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WSIS
LEVERAGING ICT'S TO BUILD INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE SCOIETIES
FOR ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG'S)
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
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1400

    >> So now the lesson is in the library. I'm sorry, we are
experiencing some lags. This is the class that we just created
now. And I just go on start and play. And now, if you use your
goggles, everyone will be in the loop in a few seconds.
    >> As you can see this is a web interface, so this will
work on any computer, you don't need a strong GPU or strong CPU.
This will work on any windows PC or Mac or Linux or any other
system which has a web browser. And for the phones that you are
using for the cardboards, the most simple phone will also
function as long as it has Android or IOS. So our goal is to
expand the programme we started in Switzerland in more and more
countries and create a network of schools that are able to work
with virtual reality in order to create content themselves. Do
you have any questions for the floor? Is there any questions?
So after this, again, I invite you to join the exhibition in the
tower to discover some of the premier content that exists, we
have several premiers as well, and tomorrow for our session at
12:15 we will be explaining how you create professional VR
content.
    And you can keep your cardboards now and if you go in the
app store, any app you put cardboard in the app you will be able

to download the devices we have given you today and maybe, Clayton, do you want to ask some questions of the kids about their experience.

>> Guys, you can hear me, now that it was working, what did it feel like? Any questions in comments? Come on?

>> It's quite realistic.

>> Does it make you want to go there?

>> Yes, quite.

>> You would rather be there in person, okay.

>> Any other comments? What else, yes, our young lady from Argentina.

>> It was very cool like to see everything like in 3D, and it was an experience it.

>> Very good.

>> You feel like you disappear.

>> Good one, disappearing.

>> Do you see an advantage of having something like this in your classroom? Yes? Is it a little bit different than reading a book? Is it better than watching the film? And why is it better than watching a film?

>> Because you can move around and actually like move yourself to see things and you can see whatever you want, not just what the camera or, yes, the movie is showing.

>> Yes.

>> You feel it.

>> You definitely feel it. That's what VR is. It is very immersive. It's a very powerful tool and we are very excited to have the college here from?

>> MONTENEGRO: Thank you all very much. We really do consider them Ambassadors of VR education, and I appreciate their time.

>> If you come to the June to the world VR Forum we will have something that has never been done. The kids from will be connected to kids from Shanghai and they will be following a class at the same time. There will be no hiccups, know worries, we are expecting you. If you have any questions, you can go to world VR Forum.com and contact us, my name is Solar, we will be here the whole week. I will be here myself until tomorrow, so please feel free to pass and we can continue the conversation. Thank you very much. Thank you.

(Applause).

Just making sure does everyone have one because you can get to keep one. If someone doesn't have one, raise your hand. You haven't received your device? Those two people. Okay. We have another gentleman who is there. So we have three. That's it, yes, so we need three more devices, please.

>> MODERATOR: Good afternoon, welcome to session 2.

Session 2 is about bridging the digital divide. This year I have to announce that we slightly changed the rules, instead of having the poll say statements, we will have questions. We want to make this session as dynamic as possible, so each representative of this panel which I can proudly say it is very gender balanced and very diverse, we will make a very, very short but very, very smart statement on what they are working on, the priorities and what they think is important to set on record.

     I have to say that because of the short time, I read a very good quote from Hamlet, and it is brevity is the soul of wit. With that in mind, because the people in this panel are very, very witty, we will try to meet the time and not to delay the session further, because there is another session after us. To remind very bright speakers that they are running out of time, when it's 30 minutes left, I will sound the bell. I hope that it doesn't disrupt the attention. When the time is out, you will see the gentleman over there waving the yellow card. That said, what we want to achieve in this session is to highlight the importance of those who are not in this room and those who cannot actually follow the session at home. The 4 billion people who are still disconnected to the Internet, please bear them in mind, please remind yourselves, let's remind ourselves that our work and our focus should be on them because we are very, very, very privileged people to be here, and with privilege comes huge responsibility, and a huge opportunity as well. So that said, we will start with the statement from UNESCO representative.

     >> UNESCO: Thank you very much. This working? Welcome to maybe the most interesting session, the digital divide is a big issue. What we discovered is that it is far beyond technology. It's much more about also content, about ethics, it is about political will to fill this divide with constructive proposals because as you may know, more and more often cyberspace is being used for traffic for all of this part of the Darknet that you have heard 95% of the whole cyberspace is in the Darknet. So this is to say that for UNESCO as action line facilitator, it's a big priority not only to bridge the digital divide, but how to bridge it, how to make sure that the access to reliable information is insured that cyberspace is used for development, peace and cooperation.

     How to make sure that we have a safe cyberspace, safe. If we take every letter, S like security for our kids, for all of the generations that are starting using the information literacy, how to make sure they feel secure while using the cyberspace. A, for affordability. It should be something that is in the public domain. All of the information should be

easily accessible by all. This is why we have this priority of
universal access to information. F for freedom, freedom of
speech, freedom of expression, freedom to access content on
line. And E for ethics, equitable access and all that makes us
feel proud to contribute to this global effort, all of the
principles of the WSIS Forum that encompass 10 years ago.
UNESCO was at the forefront of the efforts to craft the
declaration that went to the UN General Assembly regarding the
WSIS+10 outcomes.

This is why today we have twofold objective. First is to
increase access to quality content and information. Second is
to insure to the most the preservation of valuable heritage,
documentary heritage in all its forms including in digital form.
UNESCO is also working to preserve documentary heritage in all
member states, and that is to say 195, and a member of the work
programme combined with the information for our programme, the
two programs making sure that these two-fold objective is fully
met. Let me conclude this brief presentation by saying that the
challenges ahead of us are quite impressive.

After the first Congress that I organized together with my
colleagues in '95 on information ethics, '95, it was done in
Monaco. At that time, we identified so many issues that I must
confess are still valid and we still have to cope with
challenges that -- almost done. That are on our table, and this
is why it should be a relentless effort because as we know in
democracy, every new generation is a new people, so we have to
educate. We have to provide them with the necessary knowledge
and skills to live in a safe way in cyberspace.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you so much, one second left. Wow!
Brevity is the sister of talent. So next we will have the
representative of the Russian Federation as answering to this
question, what is the basic element of the digital economy and
how can we provide quality affordable safe access to information
and knowledge.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Well, I actually have two
questions. I would like to combine them. That will make it
even more short. There is always, you know, the fight between
inside myself between the telecommunications engineer and I was
also dealing with IT, what is coming first. I think for the
digital economy, the basic element is about providing the access
to the broadband services for the people, and that is about
infrastructure and the networks. So this is the answer for the
first question. The technologies and the networks are the basic
element for that one. Now, the second question is also about
the basic element for digital economy. This, I think we should
divide the problem into three parts, one is about technologies,
which I have already mentioned including what Boyan said about

information security and other stuff, 5G, and so forth. But that also includes the humanitarian aspect, because we are talking about the new economy and the people in this new economy and the challenges, threats and the benefits that this new economy is coming.

So this is the second basic element. The third basic element for the digital economies is the economy itself, the traditional economy, because the digital one is or will be the integrated part of the bigger economy, so it shouldn't be, this part of the big economy should harmonize with the bigger like part of the body, not like, you know, some hostile, you know, out comer so to say.

This is what I think the basic elements, technologies, people, and the impact the digital economy will have on the big economy, the traditional economy that we are talking about. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you so much. We will continue with the representative of Afghanistan, and the question for Afghanistan is how are you bridging the digital divide in Afghanistan and what is the effect of your efforts in the population.

>> INTERPRETER: Microphone for the speaker. Thank you.

>> AFGHANISTAN: We have been left out of technology development due to the Civil War and now we are in the situation. We are majority of Afghanistan population cannot get stable access to the Internet because they cannot afford it. Internet price is very high, and most people don't know how to use it and lastly, they don't know what is the benefit of it in many countries around the world they focus on the private sector and the second and the third one. Since the infrastructure is there and just need a small portion to get people close to it and afford it.

In Afghanistan, we are still trying to improve the first sector and the connectivity. With the lower price Internet, Internet is still, as I mentioned, expensive that makes it less affordable. And totally we have 4,700-kilometer fiber laid in the country up to date. We need like more thousand kilometers to be laid in the coming two years. We have to promote the idea that Internet people have to embrace it. This will help them to address the need of the education, health and access to knowledge. The chance will come with the young people and with the generation changes and I am proud that the new generation of Afghans are so passionate about the IT that thousands of young people among them, a lot of the girls, choose to study the IT and computer sciences.

We have to work to empower women and girls to use ICT for their education and access to knowledge. We have to implement

programs together, and this is something we need to work with the World Bank about the new digital cost project in central and South Asia connectivity project. Facebook and Twitter are very popular in Afghanistan. People creating campaigns, petitions, interest groups and it is great to see the Civil Society is embracing the latest means of communication. People create apps and online businesses and we are improving connectivity. There will be even more of that.

     We note that with the accessibility, there will become a need for payment of the services. We are working to create a mobile estimate and create an ecosystem where people can use the mobile money to pay for services. Afghanistan Government is working hardly to create a one stop shop for public services where most of the Government services will be provided from a one shop stop. We call it a new recently established. We understand that if we do not improve connectivity, our society will lose it and chance will be moved to the technology progress. Afghanistan is facing multiple challenges in bridging the digital divide. This is something we need to work with the international community how we can bring the experience -- okay, I have some seconds.

     Another problem is the lack of the content and the local language and the people understanding of what they can do with the Internet. As a member of the young people, as a member of the young people using Internet for the education and for the health is knowledge for the resource increases. Most people in the region will understand the importance of the Internet, and technology. They will have to see the practice -- is finished? Almost. Okay. This is something we were recently working with international community to establish ICT education for the remote area and the provinces and how we can educate all of our girls and boys in the schools.

     >> MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Just to clarify to the audience following the session on line. The entire policy statements will be available on line, and then a summary will be provided of all of the sessions, of all of the panels at the closing ceremony. This is just a glimpse on the full statement that the Governments are submitting.

     We will continue with Benin. And we will continue by discussing the efforts of reducing digital divides, and also sharing your experiences in reducing those digital divides between rural populations and urban populations and how this, how do you transform the policy to adapt to these inequalities in the country of Benin.

     >> BENIN: Thank you very much. Okay. As today's frankco finny day allow me to express myself in French because this morning I heard a lady saying that multilanguage means also a

way to make our messages being heard in all parts of the world. So I will switch to French now.

What we are doing in Benin, in my country when it comes to the digital economy and also what we are doing to close the digital divide which is all too present in our countries the world over. We are doing, closing the gap in different ways. Now, in Benin, I live in the city in the north of the country, calls Paraku, roughly 500 kilometers away from the economic capital of Benin. And I remember in the past every now and then my mother who is a school teacher would have to have an aunt or uncle take care of us or a neighbor take care of us because she would have to go to Cotinu in the southern part of the country and carry out administrative tasks and paperwork. This was quite a distance away, so she would have to have somebody sit for us. I was wondering why show couldn't do it from home where we lived.

We talk about the digital divide, I think this is what people are referring to, this as well. The possibility for all citizens irrespective of where they are in the country, to be able to draw benefit from public services without having to travel or waste time traveling around the country. That's one of the actions we are engaging in in Benin. We want to see the various procedures, the public services go paperless, so citizens can have access to services electronically because the digital divide in fact has a number of different aspects, it expresses itself in different ways. For example, there is a digital divide that is age related if you are part of the young generation or amongst the elders.

There is also another divide which is a gender-based, gender link if you are a woman or a man, well, you will have access to different digital services or you won't have the same comfort when accessing these services if you are a man or woman, or if you are in an urban area, in a city or out in the rural area, in the country side, you will have variable access. The use will not be as easy if you are way out in the local area. The Government in Benin has realized that this digital divide takes different shapes and they have provided different answers to these issues so going paperless or dematerializing is one of the answers and beyond that there is also the question of connectivity, what we have done is to try to have the entire territory covered by a meshed network and between now and the month of April or May, the next month or two months away, out of the 77 communes or cities we have in the country, we will have covered 57 thereof, 57 out of 77. The objective by the end of the next year will be covering far more than that. It goes without saying that this will only make sense insofar as this is part and parcel of public policy that is very close to our

reality on the ground.

That is why our National Assembly, our parliamentary assembly unanimously adopted the digital code. This will make it possible to embrace all of the various aspects of digital economy, and to provide for the use, safe use, but also affordable use of the digital reality. This is what we are doing when it comes to closing the digital divide in Benin. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you. We will know the secret of Bhutan. Bhutan has created a technology park. It has also achieved amazing results in catching up with and improving ICT indicators, and we want to learn here from if there are any lessons on that. You did many things the last years that allowed Bhutan to become a model, but we know we want you to share with us the secret of the policy implemented by the Government of Bhutan in making this happen. Thank you.

>> KINGDOM OF BHUTAN: Thank you. Moderator, my minister colleagues, friends in the dais, and friends watching us. Good afternoon to you all. Today is a very special day, a special day that connotes to international day of happiness. On this very special day, I would like to exchange the greetings from His Majesty who propounded this cross-national happiness concept sometime in 1972. Since then Bhutan had been pioneering it, and we have our development philosophy which moves around happiness of its people. We do not have a planning commission in the kingdom. We have a commission that relates to cross-national happiness of his people, and all of our development philosophies are geared to our strategy.

Now, coming back to the question that I got from the moderator, yes, Bhutan has in fact started a technology park sometime in 2011, very late indeed, since then in this technology park, we have investors, the foreign direct investors who have come Bhutan and they have invested and started companies from the IT park so that's what we call in the country. Now, why IT park in why technology park? It is an area where royal Government of Bhutan has subsidized many things so that the investors from outside can come over to that place. There are businesses within the area of the IT park and can do international business. Now, when we subsidize from the Government, we make a conducive environment for the investors to come over. Subsidies could be through tax holidays, subsidies could be through the concessional Internet availability that is made there, subsidies could be through reduced power cost that is given to the IT park investors there.

So these are some of the things we are doing in Bhutan, and, yes, as the moderator had just pointed out, we in fact had been lucky enough to get this done not with very big challenges,

but, of course, not without as well. We have had challenges as well, but not too much to that extent that we are unable to overcome that. Now, on the investment that is being made in the IT park, we have about eight to ten companies from across the globe. We are lucky and I'm proud to announce here that we have a company under Switzerland also based in Bhutan, we have companies from Canada, Australia, India and Bangladesh doing business there. Therefore, Bhutan is seen as a ground, as a contemplation that can create that conducive environment for all of you if you are thinking to invest in green technology. Bhutan has a philosophy of protecting its environment in a big way. We are really concerned of our environment and if it is green technology, green investment, we invite investors from any part of the world. Of course, as I said, because we are concerned about the environment, we are really particular about the quality and type of investment that is being done in Bhutan. Thank you very much.

    >> MODERATOR: Thank you so much. We will continue with Internet Society and the question from the person from Internet Society is the challenges to connect the next billion and the opportunities for policy makers to support local communities while doing so.

    >> ISOC: Thank you very much and welcome everyone. We are happy to be here. My name is Jane, I work for the Internet Society. I will speak about practical things we have seen in the field and ways that we think policy makers can work with stakeholders for change to help connect the unconnected. First, traditional business models need to change. We see a new business model, a new community model for connecting the next, connecting people at the local level called community networks. These are bottom up networks built by communities for communities with communities.

    We're seeing them grow around the world and these are ways that local communities can come together to provide connectivity when they haven't had it. This is something amazing to watch when the communities come together to support each other and provide that connectivity. So, again, these are called community networks, and it's a phenomenon we are seeing come around the world where people are connecting themselves. So in order to help support those community networks grow, traditional regulatory policies need to change. So more access to spectrum for these networks, new agile licensing policies, whether that's forbearance, frankly, or it's something called social purpose licenses for some of these networks for indigenous communities in particular.

    And also just more understanding of those communities and making sure that the regulatory burden isn't as high for them to

develop. In addition to this, universal service funds. There
are billions of dollars in universal service funds around the
world. Why are they sitting there? They are not being used.
Let's think about new flexible ways, new models for those
universal service funds to be liberated. Think about it. If
you have villages that are not connected, schools that you would
like wired, why is that money sitting there? So if universal
service funds are difficult to change, then let's think of new
models for new funds that can help with the unconnected in the
last mile.

I would also like to say that when we call these
unconnected people the last mile, why are we doing this? Are
they not the first mile? Shouldn't we be thinking of them
first? Those old miles of last mile connectivity, perhaps we
need to change those as well. So, again, these are flexible
business models and changes. We would also suggest that new
consultation models for policy makers and regulators exist where
you bring in new stakeholder groups, some of the community
networks, for example, women's groups and others, indigenous
communities so they can tell you what they need. What we often
find is most important is you have to listen. To jump into a
country and say we know better, that's not going to work, so
listening to the local people and training sat the local level,
training local people to train local people to keep that
expertise local. Sometimes we call that local local, not Loco
as in Spanish, but local local.

In any event, one thing to think about and this is
something that Vint Cerf and my boss have often said, this is
about people and connecting people. Let's put people first.
Let's think about ways to connect them and use technology that's
getting cheaper to do that. And, again, if I hadn't said it
before, community networks are a new way to connect people
around the world, and we are seeing the importance of them
developing, so please support them. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you so much. No need of bell. Great!
The next question is for the representative of ESOA. And the
question is how can Governments reduce the digital divide and
how can we turn the 5G dilemma into an opportunity.

>> ESOA: Thank you very much, I'm delighted ting mere on
behalf of all of my members the satellite operators who fly
global fleets around the world. I think the most important
thing that Governments need to do is to foster the use of all
available technologies across a level playing field and also to
encourage cooperation between different technologies and
different operators. Every country is different. They have
fundamental differences in terms of geography, topography,
socioeconomics and also demographic differences. And it's

because of these differences that we have digital divides.

Experts foresee that by ,020 only 63% of the world's population will be connected. That means that the digital divide really is a massive problem and a big problem requires multiple solutions. Fixed networks, mobile, satellite, and Wi-Fi. Satellite is particularly useful for digital divides because they are blind to national boundaries, they are blind to political regimes, they don't discriminate between people who live in urban areas or in rural areas. They can see the whole territory.

That makes them an invisible solution, but one can make an impact within a cum of weeks. There are hundreds of examples of satellite technology contributing to multiple Sustainable Development Goals whether it's gender equality, telemedicine, education, improving health or even enabling digital financial inclusion, there are so many examples there. But even though satellite is available everywhere, we find that very often, it is not being used. Governments are not aware, or they have high import duties in place, they have unfavorable licensing regimes or because they are not using their universal funds as Jane said from ISOC to deploy these technologies. So Governments need to make sure they are not apply a one size fits all approach and they are creating an enabling environment which fosters an inclusive approach and cooperation across technologies.

Your other question on digital divide and 5G. So many Governments are preoccupied with the topic of 5G and that's completely understandable and it's a good thing because the pace of technology in today's world is moving so fast. We have the impression that everybody has a mobile phone. We have that impression. We know that that is far from reality. We, I think Governments really must guard against seeing 5G and bridging the digital divide as competing objectives. We have to be careful that the digital divide doesn't become just another long-term issue within the development portfolio, but that it remains an absolute priority within digital portfolios as it should be, and that they need to also turn these words that everybody is talking about today into concrete and consistent actions across different policy areas, whether it's regulatory frameworks, investment policies and spectrum decisions.

If anything, 5G should make the subject of digital divide even more pressing so that the divide doesn't turn into a digital chasm. No society can afford to that that. Development issues are priorities, but they come with the idea -- I know, I know, 30 seconds -- they come with the in that they are long-term potentially unachievable stretch targets when they don't have to be. We can use existing technologies like satellite and make a huge impact in a very, very short period of

time. The funding is there. The policies, regulatory and spectrum need to stay, they need to improve, and stay consistent, and we need to make use of all available technologies, and that way we can make a positive impact on people's lives. We need to stop focusing on specific technologies and keep the user, the citizen at the centre of the equation and focus on meeting their needs.

Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you so much and your last statement connects well with the next question. With the global open data initiative for agriculture and nutrition. Ma what is the role of the technology and data gaps play in reducing the digital divide, and what can poor countries, how ask poor countries benefit from data?

>> Thank you very much. I had prepared a dazzling speech for you to convey my message, but instead I think I will just tell you directly what I meant to say. For those who are less familiar with the organisation, the global open data initiative, we a movement, if you will, about 650 different partner organisations around the world ranging from genome scientists to satellite operators from Argentina to Australia. So there is a big mix of knowledge in there which led us collectively to come to some conclusions related to your question.

First, the context. During our generation, many things happened, one of which is that the world's population is increasing by 50%. Yet at the same time we have to struggle with climate change and other impeding factors that make it already difficult to feed the population as it is now, so how are we going to get out of this trouble, potential trouble is through innovation. All of these people that are part, and I hope you will join them too are united by the conviction that by sharing knowledge and sharing data, therefore, that underlines the knowledge is the way to innovate, and it's the way to bring the world to its next level.

What do we do? 20 years ago, you could say it was a simplistic way to look at the digital divide was to say, okay, you have on one hand mostly the north or the rich countries with the big computers, and you have everybody else with nothing. That was the way. Maybe 20 years ago, it could have been a way to look at it, but it is no more the way today. Today you don't need the big computers and all of the complicated things. I'm sure it may be this morning when you got up you looked at your phone to find out what the weather would be today. You didn't need to calculate anything. That's done somewhere else, but you get the information to you. So now the real digital divide doesn't have to do with computers, it has to do with knowledge, and it has to do with data. So it's no more who has the big

computers, it's who has and who uses the data and who doesn't, and that's not just the north/south issue, that's still north/north to south/south, because a lot of data is out there.

I will show you a new word that I learned. Zettabyte. In 2,025 the world is going to produce about 180Zeta bytes of data. It is 180 followed by 21 zeros after it. That's the volume of data that will be there, and is largely out there today. So why is it that some can't use it? Because it's not, it's not findable, it's not accessible, it's not interpretable, or its necessities reapplicable. So part of the decision to bridge the digital divide is to make the data open. The next thing that comes is on source applicants and then it's open knowledge, and then there is no gap because everybody is on the same playing field. That's what we preach. That's what we challenge you to preach with us and join us in this battle to eliminate the digital divide through sharing our common knowledge.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Our last question goes to robotics, and it is very interesting because it links very well as well with the data supply and what we can do with it. There is also the hardware part of it, so I wanted to ask you, do we have a digital robot divide and why local robotics matter, and which are the most important challenges on robotics to how is all of this, it sounds very disconnected if you think of people who are not connected even to the Internet and taking them to produce their own technology, how do you connect that, and why it will matter? What should matter for Developing Countries not net connected to the contract? How do we connect all of this?

>> Thank you very much and thank you for having us, and we share the experience we have in digital divide in respect to robotics. So when speaking about robotics today, readily available civilian drones allow to acquire data and proposed new solutions, so data, for example, for agriculture as we heard before, and for many applicants in the social good issues, disaster management, relief efforts, public health, nature conservation. In total, drones can address nine of the SDGs.

So the three main reasons why local robotics capacity is important are the following. First of all, because of local contacts. Drones allow to address local issues and needs who need to be understood and applied in a local context. Some of the issues that can be addressed of drones are sensitive. Others need to be a part of a process or processes that are already in place in a country, like, for example, for disaster relief. And not addressing these issues with local capacity is setting up for failure, because they will not take into account the environment, the culture, the social implications that only local drone operators and data specialists can take into

consideration.

Second, it's important because these emerging technologies allow to create new economies. They are allowed to create new companies and jobs. I have been active in the civilian drone industry since the very beginning in 2,013 and I have seen thousands and thousands of companies created and new markets created, but mostly in Europe, in North America, in Australia, and in some of the middle parts of Asia. Wouldn't it be a shame that these economies, these new economy that's can be created would be taken over by foreigners not loam entrepreneurs. They should be taken over by local entrepreneurs. That is why local capacity is important. And, third, because these new technologies allow to create new ecosystems. These ecosystems need to be owned locally so that they can flourish, build up knowledge on specific local needs and then share the local knowledge across countries to enhance the south to south calibration.

Now, you also asked me about the two biggest challenges, so the biggest challenges we face and actually these challenges are first of all the understanding. Today most stakeholders in Developing Countries do not fully understand what is the value of using drones and how can drone technologies in robotics be applied. We spend an important amount and effort in informing the stakeholders of the benefits of the technologies, so first of all important thing in the challenge is understanding. The second challenge is regulations. Today most Developing Countries do not have favorable policies and frameworks for professional drone usage, and I would like to underline the word professional drone usage.

As mentioned before, this is due to the fact that decision makers and regulators are not fully informed and there impose regulation that's do not take into consideration the variety of possibilities and opportunities. I only have 30 seconds left. So this results in hindering the creation of loam economies which in turn limits local capacity building.

So addressing this specific robotics divide is, therefore, not only the task of organisations like ours, but also the task of Governments and policy makers to take interest and provide support through adaptive regulations and frameworks allowing for the new economies to flourish and international organisations and NGOs to build awareness through information and good practices.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you so much and thank you panel. We stayed on time. Unfortunately we cannot take questions from the floor because we, the next panel is starting soon, but I want to thank you all and highlight how relevant all of the contributions from all of you are for those watching and for the

Governments later checking the record and the of the sessions and listening to the closing ceremony to design their own local policies. I hope that we can good policy to make it contagious and the good questions to be answered the next year here. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> MODERATOR: Session four, entitled enabling environment. As you can imagine enabling environment could be very broad and that's why what the organizers have done is they have a very broad perspective of people and very broad experience and exposure and they are here to share their views. The format we are going to have is I am going to request each of them to speak initially for four to five minutes. At 4.5 minutes, 4.5 minutes, my friend over there, can you please stand, I am recognizing my young friend, you are going to go a yellow card at 4.5 minutes, and at 5 minutes I will ring the bell and that's where we need to try to get it to a close. I'm sure that we are going to get some questions online, and the people here within the audience they will have questions, please be brief and I would request you to come over to the corner. We have a box over there and you can pop in your questions over there which we will get later, and we will try to address as many questions as are feasible with this time frame that we have.

So, yes, because we are running a little late on time, and honorable Ambassador has to leave a little early, I know that he has another commitment, but to start with, I would request the minister from Bahamas who I had an opportunity to be interactive with them in the date also to speak up there. Before he goes, and he speaks, he makes his commented I want to make one more thing clear, which is in case any of you have high level policy statements, please email it to the Secretariat and they will be placed on line on the website, and these will also be included in the Chairman's summary tomorrow. So that's the request because a lot of times the high-level policy statements could be slightly longer than the time that we have right now. So over so honorable ministers. Yes. You can speak from there, yes.

>> BAHAMAS: Thank you very much. First, let me express my profound gratitude on behalf of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and the people of the Bahamas for this opportunity to share this Conference. I would also like to express profound gratitude to the ITU and the co-coordinators of this Conference. Ladies and gentlemen, Your Excellencies, Mr. Moderator, good afternoon. And I'm speaking on what are some of the key ITC initiatives taken by the Bahamas toward the implementation of the sustainable goals in order to meet the 20/30 Agenda. The Bahamas is a nation with about, 390,000 persons, and because we are an archipelagic nation it makes it did I difficult in terms

of how we implement ICTs, but we are fortified in the belief
that if we are to take our country to the first world status, we
must implement ICTs into the socioeconomic fabric of the
Commonwealth of the Bahamas, and so lesser person than the Prime
Minister and Deputy Prime Minister is pushing ICTs in order for
us to meet the sustainable goals agenda.

So what the Bahamas has done is through our educational
system, we are introducing the concept of ICTs into our schools,
to parents. We have also gone into the rural areas where we are
creating Internet areas for persons to be able to access ICTs
and the Internet. We have also introduced ICTs into what we
call or what the world calls telehealth care, and so because
there are 16 major inhabited islands, 700 islands and keys in
total so how do you get products and services to these islands,
and one of the best ways to do that is through ICTs, so bringing
healthcare to the nation is by way of, and connecting healthcare
to the main healthcare set up which is in new Providence, we
have sought to implement or introduce ICT. The ease of doing
business, financial services, is one of our main pillars,
tourism, so how do we get our products and services to the
world, and it is through ICTs.

We have also through our busing system, we have introduced
ICTs, so we can control traffic lights. We have introduced
ICTs. We have also done something that is really innovative.
On one of our islands, we have decided to turn it into ICT
innovative hub so in free port for the last time we held an
international Conference where we invited not just local
practitioners of ICTs but international practitioners at our
international Conference in free port. And the intention was to
integrate, educate and explain the whole concept of block chain
and how do we introduce that to our communities.

So we have been steadily making the track. I want to
concentrate on the ease of doing business. We are facilitating
E-government, smart Government so that in the way, and one of
the ways we are doing that is not only by way of legislation,
but we intend through ICTs to hit the whole concept of
corruption to deal with the way persons make applications both
in the private and public sector, and so we are well on your way
to using ICTs so that we can also bridge the social divide.

One of the things that we are extremely concerned of in the
Bahamas is we don't allow the innovative technology so be light
years ahead of the average ordinary person. So we are looking
at the poor and the indigent and how do we create an
environment, how do we create an environment, but we are
creating an environment, so Bahamians will see ICT as not being
taboo, but they are prepared to learn it, to have it as a part
of their everyday life and to make life easier. So it will

reduce the cost of doing business not just for international partners but also on the local landscape. I realize I only have 23 more seconds, and so in these last seconds, the Bahamas is extremely interested with place before the ITU our candidacy for being a member of the ITU.

What we are doing is by introducing ICTs and developing an ICT hub in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, we are asking, or we are wishing that we would get your favorable consideration. We will become a member of the ITU. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> MODERATOR: Thank you, honorable minister and you actually set the bar for all of the fellow panelists to stick within the time frame. I must acknowledge the presence of the representative general Malcolm Johnson as well as the Chair of the business Forum, His Excellency, so I just want to request the Ambassador and you are in a City like Geneva which is the hub of diplomacy, and Burkina fossa has been in policy space and ICT innovation but also has been a strong voice around cybersecurity, for example. The whole learning process started in UK, for that matter, and in India, we had also the GCC, the global con cyberspace. Global Congress on cyberspace. I would like you to focus on cybersecurity, do we need some kind of new intervention now around cybersecurity and what is the process around that if you could focus on that? Of course, if you want to address issues on enabling environment because that's a very broad issue.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you for having me on this panel. Coming to your point about cybersecurity we see that within the context of an enabling environment for the environment. We think there are four key elements to that. The first which we think is fundamental to the Internet is an open and free Internet, particularly the point about the free flow of data, freedom of expression, free dissemination of information. So we think that's the first key enabler. The second is competitive and predictable environment. A competitive environment that offers choice to consumers and encourages innovation and affordability, but that does not mean an environment without rules. The rules need to be stable, independent and predictable, rules that provide companies with the certainty and the confidence they need to innovate and invest.

And thirdly, multistakeholder environment because it's clear, as you all know, that the Information Society we have today is a product not just of what Governments have done, but actually principally what's been done by Civil Society by the private sector by academia and all have been essential in the development. But the fourth point is it needs to be a trusted environment. We can't have an environment that promotes an

Internet with social and economic prosperity if you don't have trust in the Internet. Without trust, users and businesses will not fully embrace its potential and it's one of the reasons why the U.K. national cybersecurity strategy envisaged for 20/21 a digital world that is secure and resilient to cyber threats, and that the opening of the national cybersecurity centre we opened as an important part of our commitment to that. That brings me to your question, which is around whether or not we need a new cybersecurity treaty.

And I would just like to say three things about that. The first is around the application of international law on line. And we in the U.K. Government are not of the view that we need a new international instrument to deal with the cyber environment. Indeed, international law applies in the digital space, and, therefore, instead of looking for new treaties that actually would probably take more time to negotiate than the time it took for the Internet indeed to develop if my experience here is anything to go by, we should instead use the tools that we have and implement existing international law effectively. The second point is to focus on the existing work streams on this, and we believe that developing a new treaty would be a distraction from the work that we think is a practical contribution to this, such as educating users, developing a culture of cybersecurity, improving international cooperation to develop confidence-building measures between stated and promoting cybersecurity capacity building. That's perhaps my last point which is capacity on cybersecurity is one of the key drivers of trust on line, capability to actually ensure a safe and secure Internet. It's one of the pre-conditions really for that.

And since 2012 the U.K. has been investing in capacity building. We have spent over 10 million pounds in over 130 countries since 20/12 and we have committed another 30 million pounds to support that. Our answer to the question it's better to focus on the practical things and also to focus on the effective application of international law on line than to try to develop a new treaty that we think would be a distraction to that. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> MODERATOR: So if I look at an issue like EPT headquartered in Bangkok, what is it, I mean, if you just look at the shear population, it's a huge population around the world, but and we also have I will say some of the fastest growing Internet communities but even in the region we have some of the darkest Internet areas, so to say in that area. So what are the key factors to realize this potential? That's one thing. And also when we are looking at this type 6 approach and

within such a diverse region like Asia-Pacific that has very
different sizes very different type of political, economic and
social economic structures and the advancement is very different
from Japan say from Fiji and Bangladesh and China and everybody
else in between. So what are the roles that you see of
different stakeholders in realizing the potential.
     >> Thank you very much. First of all. APT is an
intergovernmental organisation with 38 member countries. And we
have mainly two activity pillars. One is to consolidate digital
voice to propose and submit to ITU. The other pillar is to
facilitate ICT development in the region, policy and regulatory
coordination and capacity building and pilot project. And to
answer the first question, yes, it is true that Asia-Pacific
region has often said it has potentials. There are many
different contexts when you say it has potentials. Sometimes it
is about consumer market and other times it is about the
manufacturing centre.
     So for simplicity, today I would like to pick up the point
of population sites to explain the key factors to flourish our
potential. Even though there is a need to put civil
pre-conditions, basically big population means big market. So
according to the statistics of the World Bank by 20/30,
two-thirds of the world population lives in Asia and Pacific.
So Internet users will be around 3 billion increasing from
1.4 billion in 2015. So together with economic roles in the
region there will be a very big market in our region.
     But here I would like to point out that these figures don't
provide any concrete directions to utilize this opportunity. It
can be risk as well as opportunity. For example, statistics
says that nine out of twelve mega cities which has more than
20 million population located in Asia, Tokyo, Jakarta, Manila,
Mumbai, Shanghai, Beijing. But domestically, urbanization could
be an issue in terms of income divide, public infrastructure
divide and aging society in the long plan. So just having a big
population doesn't necessarily mean an opportunity. So,
therefore, in order to utilize potential, looking at macro data
is not sufficient. It is important to look into details to see
what's happening, but the light from different angles and
consider different situations in each country and area.
     So this kind of multidirectional and flexible attitude is
key for our region. So I will always describe this point as
embracing diversity. Diversity is one of the key concepts in
Asia and Pacific region, and I think embracing diversity is a
key factor in unleashing the potential of the region. And it is
the same when you think about enabling environment in each
country. So for Asia and Pacific region, multistakeholder is
one of the ways to embrace diversity. So this leads to the

second question. So to answer the second question, each stakeholder should utilize its expertise to submit views from different angles and provide opportunities for other stakeholders to consider different situations and aspects in different countries and areas.

And most importantly, to be flexible and understand others. That is the lesson we learned from this region, and APT will provide a platform to discuss and exchange views and opinions for that matter. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

Tino.

>> MODERATOR: So everybody is talking about multistakeholder approach here, so I'm looking at the extreme left now to Lynn who is the Chair of the MAG which stands for Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group for the IGF which is Internet Governance Forum. Now, we should remember, and as honorable Secretary General has reminded us time and again that it was in October 1998, almost 20 years back, that the proposal of business was proposed and in 2003 we had Geneva followed by Tunis, the 2005 and in between there was Working Group on Internet Governance that was found by the honorable secretary of UN. And they presented at Tunis, and since Tunis, we had the initial mandate from the General Assembly to do IGF for five years which happened to 2010, and then it was scented by another five years and it has been extended further and our friend is leading mag over there as IGF actually comes to 13 years, yes, this year will be 13 years. So it comes into teens.

So within this process, what is it that you have sort of seen the evolution of the whole process about, the multistakeholder approach, and what has been the major contributions of that not just in terms of global policy making, but also in terms of the regional and local policy making within the countries and are there any lessons, any challenges we should look at within this approach to refine it further? And perhaps you could also in case there is time, you may also like to touch upon some lessons that people may have from the MAG and the IGF process of multistakeholder approach even in other areas beyond Internet, not necessarily only the Internet, of course, here is something that all of us are talking and celebrating this. Over to Lynn. Thank you.

>> IGF: Thank you. I'm very happy to be here and in fact note that both the WSIS Forum and the IGF both were born out of the World Summit Information Society one and two and never miss an opportunity to send my sincere thanks on behalf of the entire IGF community to Netten Desai for his great leader and Chairmanship of the IGF of the first five years, critical years and he had a fantastic hand in it.

The IGF was initially conceived as an annual global
meeting, but very quickly and largely organically, it grew to
encompass a number of intersessional or year-round activities.
Specifically at the moment we have 103 national regional sub
regional or youth Internet Governance initiatives or NRIs is the
acronym. They operate the same principles and values at the
global IGF, and they are extremely important to advancement of
Internet issues around the world. They not only inform our
activities locally, but they are a significant implementation
channel back in their own countries. We also have three more
best practice every year. This past year we had one on local
content, we had one on cybersecurity for a number of years and a
third one on gender and access, and they deliver concrete and
substantive outputs on a global basis.
       >> There are 17 dynamic coalitions. The first was started
13 years ago at the first IGF. They cover things such as
Internet of Things, block chain technologies, gender and
Internet Governance or trade. They are issue-specific
multistakeholder bottom up coalitions, so some significant
portion of the community has come together and said there are
some useful work, useful discussions we can have on these
particular topics and they structure them and run them
themselves. And we have also had for the last three years a
significant intersessional public policy initiative. It's
called the connecting and enabling the next billions. In fact,
the MAG is meeting across the road concurrently with this
meeting, and we will be determining which of these efforts go
forward in the subsequent years and which ones maybe need to be
placed with something else that perhaps is more topical.
       So to the question of the impact that we are all having
here, the impact is seeing the significant activities output
that comes from all of those activities, again, the annual
meeting itself, dynamic coalition, the NRI, Best Practice
Forums, the policy efforts, and it's in as much in the
discussions as it is in the output such as papers or the Best
Practice Forum. It's knowledge transfer. And those are
consequential outputs. Good governance requires good decisions
and good knowledge as a basis.
       It's a needs and understanding of drivers, needs to
understand the implication. That is why multistakeholder is so
important because it can fully inform all of those discussions
both on the way in as you try and understand what the problem is
that you are trying to solve, and on the way out as you are
working to implement it, whether that's a policy or a more
concrete action. They Saul clearly, all of those outputs
clearly inform decisions that are taken back to the national
level where they were always intended to be taken, or they are

taken back to Civil Society organisations or taken back into private sector organisations which take what they have learned at those Forums and in a lot of those processes and used that to drive forward their own set of activities, again, which is when we all feel is most appropriate.

So the NRIs in particular are a growing part of this ecosystem and one of the more critical parts in terms of moving forward because that is a significant implementation vector, if you will. So as we said, the IGF was constituted as a Forum for dialogue and the wisdom of those involved in WSIS 1 and 2, they knew the issues we were addressing were complex, highly interrelated, often led by an individual who simply had a good idea and was and is fast changing. So it was recognized the new Conference processes were required, ones that are open, involved all stakeholders, not really consulted them but really involved them in the discussions.

I think as a whole we are still grapple be with what Internet Governance means, what Government requires today, expectations should be governed and how to govern are changing, both the level of individuals with and between Governments, finding the right models is a big challenge, and when we are trying to find those new models against escalating cyber events, whether cybersecurity or social media platform related or disinformation, fake news to name only a few often makes it much more difficult. And, again, that's why Forums such as the IGF are critically important. It enables discussion and hopefully understanding. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> MODERATOR: So now, let me ask my friend, Paul, we used to work together sometime back, so a company like Microsoft, which is involved in so many different stages and so many different aspects of this whole environment and also people are using the devices, services and many other things and how do you see this whole concept about enabling environment and what is it that you would like to sort of see going forward.

>> MICROSOFT: Well, first, I want to think about what is an enabling environment. Often the phrase gets just sort of thrown out as a line that generally means deregulation, getting rid of taxes and consumer safeguards so that private enterprise can go ahead. I'm being cynical there. That is not really what it should be, but it really is the ability to identify all of those things in a particular environment whether they are regulatory, whether they are physical infrastructure, whether they are social, political, financial, that are impediments to achieving a particular goal. So I think the goal we are really focused on right now is finding a way to connect the other half of the world to the Internet at broadband speeds ideally, and be

able to get the entire planet realizing the benefits of ICTs across every possible domain. You might think of it as the digital transformation of everything.

And that will, you know, in a Nirvana universe enable the realization of all of the SDGs, economic prosperity, wealth and happiness for all, lots of good goals to go for. But the private sector has a role in making this come about and maybe the most critical role is to help policy makers, those who are not in the technology industry understand where the technology is going, what it can do, and what's necessary for it to be able to do that.

The global nature of the Internet today means that you really can't raid an enabling environment by only considering things at the local level because too many things are interconnected globally. So we need to help policy makers understand how what's happening in Kenya affects what's happening in South Africa, affects what's happening in Washington, D.C. at the sort of macro level. When it comes to things like Cloud services, the nature of Cloud is the data is everywhere. For cloud services to really work well, the data needs to be able to freely go to the places that it's most efficiently processed, so most efficiently stored and where it can be delivered at the right time at the right instant to those who need to use it or process it.

So that might be load balancing and geo redundancy to make sure if there is a problem in one data centre, the data exists in some other data centre, and for all of those kinds of things to work, we need the appropriate political regulatory and structural environment in order to make, to make that happen. Provisioning services, particularly in Developing Countries is often quite difficult because of the lack of physical infrastructure, not just data centers and fiber lines, but just power infrastructure, and we have to figure out how to get that solved.

And the partnership relationship between Governments, Civil Society, the technical community, the tech industry is super critical in order to be able to deliver on these kinds of promises. We all imagine a good future, a future where technologies are servant rather than the other way around and where technology is really improving everyone's standards of living. In order to do that, to make that true, we have to be able to get the basic elements right in all of the places that currently are lacking. So Microsoft has been engaged in a number of projects over the last little while trying to do that while Microsoft is not a network operator does not want to be a network operator, our projects all involve creating partners with local Governments, partnerships with local enterprises,

partnerships with schools, education facilities, and with
special interest groups that are important to the community, for
example, the 4H in the United States, which is deals with
agricultural programs for youth across the United States in
rural farming communities.

        We do similar things in other places, and when we look at
these programs, you know, and trying to put these programs
together, we are looking to create the kind of partnerships that
will move all of the elements that are necessary, the regulatory
element, the tax element, the social element, the education
element, and then the physical let's get out there and build it.
And so far to date, we have been very successful at getting
projects going.

        We did commit last July to a programme in the United States
called air band that promises 12 projects in 12 states by 2022
and connecting 2 million people and we intend to scale that
internationally in this coming fiscal year.

        >> MODERATOR: Thanks, Paul, just in time. So, yes, here
goes up the yellow card. That's why I'm saying just in time.
And thanks Ambassador A. Ambassador has another meeting, another
commitment, so he had to leave for that. So I just wanted to
ask one more thing, so we also have the action line facilitator
from ITU itself, and because the way, if you see the business we
do have these action alliance and you have SDGs and ever since
the process has started we have been trying to map these things.
When you are looking at enabling environment itself as a
specific line item, what is it that you are looking from that
perspective, from the ITU in terms of a large organisation here,
but with that particular specific action line item on enabling
environment, what are the things that you are seeing evolving
and what are the challenges that you see with the Governments
which are the member states, but also what are the role of the
sector members which are the private sector members within this.

        >> Thank you very much for this question. I think it's a
very good question because when we are talking about favorable
environment, we cannot make distinction favorable environment
for the consumers from one side and favorable environment for
the industry and the other stakeholders from the other side.
From the perspective of the consumers, states, policy makers,
regulators, facilitators should help and provide rich offer to
the end consumers with quality and good price ratio of services,
different kinds of services.

        So that will be done only if we create also favorable
environment for the industry stakeholders, providers, service
providers, application providers, infrastructure providers, all
kinds of providers since we could say that we have four layers,
infrastructure, services, application, and content. And on each

layer, we should provide certain kind of different policies, different legal and regulatory frameworks in order to boost the competition to provide and enrich the offer to the end consumers. At the same time when we are talking about applications and content, there has to be involved the process of the digital literacy, how to educate people to fully harness the potential of ICT and also to enrich the content.

In that sense, it's very important to develop local content in different languages under different parts of the world. At the same time, ITU is fully committed to help member states to increase the level of connectivity to improve affordability, to enhance the availability of infrastructure services, applications and content. Also in order to increase the level of the use of ICT, it is written to enhance and build trust and confidence. If people are not confident, they will not use ICTs, they will not use all applications available in the market at the moment. So we in ITU are fully committed and engaged to help countries to break silos and to provide collaborative approaches among the different sectors. It's not enough to work only with ICTs sector and the ICT ministers and ICT authorities. It's necessary to bring all other ministries, all other sectors together, health, education, energy, agriculture, finance and others. That's exactly what we are doing in ITU.

So we have our annual flagship event, Global Symposium for Regulators and we really involved all of those issues including digital financial inclusion, cybersecurity, ICT applications, health and other areas in order to really provide good content to the member states involving the other stakeholders at the same time industry players and I'm very happy to see our sector members here represented as well as with the high level representatives from our member states. So I think I should stop here to provide opportunity to the other guests to say a few words. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> MODERATOR: So as he sort of went over the end of the session, may I request each of my co-panelists, let me start with Paul on the right to just within a minute or so if you could mention something, what is it that you look forward to one or two specific areas around enabling environment, so one area where you want somebody else to do something, and who and what, and one area that you would like to do.

>> MICROSOFT: The thing we would like to see done by others that we want to participate in is reforming the way spectrum is allocated and licensed, and by that, I mean just make the process faster, make it more facile so that there is less spectrum sitting doing nothing and more of it actually put in service. That's, I think, an opportunity for ITU and all of

the carriers.

I think other things that I think Microsoft sees its role as doing and we are very excited about doing is bringing the power of artificial intelligence and Cloud services more broadly around the world which really relies critically on the connectivity infrastructure. So this is a very symbiotic relationship, but we are cost that we can do request AI harnessed well and with data analytics and cloud services properly managed is we can put that to service in solving some of the world's hardest problems that are data-driven problems and that's a very exciting proposition for us.

>> MODERATOR: Thanks, Paul.

>> Thank you, so as I said by answering to your question, Asia-Pacific region is very diverse, so in that sense, once we set a target, let's say, as an action line of WSIS, that target is the on the one hand the industry is moving and on the other hand, if the target is moving, we always need to catch up. So as he mentioned in his presentation, I think policy makers should first understand what's going on, and second, what would happen in the future.

So otherwise, you cannot get to the target in the future. So that's the first point and the second point at the APT, we would like to more collaborate with private sectors. Basically as international organisation, we tend to coordinate only with Government or its members, so we try to more collaborate maybe implement a more project base private sector.

>> Maybe just to add that also very important issue when we are talking about enabling environment is digital inclusion, to include all parts of society to get access to ICTs and to really harness the full potential of ICTs. It means to increase the level of accessibility to provide difference kinds of support to the Member States, to bring together the indigenous people, to provide them access and to include them in the society, for the disabled persons, for youth, for women, for girls and we have our programs in ITU and we are working on that. I'm sure that member states are aware of our efforts that we are doing.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you, and honorable minister.

>> Thank you very much. What I would like to see is for the request made by the Bahamas to become a member of ITU for the body to accede to that request. The other thing is what we are focusing on in the Bahamas, bridging the social gap as my colleague has just indicated that the for as phenomenal as information technology is, as sophisticated as it is, that it does not leave behind the general populous around I'm speaking in terms of a global village that the poor and the indigent are recognized, they are trained, and that is fully utilized to reduce poverty and corruption around the world. That's what we

would like to see happen. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thanks, Lynn.

>> IGF: What we would like to see is more participation
from Governments, senior policy nationers and the private
sector. We all say multistakeholder, we all say open,
inclusive, and yet the premier process for dealing with some of
the world's toughest Internet Governance issues across all
stakeholders on equal footing is the IGF. There is no other
Forum that is as unique as that as, open, inclusive or
multistakeholder as that, and I walk across the street from the
IGF MAG meeting to this meeting with both of these events being
borne out of WSIS 1 and 2, and there is a very different level
of participation between that meeting, that's an IGF MAG
meeting, but the IGF meeting itself and this meeting. The
resources applied to both are exceedingly low. The IGF runs on
a budget of a million dollars a year including the annual Forum
and all of the individual. Now, the annual Forum, a lot of
those expenses are actually carried by the host country that
supports it. If we really are serious about tackling Internet
Governance issues and open and multistakeholder inclusive we
will move away from some of those Forums we are much more
comfortable and familiar with and go try sought and participate
in some of the other Forums that I think really are the Forums
and the processes of the future, just as much as the ITU and the
WSIS Forum is a process of the future, so is the IGF. But we
really would like significantly more participation.

>> MODERATOR: Thanks, Lynn. With that, I would like to
draw this session to a clouds. I would like to -- close, I
would like to thank my co-panelists including the honorable
Ambassador who had to leave. I would also like to thank all of
the audience here, the organizers and, of course, the business
team itself who has tried a lot to put together not just
decisions, but actually such decisions in room one, today,
tomorrow, and so the other thing I just want to mention is that
the summary of the session will be presented tomorrow in the
session at 4:30 p.m., and also tomorrow we will have the
summaries also available on line and they will all be part of
the Chairman's report to the whole business Forum. So -- WSIS
Forum, so with that I would like all of you to join me in giving
a big hand to the speakers for sharing their thoughts and not
just sharing thoughts, challenging themselves also to step up
with new ideas and new approaches, and as we heard from the
honorable Chairman, that unless we start measuring some of these
things, we will not really be in a position to assess our own
progress, what is that we have done, what is it that we have not
done? So I think while we are doing these exercises that they
think will be useful to us to slowly but surely be on a path to

develop useful, smart metrics with which we can actually do of
our own self-evolution and others can assess us. We can assess
others, and as it was mentioned that while Internet is global,
so, yes, we should think global, but we need to act local.
Thank you.
     (Applause).
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     >> MODERATOR: Hello, everyone, we are starting go I
request you to take your seats. Welcome to session 6 titled
bridging digital divides. As the title suggests, the session is
all about discussing policies, priorities, challenges,
innovation in bridging the digital divide in various countries
around the world. Before we begin, I would just like to let the
panelists as well as audience know about the rules and
procedures. We have moved away from the traditional format we
have been following so far and instead of traditional policy
statements we will be having policy sessions which I think are
going to be interactive given we are a smaller number here
today. I think that should be good for the audience.
     We really request you to send in your questions. There is
a box in the corner there in that corner and if you do have
questions, we would be happy to take them at the end of the
session. So for the panelists, you all have four minutes. So
at three minutes and 30 seconds, I will ring the bell to
interest indicate that you have 30 seconds left to talk, and
then you will see a yellow card with my young colleague there.
That is to indicate that your time is up.
     So I would really appreciate it if we could all stick to
the timings. And at the end of the session, yes, we also ask
you to send statements directly to the WSIS Secretariat, and the
statements will be published in an outcome Document later. So
without any further ado, I would like to begin the session. We
start with Sierra Leone and we have the minister for Ministry of
Information and communication and we have two questions, the
first question is what policies have you put in place to ensure
that the rural population benefited from the improved
telecommunication infrastructure, and the second question is
what is your policy towards investment in the telecom industry?
I guess that's a good question for anyone in the audience to
answer later. Hopefully if he does come, we will get back to
that. Yes, that was really quick. Next, we have the minister

from Japan who I know is here because I saw him in the morning, yes. So this is the vice minister for policy coordination international affairs for the Ministry of Internal affairs and communications. So your first question, sir, is in Japan, the population with access to the Internet is very high. How did you bridge the digital divide? The second question is what should we keep in mind when we promote the policy to bridge the digital divide?

     >> JAPAN: Thank you very much, the population who was capability of access reach more than 99.9% in Japan. 99% of households have the capability to connect with over 30 mega BPS over the fixed infrastructure including STTH. The telecom plays a key role for bridging digital divide. The Government has been encouraging them to expand the connectible coverage by implementation of the policies. It is difficult for private operators to deploy connectivity in sparsely populated districts such as remote islands and mountainous areas because of the cost and effectiveness. The Japanese Government subsidize the local Government, so the deployment is driven by the collaboration of the local Government and the operators.

     In the deploying process, one of the driving forces was the local Government recognition that the optical fiber is essential to promote the development of industry in their regions. Of course, Japan's experience does not apply to all countries due to differences of such as geographical environment, the population density, the activities of the operators and so on.

     The fastest way to bridge the digital divide is to find the best practice suitable for your country through various experiences. Our number one priority is to get everyone connected to the Internet. Connectivity must be provided to people at affordable price so that they can keep connected. But first, broadband connections with high speed Internet may not be offered even without broadband connection, people can benefit the new values of ICT.

     Once they connect and experience, I believe they will drive the dativization of the society themselves. We have to give priority to accessibility even if it would not be broadband considering the large cost to bridge the data divide, but we should recognize the necessity of the broadband connection for the data transformation from a long-term perspective. The data transformation combines the business call space and the cyberspace. This will give us opportunities to be free of the limitations of the physical world such as medical care and education in remote areas and make it more efficient in the service and manufacturing and in the sectors such as agriculture. Furthermore, people, local communities, countries and the regions which have limitation in the real world can use

the ability to the maximum extent by making the best use of digitization.

I believe promoting the data transformation is important to develop our society and social economy, to live a better life and to keep sustainable growth by overcoming various challenges we face. The data transformation requires sufficient perm performance capability for the network to with stand applications operated by all people and things, therefore, an infrastructure we can build on is important. When we promote the policy to bridge data divide, we should keep in mind the investment concerning the digital transformation, such as the initial investment of a large capacity backbone network from a long term perspective. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. That was exactly on time. So I see we are all very well prepared at this session today. So we move from Japan to the Czech Republic, and we have with us the Chairman of the Council from the Czech telecommunication office. Your two questions are, what are the priorities to foster innovation in the Czech Republic, and the second is what is your experience of bridging the digital divide in the Czech Republic?

>> CZECH REPUBLIC: Good afternoon, we would like in Czech Republic repeat successful story which we have which with 4G networks and now we are considering the 5G initiative to put on one table people from the operators, people who are dealing with these technologies and also the industry which will use 5G in the first moment to really reduce the obstacles if there are in Czech Republic and to discuss how to make 5 good networks and services in 5G network but it's not only 5G and technology. We are fully aware of cyber issues, so we have common project with some registered domain who is producing smart box, but inside is cyber centre that can analyze and reduce attacks and make improvement. We would like to also collect data from the smart box, and make some annualization to the next move in innovation. We have very great experience with the telecommunication economy. And we are trying to trying to explain them how to use iPhones, how to protect themselves, how to read their bills and really to stick on their rights when they claim something to operators. So this is the first phase of our and we would also like to make some project with young people who are starting to use social networks to be more educated that it's not everything they put on the Internet is not private and so on.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you. Since we have just a little time maybe I was hoping you would also tell us about the digital divide bridging efforts you are focusing on the old people as well as youngsters. Maybe later we can talk about the other

communities that your policies would also be targeting because
I'm really curious to know about that, because we have the old
and the young and then what in between. Okay. Thank you.
     >> MODERATOR: And now we move onto our next panelist, and
she is the Executive Director for research ICT Africa who is
based in South Africa and the questions we have for you are
firstly, do we have the data in Africa and the Global South more
generally and are we using the right indicators to measure the
progress of ICTs towards the SDG2030 targets so a very lengthy
question, but I'm sure you are up for answering it. And the
second question is then what is the limited data and analysis we
do have on Africa tell us about digital inequality and how can
we address it.
     >> SOUTH AFRICA: So perhaps very quickly, research ICT
Africa is an Africa-wide ICT policy and research network and
think tank based in Capetown. We are really the only people
collecting systematically demand side data that is up to date
and is collected specifically for evidence-based policy for
policy makers on the continent. Obviously as it gets
increasingly complex as we move from VOIP services to data. So
what I'm going to speak to you about today is a project that is
part of a Global South initiative that is looking really beyond
access to obviously the digital divide is focused on
connectivity and is focused on, you know, the need for
infrastructure is very much a supply side focus and initiative
and effort, but what we have seen as we move into the Internet
is the digital equality is really beyond access issue. In fact
there is this digital paradox that as we connect more people and
people to higher bandwidth and different kinds of services, we
are actually increasing digital inequality so how do we address
that in a very often resource constrained environment that we
find ourselves in the Global South.
     So the truth is across the Global South we don't have much
idea about where they are in terms of digital divide or
inequality or in fact how far we have gone towards meeting the
SDG goals or the Internet targets that under lie those. We
really just don't have information across vast parts of the
Global South in order to make these measurements and assessments
in prepaid mobile environments. It's really only through
nationally representative demand side surveys that you can
actually identify the unique numbers of users in countries,
whether they are men, women, whether they are, which income
grouping, whether they are urban or rural.
     So the supply side data we depend on within the UN system
is actually unable to do that. That's why we land up with
figures that suggest that we have, you know, 120% of users in
South Africa or, you know, 80% in a country like Rwanda or

something like that where we know the figures are considerably
less and that's really because we are just measuring number of
sim cards and not unique users. So you have to go beyond that.
So these surveys go now and get all of these basic indicators
that we need, but they go further than that. They have modules
on mobile money, cybersecurity awareness and micro network and
other things that are indicators of digital inequality of
people's ability to participate in the environment. The excess
surveys are conducted across 16 countries, four to follow across
Asia with our partners in Eastern Asia, Latin America with our
partners, and the findings of this really tell the inside story
of the Internet. They go beyond connectivity into the access
challenges, and what we find is that the primary barrier, you
know, or actually the demand side challenges. There are many
country that don't have the Internet penetrations of about 20%
but critical mass that is associated with economic growth and
sort of, you know, transactional improvements and information
flows in those countries.
     But even in countries where we do have extensive 3G
coverage, a country like (Indiscernible) has extensive 3G
coverage. People still only have 50%, 50% on Smart Phones.
They only have 20% penetration, so the real challenge is on the
demand side, on the demand side we know from models that the
real factors of inequality are education and income. So to
address those, we have really got massive human development
challenges in order to get digital equality.
     Now, the thing is that what we have found is affordability
remains the critical factor, and that the challenges of smart
devices the price of smart devices prevent people coming on
library. Cot of the services keeps people off line. And the
models we are currently using, the technologies we are using,
the licensing models we are using the spectrum valuations we are
using are simply not affordable. We are going to have to find
new adaptive regulatory systems, better technologies, cheaper
technologies that people can use to bring more people on line.
     (Applause).
     >> MODERATOR: Thank you Allison. We now move onto the
Civil Society representatives who are also going to be raising
the same issues that you have raised but in different context.
So we first have from the NPO which is formerly literacy bridge
with the founder and Director based in the United States. The
questions are could attempts to bridge the digital divide do
more harm by access vulnerabilities to families. How can
information and communication technology provide the most
marginalized groups with the greatest opportunity to achieve the
SDGs?
     >> CLIFF SCHMIDT: Thank you to everyone involved in WSIS

for having me here. I would like to echo a lot of the
sentiments of Allison, the previous speaker. We really have to
be careful about the digital divide getting bigger, especially
when we think we are making it smaller. It's been quoted a
couple of times today in the sessions, and this is actually a
quote from the agenda 20/30 goals, which is that we should put
the furthest behind first. So are we actually doing that? Are
we going out to try to bridge this gap with people who are
having the least opportunities now? Let me give you a few
examples where I think we are not doing that.

        If we provide, let's say, a health promotion service over
SMS, are we going first to people who are illiterate? Sets say
how about if we put telecenters or communication information
centers. That sounds good to cover your whole country but what
about for the majority of the population that has no access to
walk in or to find their way into that capital? Are they at a
greater advantage? Are we narrowing the divide, or have we
provided greater empowerment to a population that has some
services and still not reaching the people that are hardest to
reach? I will give you one more example. Let's say that we
have Internet-based agriculture service to provide empowerment.
Are we empowering women? Are we reducing the divide? Are we
addressing SDG5 and one of its targets to provide equal
opportunity for women to economic empowerment. Well, the GSMA
would probably tell you no. What the GMSA will tell you is that
women are at a 50% disadvantage in many countries in South Asia
and in many rural areas in Sub-Saharan Africa. So are we
empowering some women with programs like that? Yes. But are we
actually providing equality? Are we reducing that gap? No, we
are not.

        So I think this is very important to be thinking about when
we are doing our best and we are all trying to have some
successes, but where the divide is deepest is where the
challenges are hardest. And we have to be very conscious of
whether we are reducing that divide for all people. So what can
you do? ITU and World Health Organization and my organisation
Afplio are partnering together to work on this thing. We are
approaching it by working with Government ministries, but we
also work with organisations in the private sector, and we are
trying to help amplify their messages to reach the most rural
areas. So this means with health information, health promotion
information, with agriculture extension information, and what we
do is we don't rely on the people who are most marginalized
having technologies or education that the broader population
has.

        So just to give you one example, we are using a device like
this. This is called the talking book. It's an audio device

and it's loaded with locally produced songs and dramas and interviews that address these topics and is made available to people who don't have other access. So this is just one technology that we are pursuing to be able to try to help the people who are furthest away to be, to help them first so is that we can all achieve the SDGs together. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Okay. So now we have from Mexico, from, let me see if I am pronouncing correctly. The questions for you are what are the challenges and opportunities that you have faced in implementing a digital inclusion project in the context of Mexico? And the second question is given that Smart Phones have really permeated the market, what is the next step towards bridging the digital divide?

>> MEXICO: First of all, thank you very much for the invitation for speaking at this panel. I think that most of the people here are familiar with the challenges that we have faced. We have faced the challenges within the context that has been changing very rapidly over the last ten years and the main challenge begins with infrastructure. So do we have the necessary cabling? Do we have the necessary equipment? Do we have all of the ingredients so that we can deploy a programme that uses technology? And this has one of the first and foremost important challenges with us because we work with low income communities in Mexico, and these communities sometimes don't even have not even the necessary electricity to connect an educational centre. The second challenge has been connectivity, which many times we see as a, as something that is a given, but many times it requires a minimum, especially for urban areas which is where we work mostly, and then thirdly, we work with the public sector. We work in order to scale the projects to make them replicable, and we need to create more intersectoral alliances, so this can function.

I work on the NGO side, so we try and team up with not only the public sector but also the private sector in such a way that we can match funds, that we can have for every dollar spent in the project on the federal, with the federal Government, we match it with another dollar on the state side, another dollar on the private side, and we try and bring in an extra dollar from the NGO side. So aligning the sectors is very important, but for this to take place, we need to define really what digital skills means, what digital inclusion means. I think that most of the definitions tend to be quite ethereal, and we decided to go in a different direction. We decided to define what the work force required, and based on that, define what these qualifications and these skills were. So we teach people how to print, how to do a CV, how to use Word, Power Point and Excel and all of the elements that any employer would most

likely want his employees to use. Rather than talking about
definitions that tend to be more, a bit more loosely based, more
based on how we exchange information and the soft skills that
derive from this, we tend to work more with the harder part of
the skills. And then another important part is that
connectivity and infrastructure is not only what we need as well
as digitally connecting people. We need them to use the
services in a productive way because most people that begin
using technology and begin by being digital use social media.
They watch entertainment, and they are not necessarily
harnessing the full power of these digital, these digital
environments and applications.

       So how are we going to leverage this technology, so we can
create a much better society, a society that can gain access to
educational financial health services that can have a full usage
of both E-commerce and E-government, and what has happened in
Mexico has been very contradictory because they have begun doing
a lot of the bureaucratic procedures, only digital. So you have
a large part of the population that doesn't know how to use a
computer, but then you have to pay taxes on line and you have to
do invoices on line. So the important part of this is how do we
integrate in a transversal way between all of the sectors so
that people can have full participation and that we can truly
catalyze both the economic and the social through use of
technology. Thank you.

       >> MODERATOR: Thank you. I think those are very important
questions. We have got questions about, we have got answers
about how Governments and states are bridging the digital
divide, and we also have inputs from the academia and Civil
Society that talk about, yes, we have moved forward, but there
is still sort of several steps to take before we get the kind of
society that we really want, really equal society in that sense.

       So I will call upon our WSIS Action Line facilitator and I
would like to hear some of your thoughts on what the various
panelists have told as well.

       >> Thank you very much, and good afternoon, everybody.
Yes, I just want to redefine the issue of digital divide,
traditionally we have always described the digital divide in
terms of connectivity. But I think in our analysis, we have to
go beyond that. We have to look at access issues, look at
skills issues and look also at use aspects. So the use part of
it included affordability of the services, and we see that in
most of the least Developed Countries, land locked Developing
Countries particularly because they don't have access to the sea
to the submarine cables.

       It is very difficult for them to provide service, so their
cost tends to go high and the bandwidth is limited. So that

limits the use of information and communication technologies, but also in terms of skill sets. If you go to most of these countries, the least Developed Countries, you will find that they at a tertiary education level they have limited skill sets in terms of using information and communication technologies. So that aspect needs to be strengthened in terms of capacity building.

But beyond that, I think we also have to shift from just digital divide to data divide, because data has become the new oil. And many companies, private sector are making billions of dollars out of data analytics. And that brings the issue of digital transformation, meaning that you find in many of our society many people who are displaced, they are unemployed, yet they are insurmountable opportunities elsewhere. So the skill sets have got to be sharpened and we have to focus on the real issue, and also describing digital divide in terms of the generality of the membership, ITU Member States or any country I think is a little bit wrong because we have to distinguish between the least Developed Countries with the handicaps that they have, the land locked Developed Countries with also the handicap they have, but also the island developing states, because when you go to small island developing states, the populations are really displace the everywhere, fragmented and providing service becomes a huge challenge.

So that's an issue, and also, we have to look at, I think, 66% of the geographical size in most of the least Developed Countries today is covered by 3G. So there has been great progress, but if you look also at the issue of Internet exchange centers, data centers, migration from IPv4 to IPv6, there is a huge challenge in terms of some of these countries, particularly all of the Developing Countries, and we have to now look beyond just the connectivity issue, but look at the ecosystem in a holistic manner and to try to address the handicaps that arise in terms of the health sector using ICTs for primarily delivery, education, financial inclusion and other services including environmental protection, because sustainable development has got three pillars, socio and economic and then environmental. Once we have done that, I think we will be on the right path to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

>> MODERATOR: Do we have any questions from the audience? No. Okay. Since we don't have questions from the audience, this is a great opportunity for the panelists to ask each other some questions, so I sort of, I think I will kick start this by asking the Czech minister here, the question that I asked earlier, I'm just curious to know a bit more about the measures being taken to bridge the digital divide. You talked about reaching out to the youth at a very young age to get them

integrated with new technologies, and you also talked about the elderly population. So I just wanted to know what other sort of measures, what other priorities does the Czech Government have to bridge the digital divide?

     >> CZECH REPUBLIC: Well, I think in Czech Republic is not the problem of connectivity because with the wireless connections we are almost covered. There is obstacles in the minds of the people. So I'm not sure if there will be fully, fully connected society because according to some studies, almost 15% of people who subscribe to the Internet stop to use it and it's very hard to persuade them to use modern technology. So I think the Government's plan is always also non-digital way how to communicate with the citizens and with the people. It's not questions about old people, my grandfather can use computer quite good, but I think it's a real fact that some people do not believe to technology, even if you as a Government or regulator push them to do it.

     So there should be somehow some skills with humans of people who will communicate, facilitate Government services with them off line way.

     >> MODERATOR: Yes.

     >> AUDIENCE: Thank you very much. Mrs. Bomba from Cote D'Ivoire Africa. One of the panelists talked about making better use of digital technology, that the most important is not to have that technology, but how to use it. So I would like to know what, how do they do it in each country?

     >> MEXICO: I completely agree that it's not the actual technology or the connectivity that matters but it's the content that's behind it and how the content is delivered. In our case, we have 120 educational centers that use technology, and what's at the heart of this is a very well trained facilitator and someone that can aid people that do not use technology in breaking the stigmas related to the use of that technology. Many people think that it's not part of their own socioeconomic segment, that it's too expensive for them, that why are they going to participate if they are already old. And what we try is to lead them by the hand and take them into the use of this technology in a productive way, and it has really been something that changes the mindset of the people we work with because you are working more with a question of self-esteem rather than the actual technology, and once they start unlocking to part of themselves they start learning how to learn. In the case of children, well, tactile technology allows you to reach children that are younger without the use of peripherals and what is also very important is how pertinent the content is for each of the age groups, and how are you going to, I guess, seduce a user into having an autonomous use of the technology in their own

time and that it becomes something that will either take them
into starting a business or studying something that might work
for their lives.
          >> Thank you very much, Cote D'Ivoire. Just to enlighten
you a little bit, we have a full-fledged project on capacity
building and we developed a platform called ITU Academy. Under
that programme we developed peer reviewed certified accredited
content. And a number of the universities are using part of
that content as part of a Bachelor's Degree or Master's Degree,
and you have access to that. You can participate in our
programs and they are free.
          The second part is that we run a con sell station of
centers of excellence. Each region we have six regions. Each
region is running about six centers of excellence on particular
topics, face to face and online. So if you have any questions
or know how to participate in this, please feel free to discuss
with me afterward.
          Thank you.
          >> MODERATOR: We have one question at the back.
          >> AUDIENCE: There is a question from the remote
participant Marcella Hong Kong, CEO of the EP3 foundation if
there is time. So he would like to ask about the ideas and
concepts that allow individuals and organisations to leverage
the value of their own data.
          >> MODERATOR: Leverage?
          >> AUDIENCE: Leverage the value of their own data.
          >> MODERATOR: Thank you.
          >> CLIFF SCHMIDT: I can give you one example that we do,
as I understand the question is to how can organisations and
individuals leverage the value of their own data. When we have
like these devices out in communities, there is two types of
data that we leverage. One is to know what are people actually
listening to, and how often are they listening to it so that we
can learn whether the 20-minute drama on health was actually
listened to all the way through or was it too long and were the
songs listened to frequently or the interviews, but there is a
second type, and that is the actual user feedback, getting,
hearing voices of people that you are trying to serve to find
out where you are wrong about what you thought was needed is
invaluable, and so one of the key things that we do is have a
record feature on here so that we can listen to what people are
asking for, and often we will find out in one case we found that
we were working with UNICEF and they wanted to tell parents not
to have their daughters married at age 14.
          And we heard back by listening to voices, we heard that the
parents were saying in our cases, we understand that. You don't
have to tell us that. The problem is teen pregnancy. That's

what's leading these young girls to end up getting married. So
if you want to help us, let's talk about teen pregnancy. That's
a way we are kind of listening, gathering data and things you do
can lead to more productive results.
    >> SOUTH AFRICA: Thank you, I wanted to take that
leveraging of data to the national level. Because I think many
Developing Countries are not in a situation where we have got
valleys and infrastructures and institutions, et cetera, banks
and access to capital that are allowing us to do it, and I think
creating a data governance environment, a regulated governance
environment especially as we are dealing with global platforms
and things that allow us to leverage that data, which is
essentially our data as citizens that is being used privately
for commercial purposes to get that back into the public domain
somehow so that Governments can use it for, you know, planning
or something, not just ICT, but to create a public good after
that, and I think that's a way that nations can actually begin
to deal with some of the global inequalities that we see around
data. So, for example, the artificial intelligence that's
happening, you know, the algorithms behind all of that are
creating enormous biases because they are simply not information
from Developing Countries being fed into the algorithms, they
are not being governed for diversity or equity or all of these
kinds of things. So, you know, you basically perpetuate
inequality without data intervention. As I say, it's an
increasingly complex world. We are not just regulating any
longer for connectivity from a rural spot or something like
that. We now have this complex environment that if we don't
want to perpetuate inequality, we really need to have this
privacy environment that will protect our data. We need to have
access to big data that we can use for public focus that we need
to set up Government frameworks, we don't have the luxury of
sorting out of infrastructure first.
    >> MODERATOR: Thank you. Do we have time for any more
questions? We do have time for more questions. No more
questions. Sure.
    >> Just one comment concerning data. While our statistics
indicate that as of today only about 13% of the whole big data
community is smart data is usable data and by 2020 maybe we will
have about 32%. So I think there is a big challenge and also an
opportunity for us to focus on analytics, but I think as the
previous speaker said, the big challenge with exploiting big
data is the issue of the individual's right to be left alone or
privacy. So I will give you an example. We developed a project
and the Vice Minister of Japan, we cofinanced it with Japan, a
project to mitigate the impact of epidemics and we develop add I
project on big data to address the challenge of Ebola to benefit

three west calf an countries, Sierra Leone, Liberia and New
Guinea. We came up where an application to follow people to
area and back if that person come from an area infested with
Ebola, you could wake up the probability the probability of that
person transitting to other persons. So they will quarantine
that area and try to isolate the problem. But also, the other
side benefit is that you can see the population flow from all of
the points in the country second by second. And you can design
broad networks based on that information by interpreting, but if
I am a businessman and I would like to set up a hypermarket or a
business and I want to estimate the demand, I could also use
that kind of information.

     So big data has great potential and coming with it the
Internet of Things with the billions and billions of devices
talking to each other without any human intervention, and if
that's an area where we need to focus in terms of building
capacity, not only human capacity, but also institutional
capacity building, but artificial intelligence also. There are
many applications that we should use, and gone or the days that
we will say this kind of.

     >> NEW ZEALAND: Technological trends are beyond reach. In
most cases you will find that it is a question of exploiting.
The data is already there. It is for us to collect the data
anonymize it, engage in analytics and do visualization and make
decisions based on that.

     >> MODERATOR: Thank you. I think what this session has
shown is that each of us have not just different but different
but also overlapping ideas of what the digital divide is and so
for a lot of people it is access, but with access slowly not
being a factor, we have moved to skills, we have moved to
connectivity, we have moved to data, and the value of data, and
the value of individuals in this Information Society.

     So I think what one of the things that we have achieved
here is sort of breaking this monolithic image of the digital
divide that we constantly think about that was termed 2030 years
ago and maybe it's time to update how we think about the digital
divide because we are all talking about it in different ways,
which is good, but maybe we now need to think about newer
definitions, updated definitions to really reflect the realities
on the ground. So I think that this conversation has been very
useful in bringing together this multiplicity of viewpoints that
we have and seeing how well as we move forward with the WSIS
process to synergize these a bit better, so we weren't separate
stakeholders but that we can come together as one voice to sort
of sort out these issues along the way.

     >> CLIFF SCHMIDT: He had a list of different ways we might
have he see the digital divide, it's not just the data, but the

content that's delivered in that connectivity and whether that's applicable.

>> MODERATOR: Yes, thank you. Okay. Thank you. So this session has been very good in terms of the diversity that we have, but also the fact that we were able to take audience questions as well. So the final summary will be provided during the concluding session tomorrow that is from 4:30 to 6:00 and once again I would like to thank you for being here and a special thank you to the panelists for being here today. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> MODERATOR: Good evening, everyone, we would like to get started for our very last session of the day. Welcome, everyone to this last session. My name is Moira Patterson. I work for IEEE and I'm happy to be here today facilitating this distinguished group of experts on the session 8 entitled inclusive necessary, access to information and knowledge for all. As the title says, the session will focus on themes related to inclusiveness, connectivity, and information access to all, and we look forward to a very interesting discussion here.

Before we get started, I would like to just summarize the format we will be following. This is different from how the WSIS poly sessions used to be in the past. The last two, three years they had a new format where we will be doing it in question and answer style. So each panelist will get four minutes to reply to two quos that I will be -- questions that I will be asking of them. If time permits, we will welcome to take audience questions. Please note there is a box for questions over to the side of the lectern. If you have questions, please bring them up and drop them there. Also note that all panelists have had the opportunity to submit policy statements. Those were sent to the Secretariat and will be included in the outcomes Document that will be posted online.

All right. So let's get started. First, we will start with the representative from Greece, welcome. And I do have some questions for you. We have the President of the Hellenic telecommunications and post commission with us, and in fact we are starting with a question that referenced your policy statement where you refer to people with disabilities and the importance of raising barriers to enable them to join as equal members of the Information Society. Can you give us a practical example of that? And then the second question will be a broader question, which is what are the main barriers to an Information Society for all?

>> GREECE: Thank you. I think I will try to reverse the order of the questions. Well, I would first say that one of the

goals of agenda 2030 for sustainable development is information and communication technologies for all. So indeed ICTs should be deployed to access knowledge and facilitate communication and dialogue without hampering alternative or traditional method of knowledge transmission. So we should emphasize that knowledge and its application are catalysts for any development and are an essential resource for the progress of societies all over the world. So ICT is exciting, but it is, it's social impact that makes it relevant. ICT is important when it reaches a global scale, when it affects our everyday lives.

Today no one can think working without email, traveling without booking online, buying something without searching the Web or making a payment without using E-banking. Our lives are so ICT-dependent and limiting our access to ICT limits our everyday options and overall possibilities. If we look to the future and consider limiting access to ICTs, this would mean that we limit ourselves from autonomous cars or Cloud health monitoring or mobile payments and many other interesting applications.

ICTs as a resource, we constantly need to safeguard and make it accessible to everyone, and we don't just need ICT resources, we need fast, efficient and accessibly priced ICT resources leaving in technologies like big data, art official intelligence, Internet of Things, industry driven economies. Big data will reach an order of about 400 exabyte in 2021. Unless somebody thinks that these hex or zettabytes are use until, we are already late on fiber deployment for micro companies and digital no mads. Bigger companies and large corporations will manage. We have a challenging to-do list to process. The technical and challenges related to the reliability and performance for these applications is staggering. Unless international collaboration is established, and a common language is established weak economies will be challenges and further deepening the digital gap of economic and social inequality. Inclusiveness and access to information for all is our goal. We need to support technological advancement but make sure none is left behind regardless of the context, national policies, market regulations for the potential of a single person to advance to do it and be more including or especially with regard to disadvantaged marginalized and vulnerable groups. A special reference should be made of more than one billion of the world population live with some form of disability or significant difficulty.

In practice this number is growing due to population aging and to the increase of chronic health conditions, therefore, we must consider addressing disability related guess advantaged as key parts of our priorities as is confirmed by the explicit

reference to persons with disabilities in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. Inclusiveness and access to information and knowledge for all is our goal and innovation is our tool. Supporting innovation is the proven one track path to democratization of practice. ICT is an extremely delicate and vital resource for our societies. Web site the next three years most of our business will be conducted in the Cloud and historically unprecedented amounts of data will need to cross our networks get stored and processed. We knee democratize access and innovation will be our tool. Challenges of that size can be only addressed at international level, so let's meet and discuss cooperation opportunities, exchange ideas and best practices, work together to democratize access to information and knowledge.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much for raising those important issues. Now, I would like to turn to our representative from Zimbabwe. We have the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Information communication technology postal and courier services with us. How far has Zimbabwe gone to achieve inclusive access to ICTs by both citizens and businesses as well? And secondly, what are the key highlights of your national strategy for a connected knowledge society?

>> ZIMBABWE: Thank you Moira. And I am actually pleased to be here and make a brief presentation. Thank you for your questions. In response, I would want actually to divide my response into three areas. The first one would look into the policies and the regulatory environment because in order for access actually to happen and be provided there must be a conducive environment created through policy and regulatory framework. What we have done is to modernize and devise our national ICT policy in line with technological developments. We have also made sure that the revision of the policy is done through consultations, so you involve the people who are actually affected by the policy and you know that ICTs are cross cutting.

So we invited everybody, and we consulted country wide to make sure that there is ownership of the policy at the end of the day. We also have taken into account risks and -- emerging risks and threats in the cyber environment so the policy actually speaks to all of that. The second segment which I think is very important is the communications infrastructure. So after creating a conducive environment which allows for investment and also free and fair participation by players, you need to then provide the necessary infrastructure. And in terms of infrastructure, we have also three categories in there, there is the national infrastructure and there is also need to provide with we are actually a land locked country, so there is need to

provide bandwidth from the undersea cables. The Indian ocean, there are two cables in the Indian ocean which we take bandwidth from and there is also one cable in the Atlantic Ocean where we take bandwidth from.

So this is actually the, this is the players to utilize the ICTs and improve access countrywide. You have seen the penetrations like mobile penetrations reaching 100.5%. You have also seen the optic fiber itself stretching to all corners of the country except the game parks where we use satellite if it's necessary. The last segment is actually promoting the use of ICTs for the use, I mean, for access by the citizens. In this segment, we have tried to create three areas which provide access, that is the establishment of community information centers in all districts country wide where people can access ICTs, they can actually download, they can even access E-government content and these community information centers have benefited a lot in terms of access.

There is school connected community project which are with ITU, that also tries to promote access. Most of all, we are trying to improve the ICT literacy in the country and it comes through this access. There is also a project which we are working with ITU. It also provides linkages and collaboration between doctors and patients. These are the three areas which I put our use to respond to the questions which you asked. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much for your contribution. And also for highlighting some of these important issues of ICT literacy and the multipronged approach that you are following. Next, we will turn to our representative from Ukraine who is the head of state agency for E-governance. In Ukraine there has been an improvement in the position in the global open data index. For the first time since the mesh you everment was started -- measurement was started in 2013, Ukraine is among the top 50 nations in this ranking and it is ranked 31st now. How did Ukraine manage to achieve this improvement? And then following on that, is there an interdependence between open data and between reforms conducted in your country?

>> UKRAINE: Thank you very much. Indeed Ukraine has demonstrated good economics in moving forward to increase openness and transparency in recent years. This is a result of though introduce invasion, collaborative efforts of the Government, institution to increase transparency and partnership with key stakeholders Civil Society, local Governments, academia and businesses. We consider open data as imperative for a single E-policy. Our goal is to increase equality and efficiency of data and create added value to Government business, scientists and every citizen benefits from the

openness of the society. So here a few examples how we did it.
Every year Ukraine develops open data roadmap which is guide in
Document created participation in all stakeholders. We build
this Document in line with principle of the international
charter of open data, which Ukraine joined in 2016.

This principle, principles are open by default, timely and
comprehensive accessible and disabled comparable in
interoperability, improve governance and citizen engagement, and
inclusive development and innovation. To achieve openness by
default introduce new legislation which enforced providing data
sets by national and local Government and clearly defines
requirements for this data. Accessibility and usability, here
Ukraine has developed and launched state open data portal. The
portal contains more than 25,000 data sets provided by state
boards and for the first time we in Ukraine opened a challenge
to simulate demand side of open data. We received 170
applications from society and financially supports to implement
the initiatives.

As to your question about independence between open data
and reforms, yes, we witness connection. We even have a model
which says E-governance is the key to reform in Ukraine and open
data an essential part of E-governance. Ukraine implement
utilization reform which brings more resources to authorities.
Open data provides citizens with more control over budget and
greater transparency in forming and spending of our budget
including local and national ones, and another administrative
ample is how open data creates services for business. State
registry of legal entities quote decisions land use are open to
the public in Ukraine. We as state agency support national
challenge. Uses data from open registry and monitoring
registration data of companies, checks contractors and protect
the company from corporate leadership. In conclusion, I would
like to say the implementation of reform is trust. Open data is
vital in modern prerequisite to building trust. Thank you.
        >> MODERATOR: Thank you very much for that contribution.
And now we will move on to a representative from the private
sector. In fact, we have a representative from Facebook with
us, the head of global connectivity policy and planning. I
would like to ask you about your inclusive Internet index study,
which Facebook really released. Based upon that study, what is
required for the Internet to be inclusive, and what were the key
take aways of that study? And then secondly, what is Facebook
doing to expand Internet inclusiveness?
        >> FACEBOOK: Thank you. So as you asked, two weeks ago we
released the second annual into what will be a long term study.
And we call it the inclusive Internet index. Actually they came
up with the name of it last year, the inclusive Internet index

because one of the things -- by the way, so last year we looked
at 75 countries. This year we looked at 86 countries. We look
at 57 indicators for each of the 86 countries, and unlike a lot
of these studies and indices, we make the data available
publicly so people can download it build their own models, do
their own analysis, and the economists came up with the phrase
inclusive Internet index because what became clear is that when
we did the analysis to have an inclusive Internet, people have
to not only have access to it, but be able to use the
applications and benefit from those applications.

     So it requires both supply side and demand side activities
and metrics to measure sort of an inclusive Internet. So a
couple of the top findings this year. First, good news, right?
Internet connectivity grew by 8.3% year over year, and in the
least Developed Countries working off of a smaller base, the
connectivity grew by 65% in one year. That's actually really
good news.

     In addition, last year we found there to be a gap, even
with people who are connected, we called it the under connected
gap, right, people who are connected with 2G but not 3G or 4G.
You cannot access and benefit from the applications with a 2G
skinny connection. You really need 3G or 4G and this year we
really saw 4G take off across the world and that gap while still
there is closing. We also found that mobile broadband was more
affordable, and we found that although there is a frustratingly
persistent gender gap, 80% of the countries there are more men
than women connected to the Internet, what we did find this year
with additional data and analysis is that countries that have
interventions focusing on gender inclusion have been successful.
So Namibia has a programme, U.K., Ireland and some others, but
those three countries actually year over year had some of the
best increases in female participation. And interestingly and
importantly, there are a number of emerging market countries
that did very well in the gender gap, although there is a gender
gap, but it's in favor of women, for example, in the Philippines
and in Brazil.

     We also this year for the first time did a survey which I
can talk about later in the Q and A because I only have 42
seconds left. So let me flip to some of the things we are
doing. We identified four areas for analysis, affordability,
availability, relevance and readiness, and on the availability,
what we found especially in the 2G to 4G gap, this under
connected gap, is that there is a lack of back haul. You cannot
have a high speed data connection if the back haul to the cell
tower is only a 2G or rather a 2 mega bit E1 skinny radio
connection. You have to have back haul.

     So some of the things that we are doing in partnering with

mobile operators is to provide co-investment for back haul to be able to solve that problem. Concrete example is we recently finished building a 780-kilometer fiber core network in partnership with airtel and BCS in rural Uganda so it will connect all of the airtel cell towers in that region fiber, and it's an open fiber so any operator is permitted to join as well. That's just one example.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much, and thank you for sharing examples to help visualize the work you are doing. Next, we will go to some of our Civil Society representatives here with us today. We have the Vice President for external relations from the international network of women engineers and scientists. I would like to ask you what are the key strategies that you are using to provide more inclusive access to information and knowledge for all, and then what are the priority actions that you will be working on the coming years to help reduce the digital divide?

>> Can you hear? Yes, thank you so much for the invitation. Indeed, I represent the International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists, which is a global network of organisations of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. We have over 50 organizational members, corporate members, university institutional members and all together we do represent 250,000 women in STEM in the world. Women are very underrepresented in STEM globally. Actually the gentleman from Facebook gave us a concrete example. Of course, this matters, as you all know, you all are aware of because STEM provides individuals opportunities for social, economic well-being because economic growth is predicted for stem roles and sectors in the future, and actually from now, because it is a matter of business and political necessity any way.

And it really matters for our industries, leadership, colleagues, young ones and for our future. Our priority actions are aligned with the NOS vision and ITU WSIS strategy principles that are to build better future worldwide through our engineering and scientific societies including men and women participation in ICTs. Yesterday, Monday the 19th we organized two successful workshops at the ITU and we were talking about ICTs and inclusive projects around the globe. We were supported by the Swiss Ambassador to the UN, the Benin republic Minister of ICTs together with key partner from the regulatory world, the IFT, Mexico and the Director of the BDT, Dr. Senau who I would like to thank here. The workshops put the light on the role of women engineers and scientist activities in implementing solutions for inclusiveness and access to the Internet, and ICTs for all. While bringing sound and sustainable economic development and contributing to poverty reduction strategies and

actions. Very concretely we had three outputs, number one,
International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists will
continue to work in collaboration across our global platform
with partners and Governments. We will provide expertise,
workshops and projects to support the engagement, recruitment
and retention of women in ICTs. Number two, we will share good
practice in ICTs for women and girls. We will provide programs
for mentoring for women and girls in ICT. Resources and
materials to reach all young people, technology and leadership
programs to empower women to be influencers, creators and
developers of ICTs, not only users of ICTs. Number three, in
U.S., International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists
will build on capacity campaigns to raise awareness at the
highest levels of gender issues in ICTs, and we call now on
Governments and policy makers to implement in the mainstreaming
in ICTs. The gentleman from Facebook just said that those
Governments who implement those, they are much more successful.
So let's do that, and we can help.
     Our members through regional networks and partners are
ready to help you right now and as we all now, empowering women
empowers everyone. Thank you for your attention.
     >> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. And you beat the clock
so thank you. And then we will move to our final representative
before we hopefully will have time to take a few audience
questions as well, so, please, if you haven't submitted a
question, think about it, and the box is up here. So in line
with WSIS's focus on youth, they have a representative from the
UN major group for children and youth here today. And the
questions are what role do young people have to play in their
communities to promote connectivity, inclusion, and to ensure
meaningful participation of all stakeholders? And then believe
give us examples of activities that ensure the inclusion of
young people that were done in the lead up to the 2030 Agenda
and since.
     >> UNMGCY: Thank You, Madame Chair, I'm Rya Kelly and I'm
representing the UN MGCY, general assembly mandated platform for
youth engagement in intergovernmental policy and processes at
the UN including the 2030 Agenda. We span more than 6,000
organisations across 170 countries, and these are just a few
thymes and reflections I want to share with you in the next few
minutes.
     We first want to highlight the inherent contribution
involved in technology. It both solves problems, but it also
creates them, and the tradeoffs which often are inadequately
considered provide that the benefits for technological
development are not shared equally amongst all around the globe.
So our vision for harnessing the potential information systems

and promoting meaningful inclusion involves five points. The first to so recognize and overcome structural barriers that perpetuate the digital divide or rights holders and critical segments society must engage in to plain centred ICT. As well as recognizing the value of diverse forms of knowledge, both formal, informal, traditional and indigenous. Secondly, we need to shift from a market-driven session with delivering new innovation to a more effective solution for innovating the delivery of existing proven sustainable technologies and knowledge. In this regard, locally-based innovation and capacities need to be supported and promoted. Recognizing knowledge disparities, sincere knowledge and technology transfer initiatives are needed and we think that the UN technology facilitation mechanism has the potential to fill this role.

Thirdly, to truly leave no one behind. Any vision to harness the SDGs should be based on the recognition, the technologies such as the Internet are global public goods and should not be subjected to proprietary interests. Incentives must be aligned to support both STI capacity and democratize access including open access to software and hardware, upholding Net Neutrality laws and making publicly funded research easily accessible to all. Fourth acknowledgment of technology justice as an integral part of development justice. Investments and information systems should be informed by evidence on participatory based assessments to provide an array of environmentally sound, socially just and culturally sensitive and economically equitable technology options in line with development agendas and capacity building measures.

This is the only possible through incentive and anticipate fore technology governance frameworks that ensure ICTs serve the 2030 Agenda and interests of those who would otherwise be left behind. Finally, we call for increased transparency to ensure that data practices of states and corporations do not violate civil liberties, privacy, socioeconomic rights of individuals or harm universal access to basic services such as healthcare and education.

Attaining these recommendations will require a paradigm shift away from linear siloed thinking towards a more dynamic system-based effort. We cannot perpetuate a growth centric economic paradigm that uses people and planet as incidental externalities. Young people play a central role in reorienting discussions and decisions in ways that integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development and move toward a circular economy. With the time we have here, we must move beyond initiating dialogue and to make an impact. One way to start is by establishing dedicated institutional spaces for youth-led mechanisms in the follow-up and review of the WSIS Action Lines

working closely with other constituencies within the ITU as is
done in other human frameworks. This gives us hope and
continued motivation to engage in these discussions. Thank you
for recognizing the valuable contribution made by youth, and we
look forward to engaging with all of you throughout the course
of this week and indeed beyond. Thank you.
     (Applause).
     >> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Now that we have heard
from all of our panelists, I have received one audience question
already, and I think we can delve right in, and see where the
debate takes us. So the question from the audience is what can
the telecom regulator do to increase the awareness of the role
of ICT in achieving SDGs and with whom should regulators
cooperate to achieve this? Do we have nip who would like to
respond, what could regulators do to help raise awareness.
     >> Thank you. Thank you, Moira. The regulator plays a
very important role when it comes to increasing awareness
because they are the ones who manage the sector in total. And
the best thing they can do is to rule out awareness campaigns
country wide in communities explaining the technologies which
will be relevant at the time and also sensitize the users on
ethical use of the technologies. They can also explain modern
trends that will be coming so that the users are informed,
better informed on how they can use the new gadgets. I think
they play a very important role because they are the ones who
know. Above all they are the ones who regulate the technology.
So I think it is within their purview to sensitize and promote
awareness among the citizens and users of the technologies.
     >> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. I see another
respondent. As a recovering regulator having been a regulator
for 20 years in a previous life at the USFCC, I think that there
is, you know, a limit, there is important role for the telecom
regulator, but it's limited because when we look at the data
from our inclusive Internet index study, we are looking at both
the supply side, which is the networks, the availability, how do
we get from 2G to 4G? How do we roll out the broadband and by
the way, the regulators have been extremely helpful when we have
been doing projects like I mentioned with the back haul in
Uganda or the work that's being done at the World Radio
Conference to make more spectrum available? So there is really
an essential role on the network side, the supply side.
     But when we look at the demand side, we also as part of the
study look at readiness and relevance, and relevance, for
example, we look at and we identified four types of content that
really are the demand drivers. First, there needs to be local
content and local language. There is absolutely a role for
Government to help the private sector in every country to do

that. And then there are three types of relevant content of which are probably more private sector, one of which is clearly within a role of Government. The two in the private sector are E-commerce and E-entertainment. Those are real drivers, but Government has to set the right framework, especially for E-commerce, and things like mobile payments and making sure that you can have e-commerce.

But the thirst and one of the most important drivers of adoption in Developing Countries are E-gov applications. It's the Government and this is where the latest data from Ukraine is quite quitting with your -- exciting with your open data. What we found is that E-government applications and that is the role of the Government, maybe not the Telecom regulator, but broadening the question what is the role of Government. Government as an enabler is extremely important and when it comes to E-gov applications, healthcare, application, Government information about Government programs, all of the various Government activities, that is a real driver.

That gets people to adopt and use. So I think there is a really important role there as well on the supply side as a regulator but also on the demand side.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you.

>> Would you permit me just one minute to answer to that question from the talent management point of view of the regulator, I think the regulator also acts as a modern actor of change in his country. I would express that, of course, he has a key role of external communication and internal communication. We had just recently signed an agreement with IFT institute, the regulator of Mexico, and they are bringing real corporate social responsibility policy in their country. They are 1200 employees, very little rate of engineers. So they want more engineers, they want more women engineers, and they just started a wonderful programme on the leadership for women empowerment in their own country. It's about content. It's about usage, but it's also about development of services, and regulation rules within the IFT, Mexico, but also towards the public.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. With that, we have received a few more questions, but due to time, I will have to keep it very short. And first a very specific question for the gentleman from Zimbabwe, in fact this comes from someone from Europe who wants to learn more about the community information concept you shared about, and is interested in how many have been built and are they reaching the underserved areas and also curious about who is funding this?

>> ZIMBABWE: Thank you for the question. We have the actually turned onto the post offices baud the postal business is going down. And the post offices are located in communities

country wide so we are revamping the post offices into community information centers where community people can access all ICTs at one stop, which is actually post office. So in terms of how many we have done, right now we are actually, we have crossed the 150 mark and we would want to do all of them, which is actually 230 to start with. Because these are already existing post offices. But in addition to that, we are also doing containerized community information centers. These are now for communities -- earmarked for communities where in the past there was no post office. So the containerized community information centers this year, we should actually establish about 60. So that will be in addition to 150. That's what we actually have done, and they are very popular because we are also conducting training, ICT literacy upgrade which I spoke about, and also developing databases about the community, community uniqueness so that the indicators which ITU required can actually easily be obtained from there and also other statistical information about the communities.

    >> MODERATOR: Thank you very much for sharing a little more information on that. Definitely very interesting and impactful. So I have been informed that interpreters are leaving, and actually we have already, I think, cut off the online questions due to the time limit. So I wanted to actually only read the only other comment/question I have received which was really a challenge from the audience. Somebody noted that there is a low number of women on the panels, and was asking what the organisations represented will do to change that in the future or to have more women in their representations? So we will take one or two answers to that and then wrap up.

    >> I would also like to expand their comment on the lack of use in many of the panels and discussions that are happening during this week, but at the UNMGCY I myself am representing but we have two other girls and they will both be facilitating a side event each on Thursday afternoon and on Friday morning, so if you want to see much more youth engagement but also much more engagement of women, then do indeed look out for our side events and come along, but I would like to expand that to not just a gender bias but also an age bias. Thank you.

    >> I will say at the end.

    >> So I actually think something that the European, in organising panels, something that the European Commission has done is they have said they will not participate in panels unless there is gender balance in the panel, and I think that's been extremely effective, and so, you know, and by the way, one of the -- there is a panel tomorrow morning on gender issues. I'm going to be on that, so I may be part of the balancing. But Doreen Bogden from the ITU has been one of the real big

advocates for years on gender and tech. gender in STEM, now with the equals organisation, and I know that she has pushed very, very hard so that all of the various panels within the ITU and have been much more balanced and I think it's extremely important.

And also, because in terms of more women being involved, it also goes to the youth issue because of, you know, if you go back with people that look like me, it's an older generation and there were fewer women involved then and there are more women now and they need to be given opportunities even if they are more junior and youth and then that will over time end up in much more balance. But it has to be throughout through, and it has to be very conscious.

>> So I believe, as I said, that the International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists can help a lot. We showed and, again, I'm saying that we did that with regulators within internally we can propose services. You don't have to pay. We are NGO, ECOSOC recognized status to the UN. We have been working for many years with UNESCO because education is key. Myself, I'm an engineer. We need to be visible. I know that the Harry Potter fans like the invisibility cloak, but women engineers and scientists, we give the invisibility cloak. Please help us, and we are not, it's not a fight against men, again, it's we need to work together as you gentlemen said, we need to work together.

We are more than 50% on this planet. Only 28% of researchers are women. In Europe, we still have 18% at the same job, same position, same time working, 18% pay gap. In Latin America, it's worse. In Switzerland, we have got only 10% women engineers. And the list is very large. And we have got solutions. We don't need to wait for another generation. Please, we need to act now, and I'm not a young engineer. I have got 25 years background. I have been working in the industry and service, et cetera, so we are here. It's just a matter that we need to take off the invisibility cloak. And the ITU who have been proposing many things to ITU for things and still we have only one are two women. When one is the facilitator and the other one is the expert out of six men. So, I mean, it's up to you, ITU, but also to the ITU members to put on the floor those members who are women.

It's not only depending on the NGOs or the members. It's a collective work. So and we are here to help. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you for the offer of help, and please, everyone, join me in giving a round of applause to our six distinguished panelists we have today.

(Applause).

We will be providing a summary of this session tomorrow

afternoon at 4:30 until 6:00. Thank you again for attending and your interest. Thanks to the interpreters who worked hard on a long day, and there is a reception hosted by Switzerland following this I believe in the ITU building. Oh, right here. And so please enjoy the rest of the event here. Thank you very much.

(Adjourned at 1751).

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