board.

Thank You