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>> REINE ESSOBMADJE: Good afternoon, everybody. Brave people. You are here right after lunch. We do appreciate your commitment. I would like to welcome you to this Session Number 3, WSIS Action Lines and the 2030 Agenda. My name is Reine Essobmadje from the Digital Coalition. I will be facilitating the session.

A couple of remarks. We wanted to have an interactive session. Today the panelists will have six minutes sharp. Our time keeper sitting here will present the yellow flag when there will be one minute left. Then if you hear this sound your time is over. I'm sorry, we need to save some time the Plenary Session. If any of you have any question, then you can just write down your question and there is a desk over there to raise your question. And then for our remote

panelists, for our remote participants you can raise your question remotely.

So today we will start with our first speaker, which is Madam Marion Barthelemy, from Division for Public Administration and Development Management, UNDESA, reviews SDGs C7, eGovernment; and C11, international and regional cooperation.

I will move to French to raise my question to Madam Marion Barthelemy.

So the Department for Economic Development focuses on Action Lines on international and regional cooperation and on the digital government. Could you tell us today what the government does to strengthen links between ICTs and the Sustainable Development Goals across all fields knowing that the goal is by 2030 to meet those goals as set out for Agenda 2030. There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals. And they have been divided into 11 actions on a WSIS level. And provide some further information on how UNDESA supports these various efforts. You have six minutes, Madam.

>> MARION BARTHELEMY: Thank you, moderator. I wanted to start by saying that we are at a critical period of the implementation for the Sustainable Development Goals. There are many countries who currently adapting the targets of the SDGs to their own situations they are incorporating them into their policy, implementing the institutional frameworks. Now is the time that we need to be bearing in mind the role of technology and ICTs which could be to speed up progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

As the moderator was saying, it is very important to involve implementation policies for the SDGs which are often national development plans. And integrate them, involve them with strategies on ICTs.

Indeed, these ICT strategies have an end goal which is to contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. So this issue of integration is something that we talk about a lot for the SDGs as a whole. There is a need for an integrated policy on ICTs. And for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. But now we should also bear in mind it is important to integrate government policy to follow up to other international commitments. For example, on the climate agreement or the agenda 2063 in Africa, governments here have a lot of responsibilities to meet.

So if we integrate all of these efforts, it will make our life easier.

So on an international level also it is important to pick up this integration on that level too. So this is why ICTs should be on all levels, in the high level policy which is meeting. This is the main U.N. platform for the follow-up for the SDGs. Last year 22 countries set out and reported on their efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. And the importance of ICTs was not just -- it was something we didn't hear about very much. It would be good for this year to hear more about the role of ICTs. Of course, this is something that is decided at the national level, at the governmental level and also between various institutions.

Now, in terms of science and technology, the work of this high level political Forum is being prepared through a multistakeholder Forum on science, technology, and innovation. This was convened recently and within this Forum we hear a lot of discussion about ICTs, about innovation. And according to the various Agenda Items. Of course, I believe this is a useful approach to look at area by area, topic by topic on the role of ICTs. A previous speaker, Mr. Kane, said in principle this should be integrated into the work of all Ministries, all institutions rather than having separate silos for entities for this activity. Another point I would like to flag up is that wherever we talk about ICTs, it is important to mention the digital divide and the fact that many countries have a low level of Internet access and access to ICTs. So when we talk about the role of ICTs we should really bear this reality in mind.

Now, in terms of your second point on the role of UNDESA, this department supports the work of various intergovernmental meetings, for example this high level political Forum, the Forum on Science and Technology, but also ECOSOC, the General Assembly and various other meetings.

We do always bear in mind the role of ICTs and the fact that this responsibility that we do have in following up on WSIS and how that can be managed. Often we have symposia where governments and other players discuss the role of the digital government, eGovernment in the implementation of the SDGs. Next week the Dutch government will be convening a Forum on public services. Here we will discuss government innovation to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

So ICTs will be well represented. There will be a discussion. I've seen the yellow flag so I am going to hurry up. Tomorrow we have a meeting between Action Line Facilitators. Here we will talk about the role of the private sector and the implementation of the SDGs and WSIS generally and also the role of eGovernment to assist the poorest, most

vulnerable strata of the population. I do hope you will attend. In any case we are all ears. We would like to hear everything you have to say in terms of ideas, what different actors you'd like to see to assure that the Action Lines are followed up on. Thank you very much.

>> REINE ESSOBMADJE: I think we could save with a bit more applause. That will wake us up a little bit from our lunch break.

Moving on with our second French speaker and then we'll go back to English. So President Trump made his, part of his campaign was Making America Great Again. The French President recently launched an initiative, Make The Planet Great Again. As an African, I can't avoid -- well, I have to say make Africa Great Again. So if anyone has any other ideas for launching this initiative, then wonderful.

The next speaker is Minister Bruno Nabagne Kone, Minister, spokesman for the government. We talked about the goals in Africa, a lot about ICTs. To promote ICTs we need to be able to have financial and economic resources to finance infrastructure services and applications.

My question, Minister, the government when we look at these Action Lines, the government has an essential role in promoting ICTs. What are the measures that Cote d'Ivoire has undertaken to mobilize the necessary economic resources for ICTs? Canada we measure or have any quantity of the economic effect on your country and also the contributions of the digital work to GDP? Thank you.

>> BRUNO NABAGNE KONE: I hope I that won't be counseled in my time to speak. Thank you, Facilitator for giving me the opportunity to speak about these essential issues for our country. You said it yourself, we need Africa to be greater, richer. We know for this Africa needs to invest much more broadly on ICTs.

I would like to express my appreciation and that of my country, Cote d'Ivoire in terms of the actions taken by ITU and more particularly we very much appreciate WSIS and it allows those working in the sector to discuss the latest developments in this technology and its use across the world.

For 30 years, the last 30 years the world has changed dramatically thanks to ICTs and the digital economy. We know that the impact of WSIS is undeniable in how we've progressed over recent years. To respond to your first question, there is no need to go back to on the importance of ICTs in terms of how they can accelerate our states, within our states today. ICT is a sector that creates richness. Yes, we know this and



it was said many times. It helps us to improve our country's governance so we are more open to the world.

But something we don't say enough is that ICTs can also play the role of a social regulator because this is a role that should not be neglected. It allows for communication between citizens. It helps education. It helps management, tensions, social crises, for example. It allows us electoral processes to be more reliable and it contributes to peace, security, et cetera.

Now, in terms of Cote d'Ivoire, I have to say that first of all there's a general problem that all of our countries face. That is the fact that in our budget lines there is no budget allocated specifically for ICTs. So like many countries, in Cote d'Ivoire we based our investment in the sector on universal service. So a fund for universal services for ICTs was set up. This is based on the turnover for operators. It is 2 percent of operators' turnover which feeds this fund. Regularly it has enough resources.

This allowed us to fund this directly. But mainly it also allowed us to exert pressure to then attract funding from international markets. So for financial and banking markets. Now we will be able to have a significant contribution from FTI, which is billions of CFA francs. That allows us to build our fiber optic network.

We think there are also other ways of attracting funding through our state budget, for example. Here there are two ways of doing so. Of course, we can look at how we can have direct contributions on ICTs activities themselves but also we should have a budget line through all projects that are implements in other Ministries. That is very important to us because ICTs are indeed cross-cutting. This means that they have a positive impact on education, on healthcare, on reducing mortality, improving standard of living for women, gender issues. It's very important that in every one of these sectors, in every project there is a budget line specifically for ICTs.

Now, we are also thinking about other ways of attracting funding. I said earlier that our country had external funding. So here it is also a good idea for our states as much as possible to go to a market and be funded through this, but ensure that in advance they have a minimum basis, minimum number of their own resources. Then these resources can then fall, pool pull funds for ICT services.

Here I would like to call on all partners, multinational partners, international, financial institutions, development funds, for example, and they today have a point of view that

is currently very focused on classic economy. So all distribution of our economy, agriculture, to fund infrastructure, education, healthcare. But they don't give due mention to ICTs.

As I was saying, they are cross-cutting. It is important for these institutions to in their modus operandi have this impact on ICTs, given due weight. This will make the interventions more effective across all the different sectors that I just listed.

I have to say also now in terms of our country, there was a significant impact here, I'm concluding -- I won't go on too long about this topic -- but there was a significant impact on an economic level and social level. Also in terms of Cote d'Ivoire's position in the world. Currently we are 8 to 9 percent, with an eight to 9 percent rate of growth since 2011. We think that a large part of this growth comes from ICTs. So today ICTs are 8 percent of GDP and this has allowed us to create hundreds of thousands of jobs across the country. And we can also see the direct contribution made by operators in terms of annual investment and operators in the sector.

I mean, I could carry on for ages on the many advantages of this. They are very much measurable also. We can come back to that if there are specific questions on that. So thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> REINE ESSOBMADJE: Thank you very much. Our two speakers did insist on the fact that the digital economy should be the heart and the basis of all intergovernmental actions. And in terms of international cooperation also. And even in financing mechanisms we should think about ICTs not as a separate sector but as a cross-cut canning one which allows us to meet various goals, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals.

We will proceed in English. Our next speaker is from Nigeria, His Excellency Mr. Adebayo, can you tell us how Nigeria is addressing the WSIS Action Lines and the stakeholders in promoting ICT for development? We know that Nigeria is a big, huge country in Africa. Please, also tell us how in order to achieve the outcome of your ICT roadmap, what you are doing to have the necessary resources, including financial resources and infrastructure to cover the big country you have. Thank you.

>> ABDUR-RAHEEM ADEBAYO SHITTU: Good evening, everybody. Coordinator, my colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. It is obvious and acceptable that today ICT is a major catalyst for development. This fact certainly cannot be over emphasized.

Since Nigeria created the Ministry of Telecommunications for our sector it has become the fourth pillar of our economy, contributing over 10 percent to the gross domestic product.

Our mainstay for the economy used to be petroleum. We were reliant on petroleum for about 95 percent of our resources, our income. But because of the phenomenal growth of ICT in Nigeria, 10 percent is a minimum that ICTs are contributing.

It is interesting to see that today ICT provides more jobs than even the oil sector which produces almost 9 percent of our gross domestic product. That says a lot. When I resumed as Minister of Communications one and a half years ago I organised a retreat, a national retreat where industry leaders from the public sector, from the private sector, from professional groups, from youth and innovators were assembled for a whole week to evolve what has become known as the national ICT roadmap. This roadmap from it evolved what today is the guidance for us to chart the path for growth using ICT.

This roadmap was recently approved by the Federal Executive Council of Nigeria which is the highest law making organ in regard to executive powers. The outcome was turned into actionable items. My Ministry further worked on it to create what is now the ICT roadmap 2017 to 2020. This roadmap, the highlights include the following: Basically we have this philosophy that government has no business in business because ICTs are private sector led industry. All the government does is create the enabling environment for the private sector to thrive in Nigeria.

In doing that we have also provided necessary guidelines on necessary impetus for smart industries to evolve in Nigeria. Next year in August, specifically for a whole week in August with we will have a seminar where we will chart the specific courses to ensure that cities in Nigeria go to the smart city trajectory. Again we are trying, establishing ICT parks all across the country. We are also encouraging foreign direct investment. In fact, in this telecom sector alone we have, of the six of the six telecom companies in Nigeria, four are foreign-based. Together with the entire six operators in the telecom sector, we have about 153 million telephone lines across the country. But this is not to say that the penetration has gone much.

With regard to penetration, we are only about 18 percent because we have a huge country and very huge population. In this regard I want to use this opportunity to invite the private sector to bring in foreign direct investment because Nigeria with a population of 183 million is a huge market

waiting to be tapped. This is one area that we believe the private sector from all around the world can come and invest and make good profit.

Again we have a policy of ease of doing business which enables the private sector, whoever comes to invest in Nigeria can be assured that you will be able to reap whatever profits that they make.

Finally I want to say that we are also providing intervention, and a lot of infrastructure. For instance, with regard to one of our agencies which is called NINCONSAT, satellite communications industry which is providing satellite facilities.

Again in that area we have just one satellite in orbit. We are working towards acquiring two more satellites. Again we need private sector investment in this regard.

Generally the Nigerian government has been encouraging the private sector to take the lead in providing all these services and investing in providing services, with the assurance that the ease of doing business in, we are encouraging. Again the market is very attractive. Anybody who wants to do good business in Africa must look towards Nigeria for investment because the market that is available in Nigeria, it does not exist in other parts of Africa to that extent. Everyone is invited because the opportunities and potentials are still very much there. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> REINE ESSOBMADJE: Thank you for your open call to private sector. We understand that Nigeria is a big country and the government is setting up a infrastructure for people to come in with wired and wireless solutions especially satellite solutions. Now we move to Malawi and we will have someone replacing Mr. Itaye. Can you tell us what initiatives the government of Malawi is doing to achieve the 2030 Agenda? Thank you.

>> MALAWI: Thank you very much, coordinator. I will go straight to the initiatives. I wish we indicated that Malawi is a landlocked country and as such it does need to bridge the digital divide. And in doing that, a couple of initiatives the government is taking. I will not probably be able to go through all of them, in the interests of time. The first one is extending the national fiber backbone from the visual landing point that we have created. As I already indicated, we are a land locked country. As such, we are using PPP arrangement. Last year we were able to establish a visual landing point in Malawi. That is done in order to reduce cost of international bandwidth.



And this national fiber backbone that we are intending to actually do is to actually extend that backbone, the international backbone that we already created. So it will run to all districts in Malawi. There by increasing access to ICTs.

But the other initiative is that we want to do increase or promote universal access to ICTs. Under that we have established a fund, universal access fund which is going to fund infrastructure in rural and underserved areas.

We also are doing a connected community project or programme. That is we are establishing telecenters in most of the rural growth centers as well as trading centers. Apart from that we are also doing connecting the schools where we want to promote eLearning. As such we have promote a school whereby in like in a year we are connecting about 20 schools.

Then we also have connect a library where we have created a repository for books as well as eLearning materials. That will be accessed online.

We want not to leave out the youth. Because of that, we are establishing what we call innovation hubs across the country. That is to actually encourage creativity among our youth. And also to encourage entrepreneurship amongst the youth.

In 2016, the end of 2016 we as a country did come up with the programme for eRegistration and cybersecurity act. This is going to afford the country to establish national computer emergency response team. And this we are doing basically to encourage or indeed promote trust and confidence in the use of online transactions and the electronic transactions. We think and believe that when we do this, we will be able to promote digital financial services within Malawi.

The government of Malawi as well reforms initiatives and is also looking into coming up with smart cities. We are piloting this in Fonteblanda, bringing issues of health, smart water, and energy. However, we in this respect we would actually invite also, just like my colleague from Nigeria, we would also want to invite financials, or direct foreign investment in actually achieving this particular objective or project. I want to thank you, moderator, for giving me the chance. Thank you.

>> REINE ESSOBMADJE: Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> REINE ESSOBMADJE: Thank you for pointing out what Malawi is doing to actually connect the unconnected, to serve the under served and also to bring basic services of financial services and water and other services to the whole community.

Now we will be moving to our next panelist so Mr. Al-Tura from Kuwait. And just next after from Mr. Malawi. Can you please tell us how the technology role is critical for the vision 2030 and the local economy in Kuwait? And why is it important for the economy when government agency provides smart service delivery?

Lastly, what are the top important IT areas where we should actually focus on to be ready to achieve the 2030 vision in Kuwait? Thank you.

>> MOHAMMAD AL-TURA: Thank you, Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, organisers, thank you for this event and inviting me to speak here.

As we evolve with technology, it is very obvious now as we speak, the biggest global eCommerce infrastructure is based on the Internet. The most money that gets exchanged every day today and tomorrow and 2030 is the Internet and it is growing very fast.

So in order for economies to make sure that they are not left behind, like we are now becoming more efficient on the individual level with smartphones. Without smartphone can we do our daily things the same? And the answer is no. The same thing with corporations. They must invest in technology to provide more efficiencies, more customer service, to become more competitive. And the same thing with economies. That every economy in the world right now should think about how do they implement technology in a way that can help growing their economies, particularly the gross domestic product income.

Today, if you look at every country, it has economy indices, whether it's about education, healthcare, economic and the government agencies. You will find those efficiency indices can be improved if you implement technology in smart ways. Everything I am going to talk about today is going to purely depend on PPP, the private public sector partnership. It is very critical that countries today should look at their economic infrastructure such as the backbone, the telecom infrastructure of that country, whether they have a very strong backbone and LTE networks. Every country should make sure that people own at least a smartphone, a device where they can connect to the economy.

Also the education and healthcare, it's extremely important. Smart education. When I talk about the word "smart" it means any time, anywhere, any device. Students and teachers can interact, can exchange information, can learn faster than the traditional way of education.

When you talk about also the government agency services, why the government agency should be smart services? Because

it is much cheaper for government to run those services. It is more efficient. And basically if you think about the biggest enemy of any corruption, that would be a technology. When you make any process smart, then that is it. It's going to run by itself with less people, interaction. That makes it less corrupted.

If I would think what areas I should focus on really to grow the economy in terms of technology, would go definitely for infrastructure, education, healthcare, for smart government, smart cities. Also the smart eCommerce platform. Of course, last but not least a national cybersecurity strategy because these are assets that is going to dynamically generated from the IT sector and from technology. Those assets are in danger if they are not secured very well on the national scale. Every country should think about their critical national infrastructure. Thus contributing to the economy, the major contribution to the economy.

For example, in my country it is oil. A country like my colleague from Nigeria. We had to come up with a policy on the oil sector to have a very restricted policy regarding cybersecurity policies and IT so that their operations, refineries and oil productions doesn't get hacked by a cyber attack.

Innovation is the buzzword. The biggest innovation today comes out of technology sector. It is not only the sector by itself but the technology today is enabling every single sector for much easier innovation, such as healthcare breakthroughs, such assigns breakthroughs. Also the IP breakthroughs. We know mobile apps every day we see something new. It gives you the indication that the innovation is really spiking. That's going to be very dependable to grow the economy. So that you have to have innovative economies.

Thank you very much for listening. I hope the message was very clear delivery. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> REINE ESSOBMADJE: Thank you, Mr. Al-Tura, for this vibrant message. All of our panelists are actually just talking about ICT being an enabler and not really the focus, but just the enabler to actually leap frog into achieve innovation. But we need to do this by giving access, and access starts with devices, with connectivity. We need also to be a trust, to have a very strong cybersecurity policies. We need to do it anywhere, any time, with any devices that is very interesting. And that is really interesting. Like you mentioned and this is a good transition, innovation is coming out of technology. So our next panelist is from the food and

agriculture organisation. So actually, not really related to ICT, but I think he has something interesting to say on how ICT for development can support the U.N. community to achieve the SDGs, knowing there has been a call also from the previous panelists to look at the funding and not only the funding in terms of other sectors but including ICTs in your funding and your programme, your financing programme.

And my next question to you would be what should be a good approach to develop digital and social innovation to end hunger and poverty? How we can reach people in Developing Countries and remote places? Thank you.

>> SAMUEL VARAS: Thank you, Chair and Ministry of Telecommunications ICT and other sectors, colleagues from the U.N. system, WSIS Forum participants from Civil Society, private sector and academe, ladies and gentlemen.

We are here in Geneva this week to take a new step towards a consensus with the SDG framework. More than to promote 17 goals and discuss theoretical problems, we need to collect experience in order to learn in collaboration with Civil Society, universities and private companies the best way to use Information and Communication Technology ICTs to face the real challenge.

Today as stated by our Director General today Silva, people are extremely poor. 1.9 billion are over wait of 600 million are obese. In the rural area, the reality is most dramatic, considering that 80 percent of the world's hungry and poor live there. We believe that food security can be the common thread that links the different challenges the world faces in building a sustainable future.

In FAO's case, ICT focuses on development has a strong potential for driving economic growth, improving smart agriculture, improving livelihood and the economy value chain. ICT can be networks, services and applications. This can range from Internet-based applications, sensing tools such as artificial intelligence and data analysis technology to others that have been around for much longer such as radios, telephone, television, telecommunications networks, mobile phones and satellites.

We can make the difference if we are able to combine in a number of perspectives the best channel, the best processes and the best tool to make the change where it is most necessary.

Improving access to value information can help agricultural stakeholders to make informed decisions and use the resources available in the most productive and sustainable manner. In a sector that is becoming increasingly knowledge



intensive, having access to the right information at the right time in the right format and through the right channel can make a crucial difference in the livelihood of people involved in agriculture and related fields.

Ladies and gentlemen, applying a novel way to apply ICT in the rural domain which is the primary focus in agriculture, including farms, for industry, animals, et cetera, can boost development. FAO is developing deploying a new way of packaging and delivering digital value added service to combat hunger and all forms of malnutrition, reduce poverty, promote food security, increase income, improve resilience and mitigate the effect of climate change.

The proposed innovative solutions seek to maximize economic, social and environmental impact by finding scalable and sustainable models for the processes and networks that bring existing and new agricultural processes, processes and practices in social and economic use, connecting promising ideas and impact investment funders, here the keyword is republic indicatable. Following this Forum and this high level audience brings cooperation and facilitates cooperation between the U.N. system and other stakeholders. In terms of ICT for development, we need to construct partnerships to conceive and to develop policies and programmes that help the inhabitants living mainly in the Least Developed Countries to access the best and most suitable experience with ICT in order to reduce the lack of information and communication improving the livelihood and income for families in rural communities.

I would like to invite you to see some examples of this initiative that we are dealing with right now on eAgriculture, this Thursday at 9:00 a.m. where we have our presentation about cases where we are doing something in terms of ICT for agriculture.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> REINE ESSOBMADJE: Thank you, Mr. Varas, for pointing out the fact that this platform is also to learn from each other's experience and that we need to try and cooperate within all stakeholders and the U.N. system which is actually the Action Line C11 that is moderated by Madam Barthelemy.

Now, talking about stakeholders and cooperation, maybe our next panelist, Madam Bartleson from IEEE will highlight a little bit more the role of young professionals in achieving the 2030 Agenda and especially regarding the innovation.

So Ms. Bartleson, with regard to achieving this 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, what role do you see for our young professionals? I know that you have organised a

hackathon with a lot of success and that the jury was very impressed by our youth.

And secondly an important focus of the WSIS Action Lines and the achievement of gender equality and the employment of all women and girls. Please, excuse us for this panel, but the previous panel was full of women. How do you believe this can be achieved?

(Laughter.)

>> KAREN BARTLESON: Thank you, Madam Chair. There is a very important need to engage young ICT professionals in all aspects of achieving the SDGs because ICTs are going to be vital in achieving these lofty goals.

Not only is it important to engage ICT professionals for technical solutions, there is a need for young professionals who are passionate about many causes. For example, goal 14 strives to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development. In particular, the goal seeks to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds. In particular from land-based activities by 2025.

There are estimates that by the year 2050, there will be more plastic in our oceans than fish by weight. And fish eat small bits of plastic because they are brightly colored and attractive. As these discarded plastics continue to pollute our oceans, the consequences have the potential to be catastrophic for both sea life and humanity as a whole.

There is no simple way to address this and hope that solving this crisis will happen without ICTs and young professionals with a passion for solving these kinds of problems.

For all we know, there is a young professional out there somewhere in the world who has that great idea and all she or he needs is assistance, guidance, and perhaps an opportunity to participate in a hackathon like the one we held here at WSIS on Sunday and Monday.

This is the type of discussion I would like to have here at WSIS, considering the diverse group of participants from various sectors in order to work, to nourish and foster these young professionals to change the world for the greater good of all. When it comes to gender equality, this is a complex question. So I would like to focus on three ways to potentially achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. First, there must be role models to show that women and girls play a crucial role in ICT and attaining the SDGs. These role models can also provide a sense of

welcome and security and safety in the fields of ICT for girls and women.

Second, there is a need for local content which more or less speaks for itself. However, I would like to add that women and girls need to be included in the curation, development, and use of this content so that the content is also relevant to them.

Third, I think it is extremely important that girls be empowered through their education and the use and development of ICTs is the focal point of this education. Sadly, there are still not enough girls and young women pursuing ICT education. However, this can be changed. We have seen this first hand in a current project undertaken by an IEEE special interest group in humanitarian technology in Tunisia. We call it SITE. Here not only is it a group of local students, mostly undergraduates, working to connect at least one school in each state of Tunisia to the Internet by the end of this year. They are also providing extensive STEM training to the boys and girls at the schools.

In the pilot project, nearly 60 percent of the students were female. In fact, one of the leaders of the project mentioned that the girls seemed more interested than the boys.

I want to end with a story from this project. There was a young girl in the first school that the IEEE group connected and provided STEM training. She sold homemade wares to supplement her family's income. After being shown the Internet and how to build a website, she stated: Now I can sell my wares over the Internet to others beyond my local community and help my family even more.

That is empowerment of girls through ICTs. This is something that is happening right now and I believe through cooperation and events like the WSIS Forum, we can make even greater strides. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> REINE ESSOBMADJE: Thank you. Building on what she just mentioned about including our youth and including women, because diversity will also enrich the kind of application we will build in ICT. And we will get a different user experience. Maybe we can move to our next panelist from India, Professor Goyal. Maybe you can reflect on what is happening in India. That is a huge country with more than 1 billion people. Your association, CMAI, is one of the leaders, one of the biggest ICT associations in India. If we can have some insights on achieving the 2030 Agenda? Thank you.

>> NK GOYAL: Thank you, Chair. You in the audience, I can see senior professionals, all ICT Delegates, leaders.

First of all, thanks for saying some good words about us. Yes, we are supposed to be with 48,000 members and dealing in 54 countries as an ICT association.

I think the issue is not ICT is important element. The issue we all know it, it has to be real. We are implementing SDGs, it starts there. World growth is happening. Lots of new innovations are coming. Several governments, new initiatives are coming. We have conversations in U.N., WSIS, ITU, NGOs yet we are all concerned with something we have been saying here, what we call the digital divide. And connecting the unconnected, the fundamental things the world faces, the world of poverty. Health, education, and these vary from country to country. There is a lot to be done for the handicapped, physically challenged, women and future for our youth as was said here.

I think what is the way out? As we say in India, I think the world has done localities of new things in several countries, but we need more systems sharing between ourselves on a one to one basis, not only in the Forums like WSIS here and other forums, but more one to one basis.

When it comes to India, we have a large population and we have all the problems that the world faces. We are known as the second highest mobile usage with the lowest tariffs. Our GDP is the highest in the world. We launched a scheme called digital India as other countries have also done. We are empowering all citizens by various measures connecting more than 250,000 kilometers of digital fibers. We have the world's largest system of strategic identification for finance inclusion. We have the world's lowest cost of wireless equipment with least power requirement for rural areas.

We have mobile applications for digital commerce, education, health. We also have unique open and complementary online access to more than 400 courses and flexibility is a real thing to combine the professional qualifications with the hobby topics like music, dance, et cetera.

We are planning for 100 smart cities. Lots of things are there. It is very difficult to come out here with all the details but we are having a celebration at C1 at 11:00 a.m. in two days. I encourage you to join and share with us these things. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> REINE ESSOBMADJE: Thank you, Professor. So our last panelist today, Mr. Bollow from the Just Net Coalition is also from India. He's talking with about free and equitable access



to the Internet. Like all of our panelists mentioned, it starts by having access to connectivity. So maybe you can tell us from your Civil Society perspective, what is the greatest obstacle to sustainable development as part of the 2030 Agenda? And also on top of all the recommendations that has been made, what can you give us a recommendation for the government to achieve the agenda and overcome all the challenges? Thank you.

>> NORBERT BOLLOW: Thank you. I would suggest that the greatest challenge is complexity. The digital transformation is a huge driver of change. It is also a driver of increasing complexity. And even with the best of intentions of realising the 2030 Agenda, it is going to be a huge challenge to even work your way through all this complexity in the sense of developing a view, developing convictions of how to actually achieve it. What needs to be done? How to align your strategy, your organisation's strategy, your country's strategy with the technical realities as well as with the social concerns and needs of the 2030 Agenda.

So what happens is that the business lobbies come in and they tell us good things. They tell us how to realize what we desire and, of course, that is very welcome in a way. It's good stuff. But at the same time, of course, whatever they tell us, they tell it because it matches their commercial agenda, because it increases their commercial power and it increases our dependencies on them.

For obvious political reasons at the same time there is another very powerful group of lobbyists. I'm talking about law enforcement in particular, those branches of law enforcement which are tasked with protecting us from terrorists.

When you come to the office, you come with concerns you have been caring about for a long time. In addition to that, you feel the need to listen to the business lobbies. You feel the need to listen to the law enforcement lobbyists. And the big danger is that that may exhaust your capacity for dealing with complexity and when then the Civil Society people come with all the other aspects of the 2030 Agenda, you will find it very hard to actually do something about all that. So this creates a disease which I call complexity paralysis. You are paralyzed to do anything beyond these necessary elements of your preexisting interests, plus the demands from those who have real power who can make real demands that simply cannot be ignored.

So let me move to the second question of what do I recommend? How can we overcome this challenge of complexity

so that we actually truly implement the 2030 Agenda and not just some small parts of it which have powerful lobbyists? I think the first step consists in acknowledging this. We really, with this digital transformation, we do not only have lots of opportunities. We have those. But we also have this huge challenge of complexity. And then we need, when we acknowledge this, we need to invest in building the capacity to actually deal with this complexity adequately. This means personally to invest in ways to think about it, like the thinking tools, the theory of constraints. And it means to invest in formal discourse processes where you can include all the various viewpoints and reach consensus when possible, when not possible document the disagreements, establish the various possible policy options. Of course only those which actually conform to international human rights laws. The others you can discard immediately. Once you have those policy options, give them as an input to parliament and let parliament choose which policy option they want to adopt.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> REINE ESSOBMADJE: Okay. So we have heard all of our panelists. And just as a closing remarks, and regarding this Action Line of following the role of government, the key role of government, we are living in what we call the VUCA environment. That stands for V for vulnerabilities, C for complexity, U for uncertainty and A for ambiguity. To come up with that VUCA environment we need vision, agility, we need clarity, we need understanding and also cooperation between all stakeholders.

I would like to thank you. I'm sorry, we were requested to speed up the session, although we have stick to our time. So there won't be any left time for Q&A session.

Or maybe, I don't see the people from the WSIS, they are not there? So okay, we can take some questions.

(Laughter.)

>> REINE ESSOBMADJE: Floor is open for questions. They are not there so we are free to do what we want. Any questions, please raise your hand. Once the others show up, we have to stop.

No questions? Everything is clear? There is one question in the back.

Just your name and straightforward the question.

>> AUDIENCE: Okay. Thank you. Hello. So my name is Julia Warner from the Internet without borders. Thank you very much for the interesting perspectives from various countries.

I had a question to Kuwait and others, of course. You talked about public and private partnerships, especially in the development of infrastructures to enable the next generation to bridge the digital divide and enable new Internet users.

I was wondering, I mean, what is your perspective on the issue of cost of access? How these public and private partnerships can help decrease the cost of access from many -- I mean which remains very high for many citizens and Internet users in the world? Thank you.

>> REINE ESSOBMADJE: So from Kuwait, if you can quickly answer in 30 seconds? And then we have to move.

>> MOHAMMAD AL-TURA: Public private partnership is extremely important because it actually have knowledge mechanism transfer to any project that they get into, whether it is an infrastructure project or innovation or smart government. That part because the private sector does have the experts, subject matter experts in every field. So when you work with them on any project, they definitely have many benefits such as the knowledge transfer. Also the investment capital which actually results in growing the business, growing your commercial sector, growing your country income GDP and adding jobs as well. That makes much more healthier economic ecosystem.

Where if the government does everything, then you will find the diversity of knowledge is less. You will find that the quality of execution, because usually the commercial sector has worked in many geographies, many international partners. So definitely they have more quality of execution than the government. And definitely creating jobs in the economy is more efficient, more beneficial when it has been created by the commercial sector.

That I would think about the job opportunities, the growth of the income, and the knowledge transfer when you have that partnership.

>> REINE ESSOBMADJE: Thank you, everybody, for being such a great audience. We have to leave the floor. If you have any questions, please tweet your question to WSIS and I will get it to the panelists. I'm sorry, we have to leave. Thank you.

(The session concluded.)

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