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WSIS FORUM 2019
APRIL 9, 2019
9:00 A.M
OPENING CEREMONY

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    (music).
    >> Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Please take your
seats, we'll start in two minutes.
    Good morning, dear ladies and gentlemen, we would like to
request you to please take your seats of the we would about to begin
the Opening Ceremony of WSIS 2019. Will you please take your seats?
    Good morning, again, ladies and gentlemen. At the beginning
of the Opening Ceremony, I would like to thank all of you for your
presence here and for the appreciation you are giving to the WSIS
Forum.
    Now, I will start by -- (audio feedback).
    Now, it is my pleasure to invite one of the most important
actors, and at the same time supporter, of the WSIS process,
Mr. Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General to deliver his speech.
    (Applause).
     >> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you. I will be very efficient
and get to the point immediately. Excellencies, ambassadors,
ministers, our executive managers of private sector companies,
NGOs, partners, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. Welcome to
this WSIS Forum 2019 Opening Ceremony.
    Allow me to particularly mention a few individuals on the
podium that I have head of three UN agencies from my sister
organizations to join me, so, I have Executive Director of ITC

Arancha Gonzales. Good morning. I understand she's sick this morning and has just come to join us for this opening and then might have to rush to see the doctor, and welcome to join us.

And I also have my new friend from the beginning of this year, that is Jesse the executive from the United Nations Technical Bank come to join us, and I'm also very pleased to get another senior manager of two other UN agencies and that the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD and Assistant Secretary-General of WMO. Welcome to join us. Of course, I have some other colleagues, senior colleagues of other UN agencies, in particular those chair or co-chair organizations of this group that manage our WSIS process.

So, 10 years ago we set out to make this Forum more inclusive, more action focused, and more partnership oriented. For those who are not aware of this history, I would like to just give you some brief information.

The WSIS Forum started -- actually not. It was not the name of the WSIS Forum. It was a WSIS Cluster Event in 2006 after the second affair of WSIS in Tunisia, November 2005. At that point each UN agency organized their own activities and we put all the activities together so we called it WSIS Cluster Event in Geneva.

Since then, the proposals from participants to improve our internal coordination, and then we jointly prepare our program to invite you to come to our WSIS event; therefore, in 2009, we change the name from WSIS Cluster Event to WSIS Forum. Therefore, this year we celebrate our 10th Anniversary of WSIS Forum.

I look around this meeting room and find a lot of familiar faces for WSIS not only from 2009 but even from 2006, and to this event, I appreciate very much your participation, but also, I find many new faces so I welcome you to this WSIS Forum 2019.

None of this would have been possible without our co-organization at the UN level, the UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP, together with ITU we form four members of the group. Thank you.

We are joined by more than 30 UN agencies. This year more than 3,000 participates from over 150 countries will participate in what has become leading ICT development event in the world.

All week we have you hearing from some of the most important voices, from government, from private sector, from academia, and from Civil Society. But equally important, we will share successes and learn from winners and champions and many others from our business, knowledge that we can take forward to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and deliver on the promise of the Digital Economy.

Just a few months ago at our Plenipotentiary Conference in Dubai, they called for alignment between the WSIS Process and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They reaffirmed a shared vision of an information society where information and communication technologies enable and accelerate, social,

economic, and sustainable development for everyone.

This vision is within reach. Our latest statistics show that more than half of the world population now uses the Internet for the first time in history. This is a moment of disparities and opportunity, and hope it allows us to come together in the street of this forum to come together to leverage the power of ICTs and advance SDGs and WSIS Action Lines.

As we mark the 10th Anniversary, let's remember that this decade has seen a period of extraordinary growth and progress for ICTs. Peoples' lives have been transformed with the emergence of artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, 5G, and other new technologies. The next decade, we are continuing to bring enormous opportunities. We at ITU are at this digital revolution. Take radio communications for example, ITU Member States, we are together in Egypt this October and November for the much anticipated ITU World Radio Telecommunication Conference 2019, where they will decide on the globally harmonized spectrum the location for 5G services and other services that hold great potential for human progress.

But with the progress comes challenges, so today I'm calling on you to work together across the sectors and the industries to make technology work for development and for everyone. It is up to all of us to ensure that ICTs and these emerging technologies continue to improve the force for good.

Before I close, I would like to thank the United Arab Emirates, the Gold Partner of this as well as Saudi Arabia, a Gold Partner, and as you all know the WSIS Forum is entirely on voluntary contributions, so from the slide you will see those who give us sponsorship to allow us to organize this event with much more comfortable environment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their nice, generous support. I think that we should have a right to show the names of the sponsors with my slide. It's over there? It's a little bit embarrassment for me. We're in ITU and the slides are not following my speech. (Laughing). You will see that later on. Let me continue.

Year after year, you have contributed toward strengthening the outcomes of the WSIS Forum. Please, please let us give them a big round of applause. Thank you.

(Applause).

The outcomes of the WSIS Forum contributed to global processes, including the upcoming United Nations High-Level Political Forum. We can take the UN family and others to walk side by side to continue exploring how to be more open and inclusive information society. It's a testament to our shared commitment to the future implementation of WSIS and guiding as we continue to align the WSIS process with the SDGs in an effort to connect more people than ever to the benefits of the Digital Economy.

I wish you all a very successful WSIS Forum 2019 this week and I look forward to hearing of your progress over the course of this week. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> Thank you, Mr. Zhao, for your vision and motivation. As you're aware the WSIS Forum is co-organized by UNCTAD, UNDP, and I would like to ask the Deputy Secretary-General from UNCTAD to please deliver her opening remarks.

>> ISABELLE DURANT: I will speak French. Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I'm very pleased to have this opportunity to participate with you in the opening of WSIS 2019. UNCTAD is very happy to organize this event and happy to welcome the efforts of the organizers who have undertaken excellent work in the last few weeks to organize this event. This forum is opening a few weeks after the e-Commerce Week, which finished on Friday. The name was from Digitalization to Development, and like WSIS, we had more than 1,500 participants from all areas of digitalization. Discussions held during this week highlighted that growth, increased productivity, and human development are more and more dependent on the level of integration into the digital economy.

In this regard, this Forum and the UN Group of Information Society of which UNCTAD is a member have quickly highlighted that ethics plays an important role in implementing the SDGs. It's true these technologies offer absolutely unique opportunities and allow us to remain in constant contact with the rest of the world, have access to new markets, have expertise online, have trade relations with those customers that are on the other end of the planet. It offers new possibilities of social economic interactions and this connectivity is not uniform. It can pose challenges to our societies, so the collection use and mass use sale of data threatens our private life and threatens our privacy and security information concerns and destabilizes our institutions as we have often witnessed in the last few years.

More and more, it's often poorly organized and these technologies exacerbate the inequalities between countries and within countries. There are disparities between access and use of technologies between developed and developing countries. There are also digital gaps within countries themselves, between rural and urban areas, between large and small enterprises, young people and the elderly, and between men and women.

We, in this room, we're the generation confronting the challenges and the emerging generation and the one that will be have the digitalization which will inherit what we will do or what we will not do. We, therefore, need to be as creative as possible, as ambitious as possible to tackle the challenges. In this regard the issues of connectivity are very important but not enough. More people are connected around the world but is does not mean the gap

is bridged in terms of competences and distribution of gains and that everybody is benefiting from these technologies.

To ensure this, we need to do more and more quickly. We have to establish adequate regulatory framework, develop required competencies, and develop strategies to generate value which will benefit all. Results in terms of development will depend to a great extent on the capacity of countries to integrate digital economy and to be a part of it.

I use used a comparison last week given to me by somebody else. When we are doing kayaking, we need to ensure that we use the currents to determine our trajectory, otherwise we will not go in the right direction. I think this is what the digital economy is about. It's not the lack of will. A few weeks ago, at the Ministerial Conference for the Economic Commissioner of Africa we heard a lot of interest that had been kindled by this e-commerce week that just finished up, so in fact, in the developing countries there is high-level interest as well. And also, something that is very important for us is rural data. Data -- data formed the engine of the economy and they're a very precious resource as well, and one that DACA analyzed and sliced and diced and sources of information that as much as possible increase our knowledge and profits for company as well, but data also must be regulated depending on the type of data that we're talking about, of course, the data that is picked up from the consumer can give rise to some concerns when it comes to privacy, property, ownership, and also if we see that there are a few big companies that have the lion's share of the market also something is very worrying, so we have to focus more and more on the way in which we actually collect data, use data, and protect data as well, and also the way in which we can actually draw maximum amount of value from the data as well, profit from it.

Also, public policy is very important. If you look at statistics, very often what we have is things are simply partial, a lot of knowledge there is lacking. So what we have to do is better understand the present and future development data, and to understand the development, we have to better measure things and evaluate as well, so it's crucial that we can put in place a sound base of data, so we have to break down data on the basis of gender, the gender divide, and also in accordance with other factors as well to see actually where we stand.

And so we have to have proper partnerships for the use of ICTs. We have a list of different indicators in this in favor of sustainable development. We have to have reliable data, relevant data. These data are crucial if we want to make sure our decision-makers can craft the proper policies that will make it possible to have more sustainable development and also an information society that's more inclusive in nature.

So the digital factor in the services development is in a way

an area that has to be pioneered and we have to blaze new trails and UNCTAD will work to see there is proper agreement between various decision-makers, development partners, and also ethical committees as well. We do this, of course, this week and we will be increasing the diversity of the various actors that are playing a role here, and so UNCTAD is one of the co-facilitators with the ICT and the organizations with the strategy of WSIS Forum in favor of electronic commerce.

And so the organizations play a very important role to spur the development of the developing countries and their financial inclusion as well, different foundations, and the private sector as well. And finally, I would like to mention what is done by the Commission of Science and Technology in favor of development, UNCTAD provides their secretary, and they'll be meeting next month in Geneva, and so their work can help us better assess the risks and opportunities of emerging technologies such as Big Data, artificial intelligence, that play a very important role in our discussion of the information society and that's also the case here in this forum.

During the World Internet Forum in November last, the President said the need to have the International Expert Group to look at climate change in the area of digitalization. The CSTE should be the place to anticipate and highlight the risks and opportunities that exist and highlight the role of scientific knowledge in this area. Once again, I underscore the area that UNCTAD is resolved to help developing countries in efforts they're deploying when it comes to technological growth and in favor of more inclusive and sustainable growth as well, and I rest assured that this forum will contribute there too. Thank you for your kind attention.

(Applause).

>> Thank you for your words. We have the United Arab Emirates and the forum is a specifically sustainable event and this perspective to honor all of our partners. I invited, Excellency, Majed Sultan Al Mesmar, Deputy Director General, Telecommunication Sector, United Arab Emirates to take the floor.

>> MAJED SULTAN AL MESMAR: Your Excellency, Secretary General of the ITU, Mr. Houlin Zhao, Ministers, Ambassadors, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, a very well welcome to all of you in the opening segment of WSIS Forum 2019.

It has been a great honor and delight to support this successful event again this year. We're particularly proud of the WSIS Forum and contribution of information exchange, manage creation, and fostering partnerships.

Today is the 10th Anniversary of the WSIS Forum. Every contributor, sponsor, participant, exhibiter, and delegations should cherish this achievement.

We, UAE, share a similar message of sustainable development,

happiness for humanity as a whole, taking forward these values I would like to share some highlights of the UAE efforts and policies in areas related to our present world.

The UAE prospect of future has always been an integral part of our career. Today we have a national strategy for the fourth revolution and strategy for artificial intelligence which is the cornerstone of the UAE Centennial Plan 2031, it has other things to adopt technology and services and allows data by 100% by year 2031.

Our effort of that comprehensive digitalization, we have developed an in-house version of the digital maturity model, which we are applying at the federal and local government with the aim of making digital transformation a choice for sustainability in the post-oil era.

And now with this transformation, the Government of the UAE, has adopted a Digital Transformation Strategy to transfer 50% of government transactions to the Blockchain platform by year 2021.

As of this year of 2019, any new investor can establish a business in less than 15 minutes using an integrated bundle of services called in Arabic which means start your business in which the benefit of digital signature and seamless exchange of data.

As for the telecommunication infrastructure that TRA has launched a joint plan with the private sector to develop telecommunication networks to go with the new technologies and broadband services building the era of Smart Cities and intensive data transfer.

The UAE is one of the first countries in the region to launch the 5G services, aiming to meet the equality of new services and emerging technologies such as IoTs, intelligent transfer systems, and other smart services.

In this regard, we have achieved the top rank when it comes to further to the home coverage index and achieved the 12th position in mobile and mobile broadband coverage. The UAE has also achieved the first position in ICT and efficiency index in the World Economic Forum Report. The UAE Government is opening all doors for building a digital future depending on the capabilities of its people as well as millions of expatriate residents that have come to our country to realize their dreams.

We are encouraging our public by adding the people factor to the concept of public, private partnership, and now we call it public, private people partnership.

That's the fourth model. In this regard is the application of direct participation enabling our citizens to take part in the parliament discussions by using the ICT channels. Last but not least, I would like to invite all delegates to experience our journey this Thursday when our country workshop -- our country workshop focuses on government efforts in providing the utmost country

experience happiness for citizens.

When it comes to the future, our progress, when it comes to the people with special needs, and in fact we start calling them people of determination rather than people of disabilities. Respected delegates, our efforts have just started and we should not stop until we achieve our goals. I wish you a fruitful and benefit WSIS 2019 Forum. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> Thank you, Mr. Mesmar, for your kind support for the WSIS process and in particular to the WSIS Forum. Without those, the WSIS would not be such a great success. Thank you very much.

This year we have added a new category, the category of Gold Partner and a Gold Plus Partner and so UAE was the Gold Plus Partner this year.

The next speaker is Saudi Arabia. We would like to invite the Governor of CITC to please deliver his opening remarks. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> ABDULAZIZ BIN SALEM AL-RUWAIS: Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I give my speech in Arabic so please switch to the interpretations.

Excellencies, the Secretary General of ITU, Mr. Zhao, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, may the peace of God be upon you all.

I have the pleasure of addressing you on the 10th Anniversary of the World Summit on the Information Society. The appropriate platform for all stakeholders to take stock of developments related to the implementation of the summit outcomes and discuss how they can contribute in achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

Ladies and gentlemen, technology has changed the world standards. It has reshuffled the basis for progress. It has created a new concept for international competitiveness that does not rely anymore and only on natural resources. It rather draws on bringing resources and the capacity for innovation and creation.

So, the Kingdom's 2030 Vision, the Kingdom has opened the door of the future before its citizens, it has prepared the environments of innovation and entrepreneurship.

The new plans and vision of the Kingdom will be supported by the fact that it is one of the largest 20 economies of the world and it is the biggest ITC market in the Middle East and Africa behind being at the heart of the Arab and Islamic worlds.

Out of those, we have embarked on the journey of quantum leaps on competitiveness. Around 90% of the Kingdoms today are covered by 4G technology and we are preparing also this year to launch the 5G services all around the Kingdom.

The world reports have shown an increase in the average speed of mobile Internet uploading by more than 600% in the past two years

to reach currently 31 megabytes per second going beyond the world average that is today at 25.27 megabytes per second.

We are working today to enforce our digital infrastructure in the Kingdom by connecting 3.5 million houses, schools, health centers, through optical fibers by 2020, and this to establish smart and connected societies.

Ladies and gentlemen, today in the Kingdom and in only three minutes, you can get a trade license. You can obtain a legal proxy in 10 minutes only. You can get a passport in 24 hours and the like. All this by pressing just one button through the Smart Devices without the need of addressing government entities.

In another success story, the Kingdom has redefined the principle of interaction in health systems. Today the patient can connect electronically with his physician anytime, anywhere, through an application called the e-health application. And through this application, 1.4 million online medical consultations have been given to date.

Ladies and gentlemen, there is no doubt that at a time where technology has provided us with a number of digital solutions and benefits to serve mankind, yet its uses have been accompanied by a number of threats. Privacy, information confidentiality, the security and protection of it have become a concern for everyone. We are looking forward to intensifying our efforts and working together to remove all concerns and fears threatening the security of networks and investing therein, and to find a more stable and secure digital environment that would protect the investments of countries and it would keep pace with technology.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has efficiently contributed and participated in all international institutions operating in the ITC Sector. The best is the permanent presence at the heart of all strategic trends that are related to the reinforcement of technology and the chances of their dissemination. It has reinforced its role in supporting development and the welfare of the people.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, through the membership in the ITU Council and Commission on Science and Technology for Development, so it will reinforce those efforts and support the fulfillment of Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of WSIS outcomes.

I hope that God may guide us in ensuring the success of this forum, and thank you and may the peace of God be upon you all.

(Applause).

>> Thank you, Saudi Arabia, our Gold Partner. Now, it is my pleasure to invite to provide her speech Ms. Arancha Gonzales, Executive Director ITC, you have the floor.

>> ARANCHA GONZALEZ: Thank you very much indeed. Good morning to you all. I thank Mr. Zhao for bringing me here. It was

launched, we witnessed the three revolutions, a digital one that is affecting the way we produce, the way we work, it's way we consume; an ecological one because we're becoming more conscious of the final boundaries of our planet and social ones where citizens around the world demanding better equality of life, less inequalities, and more freedoms and rights.

In this we focus on the community of the United Nations pledge to work together to Leave No One Behind. We are here because we believe in the power of technology if it is properly harnessed to respond to these challenges by leaving no one behind.

To help us achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, I have lots of facts on my papers of what has changed in the last 10 years, but some figures really struck me.

1 in 3 of the world's population now own a smartphone. Electronic almost today is now 15% of international trade in goods. Globally, online retail sends 20% of consumer purchasing. Those facts, those are also the stark reality that 50% of the world population is not connected to the Internet.

We know that Internet penetration in Northern Europe is almost 95% but it's only a few% in northern Africa. And only 50% in central Asia. And it's not coincidence that those regions that are furthest from reaching the Sustainable Development Goals are those who are less on the digital highway.

So if we are to selectively meet the targets contained in the SDGs during the next decade, one of our priorities has to remain to connect the unconnected to this global good of data information and intelligence.

But we should not stop at connectivity. We also need to use digital for more local value creation. Underlying every SDG is a digital solution and even some that have not yet been created, whether it is an SDG aid focused on descent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation or in SDG 17, which is in part highlighted the need to significantly increase the exports of developing countries. They are digital solutions that can encourage progress.

Working with staff through the connect UN platform for buyers and sellers have seen 7,000 taken up the opportunity for e-training leading to many of them successfully listing their products for e-commerce opportunities.

Digital trade can overcome boarders just like our interventions in the State of Palestine where training in e-skills has led to Palestinian youth secured 10 times more sales by provision of digital services with refugees and entrepreneurs.

This is why it matters that a group of countries have an electronic commerce across the road because electronic commerce also meets global rules of the game and it matters that all countries can help craft these rules of the game, and it matters that you are

responsible for ICT help your trade colleagues with your expertise in areas that will be fundamental to this discussion on electronic commerce, data protection, security of electronic payments, electronic signatures, consumer protection, and the list goes on, so please do help your colleagues on the trade side because they need your expertise.

When you mix the digital revolution with the economic empowerment of women you have a very powerful cocktail. Through our work on She Trades around SDG 5 to promote the empowerment of women, through our work with ITU under the Equals Coalition we have seen digital offers route to markets are greater than traditional forms of trade. Afterall, the share of online business for women entrepreneurs is double that of traditional forms of trade, so e-commerce is helping women participate in international trade maybe because you don't see who sells and you only care about what she sells or he sells.

Digital solutions can also help us reduce our carbon footprint and meet SDG 12 focused on responsible production and consumption as we have seen with our online platform Sustainable Map which helps thousands of small producers in over 180 countries better understand sustainable standards and connect with buyers.

So, we know that the ITC that investing in micro, small, medium enterprises will help us achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, but investing in helping explore and exploit the benefits of ICT toward the 2030 Agenda. In the 10 years of existence, WSIS has placed a spotlight on the transformation, on the transformative power of digital.

In the next 10 years, we must focus on ICT as the game changer for the global goals ensuring that small businesses have their rightful place. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> Thank you, Ms. Gonzales, and highlighting the need for digital and digital skills for local value creation. We would like to now invite Dr. Nikhil Seth, the Assistant Secretary General and Executive Director of UNITAR. Please.

>> NIKHIL SETH: Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let me start first by thanking the ITU Secretary-General, Houlin Zhao, for his leadership and for the energy he brings to collect the UN System, especially together on the successful and strong alignment of the WSIS Forum with the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. This year the WSIS Forum is celebrating the 10th Anniversary which is a tribute to your leadership, Houlin Zhao; and of course, it will continue to provide a strengthening platform for a just and equal information society for all stakeholders.

The 2030 Agenda is a roadmap towards achieving sustainable and inclusive development for all, and like the other milestone agreements which were signed off on in 2015, including the Paris

Climate Change Agreement, it frames humanity's aspirations for more equal, for more sustainable, for more just, and for more peaceful societies everywhere.

This is an ambitious agenda for our world which will be achieved in no small measure by the full implementation of the WSIS Agenda. This Forum that we are in today is a central venue for the global community to reflect on the developments, the implications, and opportunities of information and communication technologies to act collectively to bring the benefits to all.

As we look around the world today, the challenges in implementation have grown in scale and grown in urgency. Just looking at greenhouse gas emissions, they have increased record levels since we signed off on the Paris Agreement in 2015. Biodiversity laws and the state of the world's oceans are deplorable. Political and social conflict is pervasive. The world is not doing well on global indicators of hunger, of health, of education, of growth, of employment, and sustainable infrastructure. If we have to reach the SDGs in the 11 years that remain, we clearly have to urgently scale up all actions to get to where we want to get to create the world we want by 2030.

The potential of the ICTs and ICT revolution in both scaling up and in responding urgently is truly phenomenal. Information communication technologies are key enablers for sustainable development bringing new opportunities and solutions to global challenges providing the means to reach more people, including those who are most remote and have the greatest impact.

The ringside seat during the development of the SDGs, I had one, and I was struck by the importance given to the potential of the ICTs to achieve each and every one of the SDGs, starting with the goal of ending poverty in all of its forms everywhere. The powerful example thereof financial inclusion to raise rates of growth empirically evidenced in so many countries, but 2-3% points a year is a remarkable statistic which I wanted to reflect upon.

New ICT technologies and the role of the digital sector offer opportunities to make our societies economically more productive, socially inclusive, and environmentally sustainable.

Knowledge societies connected in new, fast, and dynamic ways through digital space will be empowering like never before.

In the spirit of the 2030 Agenda, Internet and digital technologies, if well managed, we provide the means to reach the furthest first, one of the basic principles enshrined in the 2030 Agenda.

Technologies can be true democratizers connecting the furthest and most remote, facilitating trade as was just said, similarly stimulating entrepreneurship and accelerating employment and gender equality while realizing this we must also be sensitive in our policy-making and leadership to ensure that we strive towards

inclusivity in the access to information and knowledge for all bridging the digital divide.

While, yes, today billions are connected, there are billions who remain not connected. At UNITAR, the organization I have a privilege to lead, we have a training institution which focuses on learning for knowledge and capacity building and we feel people's attitudes will change only if they start viewing things differently by realizing what it means to be able to apply these new technologies more meaningfully.

We recognize how important the Internet has become in disseminating knowledge and providing training opportunities and in changing peoples' mindsets and we're committed to working with the ITU, the private sector, and other key partners to provide access to the Internet.

In my organization, we design and deliver innovative training to address the needs of individuals of organizations and institutions. We have used the network and innovative processes and conduct research on innovative learning strategies, approaches, and methodologies, including by the use of ICTs for learning.

We advise and support governments, UN, and other partners, with technology-based application and knowledge-related services. We train over 40,000 participants online every year through 130 e-learning courses we use. And e-learning allows us to reach and affect the lives so many people that we would otherwise not be able to reach and is therefore a vital pillar of our work.

We look forward to participating in this forum and in seeing how institutions like UNITAR we can support in the further promotion of ICTs to promote inclusive development. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> Thank you very much to the Executive Director of UNITAR for his kind words. Now, it is my pleasure to invite to take the floor Mr. Wenjian Zhang, Assistant Secretary General, WMO. Sir, the floor is yours.

 >> WENIJAN ZHANG: Thank you. Dear, Houlin Zhao, the Secretary-General of ITU, and others, ministers, colleagues, friends, good morning.

First of all, I would like to convey the strongest support from the sector to the ITU the great leadership for organizing the WSIS Forum 2019. Also, for the best collaboration among all the UN agencies to provide the best for the summit.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to highlight the following two critical aspects reflecting the key relevance of ICT to WMO core business.

First, WMO would like to inform you that climate and water events have increased impact to all of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and ICT Infrastructure. Just last week in New York, Secretary General, a statement of the global climate in 2018

with global coverage of whether climate change indicators under social economic impact is yet another strong call of the need for more ambitious climate action.

This report which made headlines news around the world coincided there was a high-level meeting on climate by the President of the General Assembly. They continue to accelerate and we are seeing more and more direct impact of weather conditions.

Last year, in the United States alone, we saw 14 weather and climate-related disasters which with a total loss of property among 49 billion U.S. dollars. On the worldwide in 2018, most of the natural climate, which affect the 62 million people worldwide, were associated with weather and climate conditions.

Information on the communication infrastructure is critical to manage the complex dynamic of operations that involve in disaster environment. Historically in 2005, the impact of Hurricane Katrina destroyed the communication infrastructure within the emergency response personnel and public with little capacity to actually use information vital for coordinating response actions.

More recently, Tropical cyclone, in addition to causing the flood and tragic loss of life and property in Zimbabwe and Malawi and damage to the ICT Infrastructure in these countries and posing further challenges to disaster-relieving operations.

In this regard, WMO calls for all the UN agencies and governments to take advantage from WMO development, which means weather forecasting service, increased accuracy. We've contributed to all the SDGs, and certainly also, contribute to the ICT community for well-designed communications and information infrastructure with better resilience to or against weather and climate conditions under the resilience of ICT infrastructure can contribute significantly to the disaster managing and humanitarian actions.

Second, WMO call of business strongly rely on ICT development and also need a strong partnership with you all. International recognition process of WMO in 1873 was actually due to the invention of the telegraph in 1836. The problem of WMO, worldwide watch, it's a WWW and in 1962/63 with three key components that link to the ICT, the global observing system, the global telecommunication system, and the global data processing system, all highly rely on the ICT development.

WMO is an active partner of WSIS since the beginning of 2009 and we also facilitate with ITU on action line of e-environment in which we foster collaborations among all the WSIS stakeholders for implementing projects for environmental protection, climate invariability and change and early warning to protect people from disasters and promoting environmentally safe technologies.

Dear colleagues, we have responded to the SDG challenges and WMO is working on many projects which highly rely on ICT. For

example, the development of multi-weather early warning system in which warnings are issued based on sophisticated computer models forecasting predictions and the WMO is also working with ITU on improving access on the delivery of weather information to the last mile, especially the challenges in the least developing countries with the model of smart technology.

We believe that the WSIS provides us excellent opportunity for stakeholders that at the annual forum to meet, discuss, and learn from each other how to make the best use of ICT in many developing areas.   I wish all -- I wish you all a successful and fruitful forum and thank you for your attention.

(Applause).

>> Thank you very much, WMO, for issuing good weather during the forum and hope that we cooperate in the future in this area.

Now, it's my pleasure to invite to take the floor one of co-organizers, UNDP, and I would like to invite Ms. Gulden Turkoz-Cosslett, Deputy Assistant Administrator of UNDP and Deputy Director of UNDP's Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, you have the floor.

>> GULDEN TURKOZ-COSSLETT: Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, good morning. I'm pleased and honored to join you today on behalf of United Nations Development Program as we celebrate the 10-year Anniversary of the WSIS Forum.

I would like to thank and recognize the leadership of the Secretary-General of ITU and his staff for hosting this Forum with dedication year after year and solute the entire WSIS Community and all of you for the steadfast collaboration that has brought us this far.

On behalf of UNDP, I'm also very encouraged by the significant support of Member States and partners from all sectors and sustained effort of the UN Group on the Information Society to convene the forum each year and deepen collaboration across the United Nations System and beyond.

It's the individual strengths and the fusion of expertise that come together. Those of you in this room, that if we leverage all of it in full, we know we can move the needle on our Sustainable Development Goals where we have less than as many of the colleagues before pronounced, less than 11 years until 2030.

The WSIS Community as we've also heard, continues to respond to complex challenges that evolve quickly alongside rapid technological change in the 21st Century. The breadth of knowhow and readiness to apply it where it matters, such as e-commerce, responding to natural disasters, and getting help where it's needed most and building long-term resilience of countries and communities.

We also continue to need WSIS expertise to eradicate poverty. Rates of extreme poverty have been falling since 2013, but we're

not on track to achieve the target of less than 3% of the world living in extreme poverty by 2030.

This is also a community that fully understands how new technologies are transforming economies and societies and how technology presents unprecedented opportunities for tackling some of the world's most challenging development problems. We've heard artificial intelligence, supporting medical diagnostics, satellite imagery, helping combat deforestation, drones helping map areas at risk of disasters.

But we also know that the benefits of technology are not automatic. Indeed, technology can be a key that unlocks keyed long-term prosperity, or it could also be a curse that deepens inequalities, depending on the policy response that's chosen.

As part of our commitment to leave no one behind, UNDP together with the rest of the United Nations System is engaging with these issues from both a programmatic and policy perspective. We're leveraging technology and innovation to deliver more and better results on the ground and have launched accelerator labs in 60 countries, primarily in Africa to build an agile learning network around development challenges. These labs are integral to UNDP-based teams and infrastructure and will enable us to connect our global network and development expertise across 170 countries with innovative capacities.

We're mindful of the technological progress is uneven and are exploring opportunities to enhance access to transformative technologies by communities at risk of being left behind and by the poor and marginalized everywhere we work. The digital revolution requires new and inclusive policy responses for it to benefit everyone.

We're trying very much, again with the rest of the UN System, to connect the dots and other partners between technology and our programmatic areas. Launching, for instance, our next-gen government initiative to leverage technology, governance, transform public institution, reduce digital inequality, and enhance women's engagement in the digital economy.

In our efforts to support SDG implementation in the 170 countries and territories where we work, we find great need to redouble our efforts to achieve the SDGs in the next 10 years. Through the United Nations Secretary General's Task Force on Digital Financing for SDGs, which administrator co-chairs and through the newly launched finance hub, we're exploring innovative financing for programming on the ground.

We're looking at where digital revolution is taking the world's financial system and how financial institutions and investors identify and manage risks or make investment decisions to better support Member States.

In the era held in the fourth Industrial Revolution, lagging

behind in digital development has immense implication for our country's progress on the SDGs and for achieving the goal of a more equal world. Acceleration is critical to reduce digital inequality and to propel progress on all the SDGs.

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, we look forward to working closely with the WSIS Community to better support Member States and their citizens and together with you to build a cooperation that's equal to the challenge of a quickly evolving digital world. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> Thank you, Madam. We thank UNDP for their continuous support and commitment to the WSIS process. We'd like to inform the participants that today during the Leader's Meeting, it was decided that UNDP and ITU would co-chair the United Nations Group on Information Society and as well as UNESCO and UNCTAD. Thank you very much. And we now invite Mr. Abdulaziz Almuzaini, the Director of the Geneva Liaison Office, UNESCO. Please.

>> ABDULAZIZ ALMUZAINI: Minister, ministry of post, Telecommunications and Information Technology of Bangladesh, Chairman-elect of WSIS 2019, Mr. Houlin Zhao Secretary-General ITU, and Mr. Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Honorable Minister, distinguished representatives of UN entities and international organizations, excellencies, dear participants, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of UNESCOs Director General, I am pleased to greet you and welcome you as one of the co-organizers of this year's WSIS Forum. It is widely recognized that its theme, information and communication technologies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, is at the heart of UNESCO's mandate and work.

UNESCO is the UN agency with a mandate to uphold freedom of expression and promote the free flow of ideas by word and image. UNESCO works to create inclusive knowledge societies and empower local communities by increasing access to and preservation and ensuring of information and knowledge in all of UNESCO's demands of action.

ICTs play a crucial role in this work and our joint efforts with stakeholders on the ground to ensure that ICTs are a catalyst to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals are a testament of this importance.

As the ICT revolution is changing, lives and livelihood is also recognized as an important tool to accelerate the base to us achieving SDGs.

I am confident that this year's WSIS Forum, which is the 10th Anniversary of the Forum, will not only address these challenges but propose concrete solutions and mobilize multistakeholder cooperation to ensure ICTs contribute to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNESCO's vision of societies relies on free and open use of technologies that can foster capabilities to access and as well as contribute to global knowledge pools. Access to information and knowledge now carries a much wider connotation and includes access to Internet and access to other digital technologies and the ability to create an enabling environment to seek and receive knowledge online.

It also includes strategies to produce digital content that can enhance skills, particularly of youth and women. UNESCO will be hosting several sessions in the framework of this forum in order to further mobilize multistakeholder partnerships and synergies with a particular focus on the role of artificial intelligence in achieving the SDGs.

In this year's WSIS Forum, UNESCO will host two high-level dialogues on Wednesday, 10 of April. The first high-level dialogue from 13:30 to 15:00 in the CICG Room dedicated to the ethics of artificial intelligence.

If we are to make the most of the possibilities offered by AI to the world, we must ensure that it serves humanity with respect for human rights and human dignity. Today, no global ethical framework or principles for AI developments and applications exist. UNESCO is a unique universal forum with over 20 years of experience in developing international instruments related to the ethics of science and technology, notably through its intergovernmental information for all program and its World Commission on Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology.

This high-level dialogue will look at the ethical dimensions of artificial intelligence that can contribute towards sustainable development, but also pose questions related to the use of this emerging technology and the respect of the universal ethical principles and fundamental human rights with high-level analysts from international organizations, Civil Society, and the private sector. This high-level dialogue will also present findings from the commerce report on ethical issues related to AI.

UNESCO's second high-level dialogue also on April 10 from 15:00 to 16:30 in CICG Room 2 will be dedicated to indigenous languages. Indigenous languages are involved with invaluable potential and universal knowledge that can be unlocked in order to contribute to development and innovation in domains such as education, science, and research, culture, policy, industry, and environment.

This high-level dialogue will provide space for open consultations and encourage this on a shift of paradigm on the important role that indigenous languages could play toward sustainable development if ICTs are made accessible, inclusive, and affordable for all, including indigenous language users.

The high-level dialogue will build on the outcomes of the

recently held consultations that pro claimed 2019 the international year of indigenous languages, and for which UNESCO is the lead agency and explore ways in which the recommendations on usage of inclusive and accessible ICTs by indigenous language users in all societal domains could be incorporated and mainstreamed within the WSIS framework.

I warmly invite you to both of these high-level dialogues. Ladies and gentlemen, UNESCO has been at the forefront of the WSIS process since its inception and was involved in organizing regional pre-WSIS preparatory consultations. We have been keen advocates of ensuring informed and active multistakeholder involvement and actions in WSIS in all regions. UNESCO continues to serve as facilitator for six of the WSIS Action Lines according -- coordinating global actions in the areas of access to information and knowledge C3, C7, e-science, C7, and Council of Diversity and Identity, linguistic diversity and local content, C8, and media, C9, and ethical dimensions of the information society, C10.

At an organizational level, our contribution to the WSIS Action Lines has always been mainstreamed into UNESCO's programmatic actions across each of UNESCO's field of competence, education, social and human science, natural and physical sciences, culture, as well as communication and information, and this can be seen in the activities undertaken through our various field offices and global initiatives.

Ladies and gentlemen, in taking this combined WSIS SDG operational framework, UNESCO's position is clear. Universal access to information and knowledge and freedom of expression are the foundations for inclusive and sustainable development, in empowering every women and men, they are forces for dialogue, mutual dialogue and lasting peace.

Citizens also need to have the critical thinking, literacy, and digital skills required to access, analyze, and use the information in different ways, offline and online. All of this calls to active policies around strong partnerships at all levels. In this regard, UNESCO calls on governments and partners present today at this forum to leverage the power of information and communication technologies to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and promote the free flow of ideas by word and image.

I take this opportunity to thank everyone in this room for your continued cooperation with UNESCO for consolidating inclusive knowledge societies and sustainable development and for making the world a better place for the future generations. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> Thank you for your constant support of the WSIS Forum. Mr. Peter Major, Vice Chair UNCSTD, a very good friend of WSIS. I

would like to kindly invite you, Mr. Major, to deliver your speech.

>> PETER MAJOR: Thank you. Excellencies, honorable ministers, delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor for me to greet the participants of the WSIS Forum 2019 on behalf of the United Nations Commission of Science and Technology Development. I'm pleased to note that we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the WSIS Forum.

Let me take the opportunity to express my appreciation to the co-organizers of the forum, to the ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP, all specialized agencies of the UN in the regional organizations, and all stakeholders. Last but not least, the sponsors who contributed the holding of this event.

Probably most of us who have been involved in the WSIS process since its beginning acknowledge with satisfaction the progress achieved in information and communication technologies, ICTs, since the first summit. ICTs are strengthening, and opportunities to enable sustainable development, and at the same time their impact across economy, societies, and culture also pose new challenges.

To government, businesses, and citizens, these technologies can help to achieve many, if not all, development goals, but they can also create new forms of device.

We have already heard about the important digital divides that need to be addressed, and therefore on the issue, I really want to add that the task of addressing these divides needs to be integrated into wider international efforts to achieve empowerment, gender equality, and sustainable development.

As many of you know, the UN Commission of Science and Technology for Development has the mandate to review the progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes. In this capacity every year, we collaborate with more than 30 UN agencies and other organizations and stakeholders that share with us the results of their important efforts in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and Targets.

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the hard work that the agencies and multistakeholder international community are doing in helping to implement the WSIS vision of a people-centered, inclusive, and development-oriented information society within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This collaborative effort engages the whole community working on ICT for development. As a part of this community last week, I had the opportunity to participate in the e-commerce week organized by UNCTAD. 450 people organized to discuss the most important conversations of shaping of our societies, the way we live, work, and engage with each other. However, more resources and support are needed if we want to leave no one behind.

Ladies and gentlemen, in 2020, it will be 15 years since the

World Summit on the Information Society since the General Assembly conducted a standard review of the implementation of the WSIS outcome.

Despite all the important progress that has been made, much more needs to be done before the benefits and development of opportunities of digital innovations are available to everyone around the world in an inclusive manner.

The WSIS vision remains as relevant as ever. As we go forward to WSIS 15 and then to the overall review in 2025, we need to start thinking on how the WSIS implementation needs to reflect the current and future contexts of rapid technological progress, how to take into account the growing decision-making power of devices and algorithms that use machine learning or data analysis that may create unexpected biases in social choices or reduce the autonomy of individuals or groups.

Implementation also needs to be elected to affect the increasing interactions between ICTs, innovations, and other frontier technologies including genetics, technology, advanced materials, and space sciences.

Furthermore, the future of WSIS has to incorporate the growing concerns among people, regulators, and businesses about the implementations for security, privacy, ownership, and use of the data as well as the distribution of benefits from the data-driven economy, including the implications for knowledge creation, innovation, profits, and competition.

We will need more dialogue, cooperation, research, and more efforts to support countries which are only starting to embark on the digital journey.

The nature of these issues makes the United Nations to be the place to look for answers we need. At the commission in May they will look at impactful change on sustainable development as we approach the WSIS 15 milestone and the changes required in the implementation of WSIS to ensure the divides are closed and all societies are good with the innovation.

I encourage all WSIS stakeholders to participate in the conversation. Let me take appreciation to the co-organizers and take the opportunity to wish you a very successful WSIS Forum. Thank you for your attention.

(Applause).

>> Thank you, Peter, and to the UNCSTD for always being such a strategic and good partner of the WSIS process and the WSIS Forum. As you all are aware the WSIS Forum is multistakeholder in character, and in fact the entire WSIS process is multistakeholder since the inception and we'd like to invite Professor Alison Gillwald the executive director of research ICT Africa University of Cape Town to please deliver remarks on behalf of Civil Society and academia. Thank you.

>> ALISON GILLWALD: Thank you very much. Excellencies, honorable ministers, Secretary-General Zhao, esteemed panel members and delegates and WSIS organizing committee, thank you very much for the invitation to join this high-level panel, it's an honor to do so.

The truth is despite efforts of various agencies within the UN System, including the ITU, we don't really have the data in developing countries and particularly in our predominantly pre-paid mobile markets to determine where we are now or to know what progress we're making towards overcoming the digital divide reflected in the ICT targets and many of the UN General assembly's Sustainable Development Goals.

We're also dealing with rapid communication and technologies that are changing in dynamic and increasingly dynamic adaptive global communication system, and all which is incompatible with measurement and planning.

What we do know from the limited evidence available is we have to move beyond the connectivity discourse with a seem by simply expanding networks we're reducing digital inequality. In fact, paradoxically as more people are connected, digital inequality is increasing. This is not only the case between those online and those offline, but between those that have the resources to use the Internet optimally and those who are barely online, between those passively consuming a fraction of the apps and services online for an offer and those with the resources, financial and human, to put technology to productive use, or just to sustain themselves or to build prosperity.

This digital inequality paradox is arguably the biggest policy challenge facing developing countries in an increasingly globalized digital economy and society. As we move from basic voice services to broadband services with over-the-top platform applications offering low-cost voice and text substitution, platforms promising mobility and frictionless work and digital platforms enabling digital inclusion, we need to understand what is working in the global south and what is not.

Particularly, we need to understand what is happening in Africa would lags even other developing regions of the world. What are the reasons for this and what can be done to highlight the opportunities offered by Internet-enabled services and how artificial learning or artificial intelligence and machine learning, robotics and Big Data analytics can improve people's lives?

And most importantly, as the world is swept up by the hype of the so called Fourth Industrial Revolution what needs to be done to limit the harms to citizens and particularly the most vulnerable who are most at risk as they come online often unaware or unable to exercise their rights.

The after access survey long made possible by the Canadian International Development Research Council and in 2018 by the Swedish International Development Agency, SIDA and conducted in recently Asia and Research ICT Africa across 20 countries in the global south, 10 of them in Africa, provides some insights into the policy outcomes and what has happened over this last three decades of reform.

Liberalization in the markets of technology have revolutionized the lives of people in the south is may be ways to communicate by the phone first time and become financially included through mobile money, but basically modernizing the economies and societies. It has been highly uneven.

As we move from simple voice services to higher-value Internet services, this inequality is compounded. By 2018 in many African countries the number of Internet users have not even met the roughly 25% in terms of Internet penetration believed to be the critical mass required to join the network effects associated with economic growth and development.

While both the extension remains an issue in several of the countries, coverage is not the only factor determining connectivity and use of the Internet. In the Rwanda, South Africa to name a few, broad canned offers 90% of the population and significant portions of the population remain unconnected.

As Internet penetration tracks G and I per capita, South Africa is the only country in Sub-Saharan of the surveyed countries to have an Internet penetration rate of about 13 -- in the bigger African markets -- Mozambique and Tanzania. The form of which Rwanda has the highest gender gap of 60%, and the only country in Africa that is the largest populations of Bangladesh and Pakistan with the cultural complexities in the wider global south complexity.

This is despite Rwanda having some of the supply places on the market and among the growth of gender policies, so what explains these inequalities? The value to use for many people is therefore being covered by a signal, but that people have the resources to get online. Mention was made of the devastating floods in Malawi and similar bob way and Mozambique and need to rapid response systems to deal with these human losses. In fact, many of these countries do have some of these systems in place, perhaps not as sophisticated as we would like them, about you many people are offline, and even if people do receive the messages, they often do not have the resources to respond to the safety measures.

The services show -- the survey shows and the affordability of devices and lack of awareness of the barriers of Internet use in the countries, of those who use the Internet in Mozambique, 76% indicated they cannot afford Internet-enabled devices or the services despite having some of the lowest prices on the continent. While in Tunisia it's much less at 64% and Uganda half the population

and so on.

And those who use the Internet, the highest country with the highest penetration 33% said the cost of services are unaffordable.

Similarly, in Uganda and Nigeria, use the Internet do not know what it is, but in others people have very high Internet ill literacy. Alternative strategies to extend affordable access to communications are urgent. We simply cannot carry on doing things the way we have and expect the exponential changes that we require. Without inequalities, it will have more online inequalities, a multi-prong strategy should include some of the follow issues. Connectivity alone cannot reduce inequality alone, it is a pre-condition and we need to bring down the costs of delivering these services. Policy should be reviewed to enable optimal co-existence of licensed and unlicensed spectrum to optimize spectrum for diverse neediest countries but prioritize affordable access to communications.

This will require that we release the spectrum required for the capital-intensive investments and network rollout, but that we also create conditions for license of spectrum to communities, nonprofit providers and micronetworks. We also need to develop alternative strategies that -- and to develop the strategies we need the institutional arrangements that will enable regulators to regulate effectively in increasingly complex and adaptive environments and to withstand ad hoc pressures on them to implement policies that regress digital vision aims.

IT data shows besides affordable, human development, education and income are access of use. This is in regard to gender inequality, to rural inequality, et cetera, this is what underlies it. The development of relevant local content and application in local languages with the enhancement of citizen's digital literacy skills are all important stimulants. This will require cross-sector approaches that builds capacity not only in digital literacy but advanced skills to support the optimal use of software local content development to meet local needs and languages. This will require skills and realignment and will need to deal with increased -- literally need to deal with increased automation of work, artificial intelligence, Big Data, analytics, and robotics.

The need to create cyberpolicy frameworks, registry to build a trust-based environment for e-commerce, e-government, digital finance, and personal use are urgent. That requires guidelines for digital use, privacy, access and digital information and also developed in context of wider safeguards for the rights and mitigate risks and harms associated with increasing value of data and uneven power relations attached to it.

The economies need to formulate policies with the aim of removing those that prevent full engagement in the digital economy and harnessing the efforts. The policies must target the enhancing

participation of Africans in e-commerce, to create jobs, and to do so in order to boost the long-term competitiveness.

This will require am data operation across sectors and between the public and private sectors to deliver policies and to implement them, and this will require alignment of the efforts of citizens, states, and companies.

Africa needs to develop initiatives towards attaining harmonized regional strategies to make smaller markets more attractive for investment and also take into account the generation storage processing and transfer of data locally and across boundaries in order to enable e-government taxation in digital economies and inclusive access and use.

Enabling cross-boarder trade and reciprocal financial and taxation regimes will be critical to realizing the African free trade agreement. At the same time there is a need for countries to adjust compensation to limit problems in cross-boarder trade and safeguard users. Social network and taxes that bring it offline and undermine efforts toward universal access are counterproductive.

We need to ensure that the benefits of the digital economy do not only go to global platforms and appreciate treasuries but accrue across the country. Without the efforts, new technologies and platforms or existing inequalities will not move. As it hits all such technologies and platforms in fact it's likely to amplify inequality. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> We thank you very much. Private sector in the action is an important part of the WSIS Forum and that's why it's my pleasure to invite Mr. Crispin Conroy the ICC Representative Director Permanent Observer to the UNOG to take the floor.

>> CRISPIN CONROY: Thank you very much, Secretary-General, excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it's a pleasure to join you today the 10th edition of the WSIS Forum and to have the opportunity to share a few perspectives of the private sector.

I represent the International Chamber of Commerce based in Paris and the ICC is the world's largest biggest business operation representing 45 million companies of all sizes from all sectors, including IT, in over 100 countries. The ICC is the only business organization that has a permanent observer status at the United Nations General Assembly. We opened the office on General Avenue in December of last year to provide ICC to provide a constructive business voice in the implementations of the SDGs and 2030 Agenda.

In addition to its global network, the ICC is unique in that we have a founding mission. For business worldwide to work for peace, prosperity, and opportunity for all. This notion of a larger purpose was integrated in the creation of the ICC in the aftermath

of the First World War 100 years ago, in other words the ICC was born with a belief that businesses around the world share larger economic aims and objectives that are in everyone's interests.

I'll make this brief historical reference because the same spirit guides ICC today. It guided us as the private sector focal point during the WSIS process in 2003 and 2005, and through our support for the business action to support the information society or basis initiative.

The WSIS Forum provides us all with a valuable opportunity to come together and take stock of progress and to share views. Indeed, this multistakeholder inclusive approach to multilateralism or to international problem-solving, if you like, it key to the effective implementation of the SDGs.

As we all strive to reach these goals, the transformative power of information and communication technologies and the Internet cannot be overstated. ICC believes that ICTs have the potential to act as a major catalyst for progress across all three major pillars, economic, social, and environmental.

I won't give examples for reasons of time, but also as Ms. Gonzales outlined some of them powerfully earlier.

The private sector played an important role in infrastructure as well as in developing a wide range of ICT applications and services. In order to enable global progress at a level envisioned in the 2030 Agenda, more needs to be done and at scale globally but also regionally and on a community basis.

Long term sustained investment is necessary, and in addition significant investment is needed in capacity-building programs that increase digital literacy and skills around the world. To be able to deliver this level of investment and greater collectivity and opportunity for all to benefit, it's important that we get the policy settings right. Policy-makers can benefit from close collaboration with business, Civil Society, and all other stakeholders to ensure that legal, policy, and regulatory approaches maximize the Internet developmental opportunities, promote investment, and foster entrepreneurship and innovation.

I look forward as do my ICC Paris colleagues here with you today, to share our views about what such a policy environment would look like. And in the coming weeks and months, both here and in the WSIS context, but also in other Forums such as UNCTAD and WTO we look forward to working with you all to find policy solutions that are sustainable and enable investment on entrepreneurship and innovation and relevant to and benefit communities all around the world. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> Thank you, Mr. Conroy. The private sector is a really crucial partner of the WSIS process and we hope to work in closer collaboration with you in the coming years.

Dear, ladies and gentlemen, we are very happy to announce that today # WSIS is the third most tweeted hashtag on Twitter so this is just a reminder that millions of people are following us remotely and tweeting about us very actively and following through different social networks.

I would like to now invite Mr. Zhao, our Secretary-General, to announce the Chairman and appoint the Chairman of the WSIS Forum 2019.

    >> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Ladies and gentlemen, let me first offer my heart-felt congratulations to all the panelists to join me at this Opening Ceremony, and I was very much impressed by the messages they share with us and of course the statistics, the Africa University that also sent us some warning signals that despite of the progress we have made so far there is still a lot of challenges there that we have to be aware of this reality. Of course, that also inspires us to work more harder.

So, ladies and gentlemen, let me just take this opportunity to announce my suggestions for the Chairman of this WSIS Forum. You know that at the beginning we do not have a Chairman of the WSIS Forum. A couple of years back we found that it would be beneficial for us to have a chairman of the WSIS Forum to help the management team to manage our event during this course of the week.

Then last year, for example, you know we did have our chairman, WSIS Forum 2018 chaired by Excellency Majed Mesmar from UAE and he did a lot of contact with many stakeholders which helped him to planning our Plenipotentiary Conference in Dubai, but that kind of contact does provide opportunities for our stakeholders to convey their messages to the ITU process.

So this year with some informal consultations we get finally anonymous agreement from those panelists I consulted that we would like to invite Minister from Bangladesh to help us to chair our WSIS Forum. As you know, Bangladesh is one of the largest operator countries in the world and there are many challenges to connect their people with ICT to facilitate this kind of development. There are a lot of initiatives in that country, and I was well pleased to note that Bangladesh has many, many successful stories, but also, they are determined to work with the rest of the world to promote the ICT development.

Not only within the source of regions, but they would like to also cooperate with the other continents such as Africa Continent or Latin America or the others.

So, I was very pleased to talk to the Minister, and the Minister himself is not that new to the process. The Minister, Excellency, Mr. Mustafa Jabbar, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunication and Information Technology, he's very familiar and following the process and so I'm very confident with his chairmanship at this WSIS Forum and will provide good opportunities

not only for Bangladesh, but have good contact with the participants, and that he represent our developing countries and very, very aware that we could use opportunities to get more experiences to see how can we work together between those developed and the developing countries, between those already similar status to ICT development, to those somehow still a little bit left behind, and of course the stakeholders of this conference will be beneficial from his rich experiences, from his views on the WSIS process in the past and the WSIS process in the next 10 years.

So, ladies and gentlemen, let me just invite you to accept my proposal to nominate, His Excellency, the Minister, Mr. Mustafa Jabbar, Minister of Telecommunication and Information Technology in Bangladesh.

(Applause).

So that is it, right. So let's invite the Minister to come to join us.

(Applause).

The power of the chairmanship. I turn this over to the Chair, . That is yours, under your leadership.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Thank you.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

(Applause).

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: So, please, be a little patient. We invite the Chairman to say a few words and then you can leave. Yes, please.

>> CHAIR: Ladies and gentlemen, dear WSIS Stakeholders, it's a great honor for me and for my Country of Bangladesh, to chair such a summit which has started the process of changing the traditional world to a knowledge-based society to an information society, and now we're in the digital transformation process.

I'm really grateful to all of you, and my thanks from our Prime Minister and people of Bangladesh to all of you. We are all experiencing the power and potential of ICTs which we call now digital technologies to enhance our lives and be a key enabler for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This year marks the 10th Year Anniversary of the WSIS Forum and we could not be more proud to have fostered so many successful collaborations and partnerships since our humble beginning in 2009.

From the start, it has exceeded expectations and that's what drives us to do more than to go beyond for the stakeholders. Bangladesh is honored and excited to be a part of these incredible milestones with all of you in building an open and inclusive information society into what it is today.

People all over the world benefit from global UN processes like WSIS. As I have mentioned, I come from a country in Bangladesh which is the youngest nation in South Asia, and being independent

in 1971 as an country and having a per capita income of only $120 and with lots of challenges as have been mentioned we have 160 million people and the literacy rate in 1972 was only 23%, so it was a big challenge to transform that country into such a position that now in 2019, you remember that our Prime Minister declared Bangladesh as Digital Bangladesh long before anybody could think of it on 12 of December, 2008. From 2009 onwards, running the government, and the transformation I'll just mention two changes of what we could do from 120 per capita dollars income now we're in $1,909 per capita income. In the last years -- this year we expect to be 8.13%. The literacy rate has come up to 72% this year, and we're the country which is really diversified in geophysical condition, it was really difficult to have connectivity to the people, but now we have more than 159 mobile connections, more than 90 million Internet users, and what we can expect is that by the end of this year, every union of the country will be connected by fiber optics and by 2021, the year when we will be celebrating our 50th year anniversary, we will connect each and every citizen of the country with broadband country. That changed Bangladesh to a digitally-transformed country and now almost more than 200 services of the government are given to the people right in their hand and in their villages so I hope Bangladesh can share experiences with all the countries which are like ours, particularly the DCs, the developing countries, and we hope the experiences of Bangladesh can definitively help all our friends in the world.

       WSIS Forum is a good example of the UN acting as one with more than 31UN agencies participating in the organization. ITU has been making all efforts to have the WSIS platform as a platform for creation and innovation, to make the WSIS inclusive to have services like captioning, remote participation, sign language interpretation, and this year we are also about to say the WSIS Forum website was made available in six UN languages using machine learning translations.

       The WSIS Forum for the last 10 years has proven to be an efficient global multistakeholder for all to exchange knowledge and information and enhance collaborative networks and to share in the ICT ecosystem.

       However, it is also a call to action for us to ensure that WSIS processes continue to provide just and equal platforms to all stakeholders beyond 2025.

       With the emergence of new technologies comes new divides that will be necessary to continue working together to grow the WSIS Forum and enhance the outcomes of the WSIS Forum. I would just like to mention here that as we are going digital, we are transforming digital, and the security for digital society has become also very important.

       I would like to thank Mr. Secretary-General and your team,

the stakeholders, and I'm really, I can't express my gratitude enough to all of you for electing me as Chairman and Bangladesh is proud of this. Thank you, and thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> Thank you very much, Chair, for your inspirational words. I would like to thank all the speakers from the first panel and invite them in the audience and at the same time I would like to invite the speakers from the second session to come on the podium.

Meanwhile, it is our pleasure to announce the WSIS Forum 2019 High-level facilitators to nominate the stakeholders responding to the open call by the WSIS Secretariat.

Their task will be to model -- the facilitators the high-level track facilitators are coming from different sectors and I will invite my colleague to introduce the facilitators from academia.

>> Thank you. These facilitators will be facilitating the high-level policy sessions. 14 high-level policy sessions taking place after lunch. From academia we would like to announce the names of Professor Francois Grey from University of Geneva, Dr. Ozkula from University of Sheffield, Dr, Naila Siddiqui Kamal, Imperial College School of Medicine of London, Professor Tim Unwin, Royal Holloway, University of London, Lanzhou University in China.

Technical community, Dr. Jabu Mtsweni, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Mr. Carl Gahnberg, Internet society, and Ms. Mel Lin Fung, Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

Civil Society, Ms. Sabrina Chohen Dumani, Nomads Foundation, Valeria Betancourt, Association for Progressive Communication. And from my favorite sector, Ms. Sophie Peresson, International Chamber of Commerce, Greg Francis, Access Partnerships, Ted Chen from EverComm Singapore, and Ms. Valrie Grant, GeoTechVision.

Thank you very much. We're about to start our discussion on the multistakeholder partnerships of the WSIS process.

We would like to remind the panelists that we have to remain on the seat and they do not have to come to the lectern to speak so we will begin the dialogue in a few seconds.

(music)

>> MODERATOR: Thank you. We are about to start our multistakeholder high-Level dialogue on partnerships. The panelists are those who partnered with us to defer costs of the WSIS Forum and to enhance partnerships to have further collaboration during these five days of the WSIS Forum.

I'd like to invite Bangladesh, our Chairman, to please start the dialogue.

>> CHAIR: Ladies and gentlemen, now I would like to invite Malcolm Johnson to moderate this session. Mr. Malcolm Johnson, please.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Chairman. Good

morning, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. It's a pleasure for me to moderate this first panel session of the 10th WSIS Forum. I'm very pleased to see so many here. In fact, we have over 3,000 participants compared to the very first forum 10 years ago we had 300 participants, and as was mentioned we tried to make this event more inclusive each year, including for the first time this year, translating the web pages into six languages with machine translation, and we're also trialing machine captioning, so we tried to make the event as inclusive as possible using our own technology.

Now, I have a slight challenge as the moderator because we're starting after we should have finished, so a bit of a challenge. (Laughing).

So, I have two questions for each panelist, and to save time I will put the panelists' two questions together so they can answer the two questions at one time and to answer from their seat to save time going back and forth to the podium.

So, without further to do, let me start then with Mr. Director of technology Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication of Japan. The thing is the WSIS Forum is information and communication technology for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. How do you think that ICTs can be used to achieve the SDGs, and it seems difficult to get everyone involved in policy-making, but who would you specifically assume as multistakeholders, Mr. Hisazumi?

>> HISAZUMI SHIRAE: Welcome, everyone. Thank you for attending the WSIS Forum, and I express my sincere appreciation to the ITU and Secretariat and all stakeholders and I'm pleased to have this opportunity.

Regarding the first questions. Broadband networks for the use of ICT, this is no doubt the policy issue to be addressed first is bridging the digital divide. Japan's approach to the digital divide was introduced last year.

In Japan the percentage of population that can connect to the Internet is over 99.9 percentage and the household coverage rate that can connect to online of 30 megabyte per second or faster is 99 percentage.

So but infrastructure and usage of ICT are big to be achieve SDGs so the next step, we need a policy to use ICT and for that purpose, Japan currently advocates the concept of Society 5.0 for the solution of social issues and for future social development.

Today, ICT is becoming integrated to part of society. In the future, digitalization will progress in all industries and this will be further accelerated by the 5G. Digitalization not only helps in serving social problems, but it also allows people to challenge themselves through doing or learning new things as well as creating new jobs in the industries.

We believe achieving SDGs requires the use of ICT in the entire society. The society shows governments and businesses in both

urban and rural areas need to work in society as a whole.
Furthermore, the multistakeholder approach becomes important in all
areas as all stakeholders have involved in building Society 5.0.

It can be built by those but policies cannot be created only
by those who currently use ICT, it must be discussed by everyone,
including future ICT users.

So regarding the second question, we should assume everyone
is a multistakeholder in order to address the issues of whole
society. It should not only be across industry and across gender
but also be inclusive in central and regional areas.

Also, the interaction on the use of ICT tends to stay only
in the center area who have begun working to leave regional areas
to take advantage of Society 5.0. You're right, Malcolm, it is
impractical to hear everyone's opinion. However, by thinking on
a sector-by-sector basis I think it's possible to involve people
in a wide range, not only suppliers but also for local governments
as well as industries.

In general, this year, we host the G20 meeting on digital
community in Cuba. And Japan plans to promote SDGs by
implementation with a sense of leave no one behind. Thank you for
your attention.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Mr. Hisazumi.
Let's quickly go to the next speaker. I invite speakers to keep
an eye on the clock under the screen because we only have five minutes
each if we're going to finish within our allotted time.

So moving on to Dr. Salim Al Ruzaiqi, CEO, Information
Technology Authority of Oman. How does Oman leverage technologies
in achieving SDGs and how do you see digital identity providing
privacy and enhanced digital services and transactions?
Dr. Salim?

>> SALIM AL RUZAIQI: Thank you very much. First, I would
like to congratulate ITU for this success of WSIS 2019. For the
first question, I think it is critical that we realize that, you
know, using the new trends of the 4IR, it's very essential for the
development of all the sustaining or achieving the Sustainable
Development Goals.

Today, omen has initiated building blocks to adopt the new
technologies, and we have realized that to adopt these technologies,
we need three important building blocks. First, we established
what we call the sandbox for developing these technologies and
ensuring that the regulation and innovation come together to ensure
to expedite the development and adoption of the new technologies.

Second important step is building the capacity. You know,
one thing very, very essential for the new technologies, we know
that these technologies have its own new skills and the training
is not available. The Sultan launched first program to train about
3,000 young graduates in areas of different technologies,

artificial intelligence, Blockchain, online marketing, and different skill sets that are required for the adoption of these new technologies.

Third building blocks which is very, very important also, it's availing government as a platform for proof of concept. Today, one of the successful stories that you can tell or that we can share with you, that we are deploying artificial intelligence in five hospitals to diagnose the breast cancer in the women. This will increase the efficiency of the diagnosis by more than 10 times.

For the -- and also, we have other -- other proof of concept that we deployed in this relating to Smart City, Blockchain, and others. The time, I don't think the time will permit to mention about some of these use cases, but the most important thing really is to take the use cases from the concept to adoption by having the very, very important building blocks.

For the second, the second part of your question relating to digital identity, I want to have, you know, omen has launched its technical and legal platform for digital identity using PKI. We launched our PKI on our Smart Card. Every citizen has its own Smart Card and we're also launched the PKI or digital identity on card so we have a mobile digital identity and Smart Card digital identity and this digital identity has -- it's actually used by the whole government and private sector to date to identify people online, and it's a single sign-on for all government transactions, but also it is that every citizen has his digital signature using this digital identity, so we have this platform and this platform is supported by legal. We have the transaction law that has adopted this technology to ensure that, you know, that all citizens and all residents have their own digital identity identified and can access government services and access also all the private sector services through a single digital identity.

This is very, very short on these two initiatives and I will be more than happy to share with anybody these two experiences that we have, and I'd like to thank you all for listening.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Dr. Salim. Thank you for keeping and telling us all you're doing in Oman in five minutes, quite an achievement. Thank you very much. Moving to Ambassador Thomas Schneider, Head of International Relations. What is the role of the multilevel partnerships and what is important at the international level, Thomas?

>> THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Thank you, Malcolm, and welcome everybody. Thank you to the organizers to keeping to save time. The main message I'm going to convey is that the national and international level come together tonight at the reception that we will be hosting as Switzerland from 6:30 to 8:30, so you find cards over there, so everybody is invited to link nationally and internationally here in Geneva.

With regard to the substance, of course it is important to -- before you can engage on international level, to know your situation at the national level, to know your challenges, what your opportunities are, what new technologies can bring for your industry, for the people, for your culture, for the civilization.

We've witnessed an amazing development, in particular in the last year, that the digital issues because of data all over the place, AI, and a number of passwords has risen dramatically in the attention of politicians of parliamentarians and media and really something on top of the agenda.

We've also realized that people are realizing the interdependency of the issues that things that used to be separate earlier like tax issues or health or security or media, everything is coming together with the new -- because of new technologies in particular, because of data economy of automated decision-making processes, and of course artificial intelligence.

And this has a consequence that everybody is now trying to talk to everybody in order to understand what is going on, which is a good thing that people break their silence, they're coming out of silence and they're trying to understand. On the other hand, it's a challenge because apart from talking to each other, you also need to do your work, so it forces us to work in new ways.

And we have for the 5th time now, a national strategy, a national digital strategy that used to be called the Information Society Strategy, now we call it Digital, and everybody is super interested in it because it's called a Digital Strategy and we've opened the strategy up also to contribution to inclusion of academia, of Civil Society, of businesses. There is an action plan trying to achieve the goals that we set in the strategy that we're trying to achieve together and there is lots of consultation processes. There is a big national conference which is also multistakeholder which is trying to create a space for dialogue that would help to build mutually our capacities and us as representatives of the country to better understand where we are, what our opportunities are, what the challenges are that our country is trying to see with ICTs.

On the international level more of the same, AI, digital governance, what have you, high on the agenda, much higher than recently. I think we've passed the point that people know it's important that they're trying to understand. There is a plethora of conferences on all issues in particular on AI which is the latest buzz word, but still these things happen largely in silos, so the last few months you've had the Council of Europe having a conference on AI, UNESCO, OACD, ITU, AI for Good Summit, lots of discussions about ethical guidelines, some companies have already developed their ethical guidelines, so people are still doing things in silos and not enough together on -- there is lots of cooperation going

on but it's not enough structured yet.

So we think, and this is the hope that we put on the work of the UN Secretary-General's Panel on Digital Cooperation that they will come up with recommendations on how to better align, how to better link all of these people that are discussing, trying to understand, but also everybody that's active that is taking measures in order to better link all the processes so that we understand the interdependencies of our activities and that they will contribute to a system of cooperation that is really following the goals, the SDGs, so that no one is left behind. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much, Thomas, and thank you for that explanation of the interdependencies and the need to have multistakeholder dialogue, which of course, we're having here at the WSIS Forum.

It's very nice to see that the contributions to the Open Consultation on WSIS Forum were nicely divided between the main stakeholder groups in the government, private sector, Civil Society, academia, and other regional or international bodies. It was almost 20% each from each of those stakeholders, so very nice to see. And thank you very much for once again inviting everyone to the reception this evening. Very nice to have that opportunity to exchange views informally.

So, moving on then to Ms. Claudette Irere, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of ICT and Innovation of Rwanda, what is the implementation of WSIS Action Lines with respect to broadband services and related applications in Rwanda, and what is your country's readiness with regard to the 4th Industrial Revolution and please tell us a bit about the innovation city, Claudette?

>> CLAUDETTE IRERE: Thank you, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let me start by thanking first of all those who joined us on the 7th of April and yesterday at the UN was Rwanda was commemorating the 1994 genocide. 25 years after this tragedy we're a true example of where there is a will there is a way, and if you have been to Rwanda, you know this to be true.

Since 2000, when Rwanda set out firmly to become a knowledge-based economy, it laid out a plan in four phases. Those four phases knowingly continue to respond to the execution and implementation of the WSIS Action Lines. The first phase was to set up an institutional framework, what you would equal to an enabling environment. Policymakers, regulators bodies, private sector-led organizations, all were put in place in this phase.

The second phase looked into infrastructure. This is when more than 3,000 kilometers of fiber was laid across the country, an investment into data centers, exchange points started. Then innovation hubs started sprouting at this time.

The third phase, now focused on the service delivery, this could be equal to the applications in the action line catalog.

Leveraging the infrastructure and institutional framework, the e-tax, e-procurement, e-government services, you name it, all sprouted around this time.

Private sector even started also tapping into this investment that had already been done.

The fourth phase, which we're currently into, is labeled the Smart Rwanda Master Plan and it focuses into seven building blocks of our economy. Here I'm talking about health, agriculture, education, trade, and finance, and so forth.

It also leaves the foundation for the 4th Industrial Revolution and constantly pushes us out of our comfort zone. Areas such as cybersecurity and the notion of shared infrastructure are of essence to this plan. Thanks to the different partners, our child online policy is underway. On the regional and integration on the international level, Rwanda is the current host of Smart Africa Secretariat and thanks to the African Consent featured area is soon entering into force efforts to construct the digital ID initiative across the continent and will soon be able to have a coordinator and champion.

On the issue of climate change and environment, Rwanda is flagship in South Africa in Smart Cities and two years ago an African blueprinted of smart cities was launched and disseminated to all African mayors.

Today, in our effort and spirit of becoming a proof of concept innovation country, Zipline a California based country is adding vaccines and reagents and others to the blood delivery using drones in the healthcare.

At the same time, a local company has recorded incredible milestones in using drones for agriculture and environment. Receiving medicine is also underway.

The regulatory environment is also evolving to accommodate these technologies, the emerging technologies. We're not oblivious to the fact that we cannot do this by ourselves, that we need to build capabilities first and foremost. The Innovation City forms part of the government of Rwanda's Vision 2020 and aims to attract a balanced mix of technology companies to Rwanda to create the so much needed technologies, the big belief is that tomorrow starts today, and so we are working very hard in creating a favorable business environment and leveraging the government efficiency and effectiveness and we are truly convinced that we have what it takes to be a partner into this.

The Innovation City is 2-billion worth of investment in African-focused innovation hub and it will house industry, innovation, academic, innovation companies, capital and financial institutions, and African talent hubs. Carnegie Mellon University is also a tenant. The ease of doing business, government effectiveness as I just mentioned, investment in the broadband and

data infrastructure, promotion of ICT globally and incentives put in place, will welcome all of you to come and partner with us as we have laid out all structural aspects to make this a reality.

(laughter).

Just one moment. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our country workshop this Thursday on bridging the digital divide and we will share at the same time our digital journey, reiterating Rwanda's commitment and promise of leaving no one behind, I thank you for the kind attention. Thank you.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Claudette, and I'm sure the workshop on Thursday will be interesting to hear the tremendous progress that's being made in Rwanda that we all recognize so thank you very much for that.

So, moving on quickly then to Marcin Cichy, President, Office of Electronic Communication of Poland. The Polish regulator has been a great supporter of the WSIS Forum for many activities over many years, and in your opinion, what is the role of regulator in the rapidly evolving digital environment, and as we're in the midst of a public debate about artificial intelligence and as well as the other major technological developments such as 5G and Internet of Things, we need a multidisciplinary approach and multistakeholder discussion, so you speak here not only in your capacity of the national regulator but also as the European Group of Regulators Vice Chairman and also Commissioner on the Broadband Commission, so what is your approach to shaping the digital future, Marcin?

>> POLAND: Thank you very much for being here. It's my third time on the panel and 10th Anniversary of the WSIS Forum, so for all regulators it's once and for all, and going back to your question, the clock is ticking. I must say that I fully support Tom's idea regarding the role of the regulators as well as the role of the Swiss reception this evening. And what I can say, when it comes to the national level, our tasks and our responsibilities are quite clear, and what I can say having in mind my over 12 years of experience notice regulation industry, I would say rather than teleoperator will become more and more infrastructure on one but on the end side we're still responsible for granting the competitive conditions for entrepreneurs, investigation of the safe play between the supply and demand parts, interest of the markets; but in the meantime, it occurs that we need to take a look at the issue regarding the infrastructure of -- I'm not talking about the FTH and fiber rollouts, but yesterday during our workshop, I had one question, what is the biggest bottleneck in terms of, let's say, granting some kind of KPIs for information society? Of course, it's an infrastructure.

And having in mind the role of the regulatory body for all EU Member States we need to guarantee some kind of level playing field for all participants in terms of the pace and in terms of the

level of the development not to leave anyone from the European society devastated with let's say an appropriate level of the accessibility to the infrastructure and to the services as well.

When it comes to some kind of wider context, that let's say WSIS Forum is strictly involved in, I would say that it's always the play between the red tie and host level, and in course having in mind many customer savers, many authorities I must say that we've got two different zones. First is to those countries that are able to deliver and appropriate level of services. I mean, they've got very competitive entrepreneurs, high-priced elasticity of demand and extremely high, even more than 100% of penetration.

On the other hand we've got Challengers who are doing their best not to leave this opportunity to get on the train that is leaving the station, and from my perspective, the role of even broadband commission and income BARC and especially the ITU and WSIS Forum is to guarantee that we're able to combine our expectations and make both ends meet at the same time in terms of our knowledge, so for me first of all, this kind of events like WSIS Forum are really, really crucial for finding out about the latest work scene and having some kind of discussions regarding what is on the back stage, so what are the real bottlenecks in the infrastructure, what are the real bottlenecks in for example 5G development, and what are the real bottlenecks in quality of services that's quite challenges project in front of us. Also regarding the net neutrality cases, so when it comes to the IoT end and other still undefined issues, I must say that comparatively to telecom industry where everything is quite clear and we've got rules and obligations of everything, these definitions are still very crucial for us to be sorted out because when we are talking about services based on the extreme of bytes definition, the real meaning of such issues like IoT, like Smart Grid, are really difficult for especially white collar clerks to be defined, to be measured, and hopefully sometimes to be regulated as well.

So, what follows from that, I think that the most important issue that is in front of many countries that is in front of many regulators is how to clarify definitions for such kind of issues that are in front of us. We are starting to talk about, many years ago we had only one quite more important issue, it was a cyber -- it was information society. We've got Sustainable Development Goals, but apart from that we've got more and more issues that should be addressed during such kind of events like WSIS Forum. Thanks a lot.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Marcin, and those are very complex issues that are being discussed, and I know in BARC, progressing quite a lot on these difficult issues, we very much look forward to a closer dialogue between ITU and BARC.

So, moving on to Dr. Konstantinos Karachalios. Very nice to see you back, from the IEEE, Managing Director, so the theme of the

WSIS Forum is ICTs for achieving SDGs, so how do you see IEEE with its mission to advance technology for humanity contributing to the advancement of the SDGs? And since ICTs are crucial to achieving the SDGs, what measures can be taken to ensure that they are developed and deployed with appropriate ethical considerations for human and society -- societal values? Konstantionos?

>> KONSTANTINOS KARACHALIOS: Thank you. Pleasure for me to be here again and to be in the WSIS Forum and I would like to throw attention to what was said, it's difficult to define what makes a Smart City and so on, what are we talking about. I would like to say clearly that I do not believe that technology can make us intelligent. It is different things that make us personally and socially intelligent.

Technology can play a role, but it should not really be seen as the main vehicle for this, so I don't believe ICT can make a city smart. It is other things that can. They can complement the smartness of the city, but it's not technology. Let's say the most livable cities in the world like Vienna or Vancouver, it's not technology that makes them livable but it's other things.

Again, another hype is around AI, nobody knows exactly what it is. It's marketing hype. We should not fall for the marketing hype of bigger business. There is interest there but they attract so much action and resources, so we have to be careful of what we're propagating here.

From our perspective, we do believe, we're a technological organization, we believe technology has a big potential, and in particular as ICT technologies have a potential to promote also SDGs, and as the panel before us made very clear, there are some caveats and if we do not address them, we can have very different outcomes. One is a threat to inclusiveness. I mean, it is not true that these technologies will promote inclusiveness, but what we see is widening the gap. This is a reality so how do we promote the technology application in a way that the gap is diminished and not widened, and this is not sure at all right now.

Second is we don't want to send our children into a digital slavery. This is very important where we're talking about data agency, our digital identities and so on. What we're seeing is we're losing agency, we're not winning, and for us it may be too late in my generation, but for our kids they deserve better so we have to do a very, very conscious effort that we do not make it impossible for them to have determination about themselves.

And in a path right now I'm not very confident or optimistic, I should say which is why I'm here. If I was really quiet, I would be on the island fishing and not being here. And so the next point, what you call about ethics, ethics is a broader thing and it's not about good and bad, it's about having trustworthiness and quality of the systems, the systems engineering, are they doing what they

promise or are they doing something totally different.

And how can we really do them in a way that they do what they're supposed to do because right now there are many other things that are happening. And finally, the biggest of everything is about the sustainability of our planet, and that means do these technologies really serve a sustainable planet and how? What can we do to -- or against the depletion of our resources, including our atmosphere and the climate?

This is not clear that they're adding. They may be using more energy than they help us to save, so how can we do it in a way that they contribute to sustainable development?

And again, the question is what does the engineering community, what can we do? And we can do something because, of course, we work for companies and we work for states, but at the same time, we may have our own opinion and here I'm expressing my own opinion and not of my own organization being here.

And we have our integrity and our honor, we're fathers and mothers and so on, and we think about the future generations, so we must take action independently perhaps of what our employers are saying and our states are saying. We have to create these global communities and to think for the future, for the future generations, for the global community and not only for our state and for our companies and so on. This is where we come in, this is the role we may play, and we're playing this, and an example is a community we have created around ethical dimensions of this intelligent technologies, and this is thousands of people who came together and they create assets which are globally available, and one of these is the ethically aligned design, and this is a publicly available, you can just download it and use it, and out of these we have standardization projects and so on, so and we believe -- and to finish with this, that for the countries, it is important interoperability is important for these technologies so you do not fall prey to the vendors and that you have a national strategy which focuses on your citizenship and not on your technologies. Thank you.

        >> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you very much, and thank you very much for all the collaboration IEEE has with ITU.

As you know we have this AI for Good Summit, 28th to the 31 of May, and the ethical discussion will be there so I hope you'll be there to join us and you'll come off the island with maybe a fishing rod at home and join us for that discussion. Thank you very much.

Moving on to Teresa Swinehart, nice to see you back again, Teresa, Deputy CEO and Senior Advisor to the President on Global Strategy of ICANN, so can you explain the multistakeholder approach to an effective decision-making process? Can you give us an example of such a decision? And do you think the ICANN multistakeholder

approach has wider applicability for other Internet public policy decisions? Teresa?

>> THERESA SWINEHART: Thank you Malcolm, and thank you to the organizers for having us and I'm sympathetic to the timing issue so it's going quite well.

So, it's really interesting to hear the discussions here and where the conversation has evolved over the past 10, 15, to 20 years, specifically with regards to ICANN and the area that's within our responsibilities, we have basically three components in how we operate within the ecosystem. The ICANN Community that consists of stakeholders, the broad of directors, and then the ICANN organization, namely the staff that carries out and executes what is decided to undertake.

In the context of the community, and I think this has been touched upon in different areas, it's really a component and collection of stakeholders that have an interest in the subject area, so namely encompassing businesses, Internet engineers, technical expertise, Civil Society, governments, end users, and many others, and I think that's an important element of bringing all the parties together.

These stakeholders developed the policies, develop the actions that need to be undertaken for the organization, and receive advice from relevant groups as well importantly in the context of ICANN from the Governmental Advisory Committee to ensure that there is also governmental advice with regards to specific issue areas.

The Broad then would review and adopt the policies that have been put together by the community and then would direct the organization to execute and implement those.

So, it's essentially a distributed decentralized approach that has checks and balances in the system that enable us to then operationalize policies that have been developed and agreed upon.

So, a recent example is the work that we have undertaken in the area that's within our mission and scope for the organization in relation to the European General Data Protection Regulation, the GDPR that has come out.

There we really brought the community together to address some core policy issues and determine whether what's been referred to as temporary reward with top-level domains should become a consensus policy or not. The community worked at a rapid pace under tight deadlines in order to address this issue and that's currently under discussion in order to make a determination of the next steps, but that's a very specific example and a very recent example.

So we know that in the context of the multistakeholder model and in the context of ICANN, we need to continue to evolve and we need to continue to evolve and recognizing that the environment is complex and there may be additional stakeholders or interests coming to the table relevant to the areas of our work and we're undertaking

work in that area to make sure that we're evolving, staying true, while not losing the inclusiveness of the decision-making processes themselves.

To the second question that really related to whether the multi-stakeholder model in light of what we're experiencing, is a viable platform for resolving other issues with regards to the Internet.

It's not really for us to make that determination for other Internet policy areas, but I think some major observations around this and this goes a little bit to the prior conversations on the interdependencies, whether it's interdependencies on subject areas, interdependencies among stakeholders or evolves to serve the community like we heard in the first panel, but I think it is important that the opportunity to bring stakeholders to the table that are able to help inform good decision-making, that can be participants in finding solutions that can function in the long run is an important issue now especially as we look at the complexity of some of the issues and interdependencies that we're seeing.

You have to have best practices around this, you have to have cooperation, you have to instill trust among each other, and so networking with each other and getting to know each other is an important aspect.

Sometimes it takes a little longer for the policies to be undertaken to reach consensus. The end result is often times very good and sustainable and sustainable and scalable in different ways than we may have originally anticipated.

So, I think at the heart of all of this is really a collaborative kind of work, the opportunity for people to engage, to share their knowledge, to come to a decision, and to reach consensus. And from that standpoint, our experience is that it has functioned and may be applicable elsewhere, and with that perhaps the reception is an opportunity this evening to network in different kinds of ways and engage in different conversations, so thank you.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Teresa. It's very nice that ICANN is now a Sector Member of ITU as well, so thanks very much for that. I look forward to future collaboration.

So, moving on to our next speaker, Sebastian Bellagamba, Regional Bureau Director for Latin America and Caribbean of ISOC, how would you say that ISOC contributes to implementing the WSIS? Sebastian, and can you please share some examples of successful multistakeholder projects from the ground?

>> SEBASTIAN BELLAGAMBA: Absolutely. Thank you very much, and thank you for the invitation to be here and I think it's very pertinent discussing multistakeholder partnerships in this panel when this is the house of one of the most important things that we have done in the past in order to promote the global policy discussions in the multistakeholder environment which is the idea,

so it's very pertinent we're celebrating that and I thank you very
much again.

So our contribution is exactly that. I mean, we tried to
convey different actors and we believe it strongly in
multistakeholder, in the multistakeholder process in order to make
things happen. I mean, it's not just in order to discuss in theory
but to make it happen and it's very pertinent. I mean, there is
a question of how we actually made it happen, and I think one example
on that is some things we're seeing in the field of community
networks, for instance. I mean, what's the issue there? I mean,
the Internet is a technology that has been deployed at the fastest
pace in human history, but it's not enough.

The program is not enough. We have reached 50% more
population, but in the end 49% of the population is in two
situations; one is that it's not reaping all the benefits of being
connected. Evidently there are benefits of being online, people
get better of being connected, and these people are not only not
reaping the benefits but are getting worse every day because being
left behind means that the world moves online and you're not there.
And so your situation is every worse every day that you're not
connected.

So, we need to create partnerships and work together in order
to solve that. One issue, and the second issue with this 49% of
the population that we connected the easiest ones, the richer and
urban ones that are more easy to connect.

So one thing that we tried to work out with different
stakeholders is let's go for the hardest of the hardest to connect.
Let's go to those places that are in the 18% of -- at least in Latin
America, 18% of the population lives in an area with no connection
at all, let's go for that and try to make it happen. Let's connect
the hardest part of the hardest.

And one way -- there are several ways do that. I see recently
the employment sector, for instance, doing splendid things but we
have partnered with the private sector in different countries and
we can deploy community networks, it's called community networks
and they're networks deployed and run by their own communities which
provides an excellent solution for these areas that are very far
away, population is dispersed, and there is a problem with finding
a business model for that.

And this is in partnership, if you do it in partnership in
a multistakeholder fashion that is a very good approach in order
to solve the situation of the people that is not connected can, and
it's not going to be connected in the short term otherwise.so let
me give you just some examples. I mean, governments and private
sector has been facilitating, supporting, and even deploying
community networks around the world. I mean, many countries have
facilitate the deployment of community networks and just to mention

a few that comes to mind, Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, Latin America, Georgia,, for instance those are countries that we work with, and I think the way that we can sort it's situation of those that are not connected is only through multistakeholder partnerships, so I thank you very much.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Sebastian. Congratulations for taking on the challenge of reaching out to the most difficult of the difficult.

As you say, we have 51% connected but they're mostly in the urban areas, it's the rural areas that are the big challenge because of the poor return on investment, of course, in those areas compared to the urban areas, so really bringing connectivity to the rural areas is the main challenge that we have to face, so thanks for all the work you're doing there.

In fact, I often -- we talk a lot about Smart Cities, but I would much prefer to see us talking a lot more about Smart Villages. You know, if we bring the technology to the people in the villages, the healthcare, education, improved productivity, startup companies in village, then there would be less people moving into the cities and we wouldn't have all the challenges we have to face in the urban areas, so thanks very much for that.

So moving on to the last but by no means the least speaker, and I'm very pleased we have a private sector panelist with us, Dr. Nasser Zaid Al-Meshary Vice-President of Business Sectors for the Private Sector, and so did you reach in weaving the presentation and enabling regulators to design and enable the value system for the entire society, and how do you plan to repeat your success in other sectors?

>> NASSER ZAID AL-MESHARY: Thank you Malcolm. I'm happy to be here, and our experience in enable a regular regulator in Saudi Arabia. It's responsible for the transportation system and 2015 and 2014 Uber came to the Saudi market and the current legislation and transportation system is not ready to accept this disruption.

The authority contacted ELM as the leading digital transformation company in Saudi Arabia and we form a team and we understand the team mission was to focus first on the current system.

So we divided the system, the transportation system into three or four actors. The first one is the regulator itself. The second one is the consumers, the citizen and ex-pat asking for transportation, and the third one is partners like ELM as a private company, and then the fourth one is other government regulators, and we found that the most difficult challenge with the regulator is the policy. The current legislation does not support the new innovative solution that we will suggest to the regulator. They have to change a lot of regulations.

The transportation system in Saudi Arabia is very complex. We receive more than 15 million visitors to the places. We have

more than 30 million expats working in Saudi Arabia. We have a problem with women driving right now and right now they allow women to drive and so there is a demand to transportation system and so in order to digitize the journey we realize certain legislation and policy needs to be changed within the public transportation authority. That has taken too much time with them.

The second challenge with PTA or Public Transportation Authority is the readiness of the technology layer. The infrastructure was not in a good shape to absorb our digital solutions, and also there is a need to connect to other government agencies to exchange certain data that is needed to complete the solution.

Another challenge with the regulator -- excuse me -- another challenge with the regulator is the collaboration between the ecosystem. These four actors need to work together and persuade them to add values to the ecosystem. Defining the values, it would be impossible to persuade the taxi drivers or Uber companies or track dispatcher companies to work within the ecosystem. They need to understand what is the value that every contributor will add to the system so that they can exchange ideas, exchange data and values and then they will provide quality of service to the consumers.

Another one also is the different mindset between private sector and the government organization. Private sector dealing with financial aspect of solutions, and government organizations, usually they just provide the service free of charge and this partnership between ELM and the regulator is a PPP so it generates certain revenues and the revenue needs to be distributed between ELM and the regulators so they're not in a good position to negotiate the deal.

Once we define the metrics or values that every contributor will add to the system, we realize that the consumer right now, they have got a good quality of service, so any journey right now in Saudi Arabia, will be registered on a platform called Wusel in Arabic so that you can see in Saudi Arabia, all the tracks, all the taxi drivers, all Limo will be displayed and we know that this trip is moving from Point A to Point A and also know that over at other ride-sharing companies they know in advance when they hire a driver, that the regulator provides security clearance for this driver, one, to ensure only security-cleared people will be engaged in the system.

I think for the second question, the next disruptive industry I think is financial industry. The financial industry with Fintech technology is under pressure to regulate the new Fintech companies which will work behind the central banks. I think many central banks needs to study the current situation of Fintech to absorb these technologies. Thank you.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Dr. Nasser. And

thanks to all the panelists, not only for being able to finish our
session within our allotted time, (Laughing), within our allotted
one hour we finished on time, so thanks very much for that. But
also, of course, thank you all for your partnership and
contributions to WSIS Forum which are very much appreciated, so
please join me in thanking our panelists.
        (Applause).
         Now I think we move straight on to the next panel.
        >> Thank you to all the speakers, we invite them in the
audience. We'll take a few moments break, and then we'll announce
the next session.
        (music).
        >> We need to announce the Hackathon Winners, we had one on
Sunday and Monday, the three winners of the Hackathon are most
creative idea is from Zimbabwe, are you hear, team? Zimbabwe, are
you in the room? Can't see them.
        The best pitch went to SEDO University of (?) and the most
project with most potential to impact went to WHA from the Webster
University.
        >> The Opening Ceremony will continue with the Third Session
ICT in Achieving the SDGs and Celebrating 10 years of WSIS Forum.
        I would kindly ask the WSIS Chair to come to the podium, to
remain on the podium, Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin and other panelists
from the third session are kindly invited to join us on the podium.
        (music)
        >> I would like to kindly invite the speakers from the third
session to kindly come to the podium and take your seats. The
session will start in a few moments.
        >> Dear, colleagues, we're starting with the Final Panel of
the Opening Ceremony. Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin the Director of
ITU, Moderator, will be moderating the session. It's about the 10
years of the WSIS Forum. Doreen, the floor is yours.
        >> DOREEN BOGDAN-MARTIN: Good afternoon, ladies and
gentlemen. In my notes, I was supposed to say good morning, so that
means we're running late, and I realize that we're standing between
you and lunch and so we will try to make up for some lost time
throughout this session.
        I wanted to first start out by asking you how many of you,
if by a show of hands, were here in 2009 when we had the first WSIS
Forum? Can you raise your hands if you were here in 2009? Okay.
A handful. Not too many. Okay. So in 2009, as you heard, that's
when we held the first WSIS Forum.
        We had 35 sessions, and we were focusing on ICTs for MDGs,
the millennium Development Goals, we were looking at cybersecurity,
and we were also talking about climate change among other things.
        We had 25% of the world connected to the Internet, we had 68%
with a mobile subscription, and we had 9% with mobile broadband.

Today, as we've heard this morning, we have more people with mobile subscriptions, more mobile subscriptions than we have people, we have half the world connected to the Internet, and we have 69.3 mobile broadband subscriptions. Great progress, yes, and certainly the WSIS process and framework has contributed to that, but we still have a long way to go.

In 2003, when world leaders came together for the World Summit on the Information Society, they agreed to build a people-centered inclusive development-oriented information society for all. They set a number of targets for 2015 that we have not yet achieved.

So what we're going to do during the course of this panel is we're going to talk about the past, where we've come from. We're going to talk about where we are today, and we're going to talk about where we're going and how we can make sure that in 10 years' time we do have the world connected.

So I'm going to start with my first panelist, who is the Vice Minister from the Dominican Republic, can you tell us how the Dominion Republic is using ICTs to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals?

   >> ZORAIMA CUELLO: On behalf of the Dominican Republic Government, it's a great pleasure for me to be here at the society.

The Dominican Republic began in 2016 an ambitious digital agenda which is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. A roadmap on these global challenges to reduce and eliminate inequality as we spoke about this morning, the largest inequalities which exist and the need for inclusion.

In this vein, I would just like to highlight the challenges which we are facing, using the ICTs to reduce this inequality and in terms of access to the Internet, the Dominican Republic in 2017, 69.7% of the urban population has access to the Internet against 47.1% in rural areas have access.

We also highlighted the inequalities because the higher class, which is 85% versus those from low socioeconomic levels are only connected at 39% only.

In the same vein, there is inequality linked to age. In our case, indeed, 91% of young people within the ages of 15 and 19 years old are connected versus only 11.6% of older adults of those older than 65 years old.

94.2% who are studying at the university are connected to the Internet against 6.3% of those who don't have any training at all. Here we can clearly see how the statistics clearly show the differences and inequalities linked above all to geographic zones and at the same time to socioeconomic possibilities ahead. Given this challenge, the Dominican Republic President, His Excellence is boosting an agenda of access to ensure that no one is left behind.

Furthermore, we are working on a fiber optic national network in order to implement free WiFi hotspots across the national

territory. To date, 73% of the territory already has free WiFi
hotspots. We have it in hospitals, on buses, on public transport,
in parks, and in town halls amongst others. However, in the same
vein, we're also strongly working towards inclusion of technology
and ICTs in schools because in private colleges of the higher
classes, upper class students have access to inclusive education
through using technologies, but not those students in the state
schools.

     We're also rolling out an ambitious program in order to have
electronic devices around for 1 million students in state schools
and have programs on robotics which are available to all teachers.

     We also have trained almost 700,000 people on digital
literacy. We also have exclusive programs for adults and for
persons with disabilities.

     It would be remiss of me if I were not to mention the online
services in order to bridge inequalities through access to Internet,
and now we have more than 500 services online which also allows
people to access public services online regardless of where they
are living and also to have an online passport to apply for this
in less than 24 hours. Thank you very much, Ms. Vice Minister

     >> DOREEN BOGDAN-MARTIN: Panelists, there is a clock down
here and we also have this gentleman behind the WMO flag, and he's
going to hold up the yellow panel to keep us on track. Thank you.

     Now we're going to pass to Dr. Daniela Bronstrup, the Deputy
Director-General Regulatory Framework, Ministry of the Presidency,
the Co-Chair of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group, and I would
like her to stake with us her thoughts about not only the WSIS process
but also the IGF and how you think the two processes can help us
contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and if you could
also share some highlights about what we can -- what we will likely
see at the IGF this year. Please, Daniela?

     >> DANIELA BRONSTRUP: Thank you, and good afternoon. I'm
honored to be here as Co-Chair of the MAG because you call the IGF
Forum, a baby of the World Summit of Information Society. In our
view, the most important thing of the IGF, the unique selling point
of the Internet Governance Forum, it's a multistakeholder forum
where all groups come together to discuss the future of the Internet.

     I think this is very fruitful because usually you have the
situations that policymakers or nongovernmental organizations or
private business is discussing among themselves, and what the
Internet Governance Forum provides for all of us is to see the
different perspectives and to learn from each other.

     Unfortunately, in our view, in the past not all stakeholders
have been represented equally and adequately at the Internet
Governance Forum and so one of our aims this year is to bring all
of them to the Berlin and for example also high-ranking politicians
and also small and medium-sized businesses, for example, and of

course and very important in our view, the Global South because representatives of the Global South have been underrepresented so far and that's why Germany has set up a fund for representatives of the Global South to come to Berlin to make that easier for them.

What is in our view very fruitful is that at the IGF, there are open discussions, open discussions that also address tradeoffs, maybe even conflicts of interest. Let's say for example, if you talk about the free flow of data which is very important in our view, you will also have to talk about security of data. If you talk about privacy and protecting of privacy, you also have to talk about how to design the right rules to make innovation possible. This is what the IGF can provide.

But what is also necessary is to produce more tangible outcomes. We have discussed, just an hour ago at the MAG meeting how to make that possible because the IGF has produced a lot of outcomes. The question is, if we do it in a strategic way that the broader public knows it and takes away something out of our discussions and that is what we will do this year. We will also work hard on public relations because I think it is important that the broader community and the broader public know what comes out of the Internet Governance Forum.

What we will discuss this year in Berlin is really the future of the Internet, that is our ambition. We have seen is the World Wide Web for 30 years and the question is now what we will -- what we want to have as an Internet in the next years and the next decades and that is what our ambition is to discuss.

The MAG is discussing different topics and to have maybe more strategic discussions, we are talking about the inter-governance, about security, and about inclusion, those are the three headlines, and we have made that decision to try to structure the workshops this year under the three headlines.

So I invite you all to Berlin this November. There is not yet a fixed motto, we are still working on that, but our let's say, suggestion is that it's, one world, one, one vision and we should try together to shape the Internet of the future in an inclusive way and Germany is very much addicted to the fact that the Internet should help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. That was one of the things we achieved when we had the presidency in 2017 and that is also the ambition for the IGF this year. Thanks.

>> DOREEN BOGDAN-MARTIN: Thank you very much, Daniela, and we hope to see all of you in November in Berlin so thank you for the invitation. Next, we're going to hear from Mr. Wang, the Chief Economist of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology. Mr. Wang -- ICTs Are a Driving Force for the Sustainable Development Goals, so I was hoping you could share with us China's experience in engaging with the ICT industry to drive sustainable development. Mr. Wang, please?

>> WANG XINZHE: I'm very delighted to attend this WSIS Forum session. I thank the moderator for the questions. China prioritized and has long been blocking on the use and application of ICT by issuing in multiple policy documents to promote ICT level in the society to reducing imbalances between rural and urban areas and to promote sustainable development, by first build a broadband high-speed network and to build a high opinion speed safe ubiquitous new generation info infrastructure.

As for fixed broadband by the end of 2018, the total of subscribers reached a full 100 million, among which fiber optic access subscribers accounted for 90% for uses with 100 to beat MPS over 70% and as for mobile users, the total member, 3G and 4G users reached 1.3 billion. Over the past few years we have been promoting the speed of Internet while reducing the lower charges. Mobile uses, meaning spontaneous every month, and second to encourage innovation driven development and integrated application, we encourage ICT service business-relate the innovation and to promote its integration into all sectors and promote economic and social transition for example in an industrial area.

We develop industrial Internet to revitalize traditional manufacturing of the resources and the production. Looking forward we will continue to deepen opening up in cooperation to work with all countries to promote the development of application in ICT in order to achieve the 2030 SDGs.

As for another issue that is the IT levels in rural and remote areas, as for this issue, I think it's a very interesting issue because it reflects a country's IT level. The Chinese government prioritized rural communication in ICT development to promote universal services. Since 2015, China has organized a full universal services related pilot project, which led to 98% of the uptick coverage of administrative.

In promoting universal services, China promoted relief by providing medical and learning resources to poverty stricken and remote areas.

Specifically speaking, farmers can easily pay utility bills online, or high retail or TV programs and lives have been greatly improved.

As for women and persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, they can find a job via the Internet that realizes their potential, and their lives can be changed.

Of course, we also realize that just like many other countries, China needs to continue its progress on making telecom services equal and universal. China will continue its momentum on universal services on the Internet and aid poverty relief so the population can live a happier and more fulfilling life. Thank you.

>> DOREEN BOGDAN-MARTIN: Thank you so much, Mr. Wang, for sharing China's experience, in particular on rural connectivity and

universal service. I thank you for that. Now we're going to hear
from Professor Minkin, Chairman of the ITU Working Group on WSIS
and SDGs and, Professor Minkin, I was hoping you could share with
us this afternoon how important the WSIS process is for the 2030
Agenda. Professor Minkin, please?

     >> VLADIMIR MINKIN: Many thanks, Doreen. Distinguished
colleagues, Your Excellencies, the WSIS 2019 is not only an
anniversary meeting but also taking stock of the Geneva Action Plan
over the past 15 years.

     This Forum next year is an excellent platform for making a
five-year evaluation as to the implementation of WSIS for 2025.

     The objectives in WSIS 2003 to 2005 and highlighted once again
by the General Assembly in 2015 have not lost their importance. For
example, although most of the world does have access to the Internet
now, the digital divide, lack of connectivity or the difference of
connectivity in developing worlds is significant.

     There is an action plan for the WSIS concept of 2015, and there
is a broadband committee and all of these things are directly linked
to the SDGs as is shown in the -- as shown in the WSIS geomatrix
developed and updated regularly.

     It's only through our joint efforts between the private
sector, Civil Society, governments, regional and other
organizations that we'll be able to move forward. If we look ahead
on the implementation of WSIS through   2005, I want to look at the
UN Resolution that talks about the involvement of all stakeholders
in the process and in the process of and run-up to these meetings
in evaluating and implementing the decisions, and also there are
several areas that are of particular interest.

     In this connection, we think it would be a good idea to look
at the positive results that we've had of getting ITU -- or ITU
getting many people involved in the process via the MPP platform.
We have developed an outcome statement of WSIS + 10 on the Action
Plan and we've also highlighted the progress made as well as the
challenges and difficulties that we have encountered.

     Another document is the WSIS + 10 concept where the priority
thrusts of our efforts were identified for the period after 2015,
and also for updating and further developing each and every one of
these action lines.

     At the Council Meeting of the WSIS SDG this year, we
highlighted the importance of NGOs and getting them involved in all
of the processes here and we thought it was a good idea to conduct
multi-- called a meeting in MPP, the WSIS + 20 meeting. This process
will allow us to have a detailed look at the action plan and evaluate
the progress made and also -- and we have implemented the SDGs and
also look at the further action in the WSIS process.

     The WSIS process is not really going to stop in 2020. This
will at the present as a catalyzer because this process helps

innovation, allows us to introduce new technologies and not just
ITs and we're -- new technologies open up great perspectives and
also cause great problems and also perhaps create new gaps so this
means we all need to work together amongst all stakeholders to reduce
these gaps. Close work between WSIS and the SDGs is important, and
this also means that we have to continue the WSIS process at least
until 2030, so I hope that there will be a possibility to have further
discussions within the WSIS Forum even after 2030. Many thanks.
        >> DOREEN BOGDAN-MARTIN: Thank you so much, Professor
Minkin, and thank you for ending on the note of collaboration and
the importance of all of us working together.
        Ladies and gentlemen, now we're going to hear from Ambassador
Amandeep Gill, the Co-Lead and Executive Director of the
Secretariat. We're delighted to have Ambassador Gill with us. If
you could share with us, we understand the panel had the third and
final meeting I guess a week or so ago, could you share with us some
of the things we might see in that final report, and how do you think
the WSIS process and framework fits into global digital cooperation?
Please, Ambassador?
        >> AMANDEEP GILL: It's a great pleasure to be here at the
WSIS Forum and talk about how these technologies, digital
cooperation, it can energize achievement of Agenda 2030. We know
the potential and but how do we get to the goals that we have set
for ourselves? This is an important topic within the panel, and
it resonated strongly at our last meeting just a few days ago.
        We've looked at in the context of our work, at what is most
transformative in terms of the international community's efforts?
Is it e-commerce? Is it Internet access for everyone? Is it other
forms of infrastructure?
        We've come to this tentative conclusion that it is
inclusiveness which is the most transformative digital cooperation
parody, so inclusiveness in terms of access to digital technologies,
inclusiveness in terms of their development and employment, and
inclusiveness in terms of the outcomes.
        And what gets us to inclusiveness is two very, very important
policy interventions. One is providing the common rails for
digital technologies to be deployed at scale in the service of the
SDGs. Some people might call these common rails digital public
goods and there are numerous examples from around the world, digital
IDs, financial inclusion driven by digital IDs, e-commerce
platforms, and smart logistics and payment systems of the kind we've
seen in China and so on.
        And the other very important policy enabler is guardrails,
so common rails for scaling, social innovation, impact, but
guardrails to ensure that the risks of these technologies being
deployed at scale are managed properly. The trust is there in the
use and collaboration can be driven using that factor of

trustworthiness.

For those who have more of a taxonomy-oriented approach to looking at the SDGs, our recommendation is likely to focus a lot in the following three questions, so one on SDGs 8, 9, 10, inclusive economy, life-long learning taunts, quality jobs, quality infrastructure. Another set of recommendations would be focused on SDG 16, institutions, security, good governance, and then 17, the issue of partnerships, so we have a strong focus on digital models for digital governance in the recommendation.

And finally, there is a small set of recommendations that speak to SDG 4, for example, the issue of human capacity. Capacity building is perhaps a term from the past, but what we are looking at is enhancing capacity in its broader, more empowering sense.

I have a few more seconds so I want to mention what this means for the development community. I think the most important point I can share today is that there is a need to shift mindsets from ICTs as technology solutions to digital technologies as horizontal enablers.

So what's the problem we're trying to solve and how can we better organize ourselves around that solution is what should drive the use of technologies and not one particular new technology silos, AI, blockchain, Big Data, et cetera.

So if there is no ring fencing the digital economy today, if every part of the digital economy is digitalizing, there is no ring-fencing development efforts either, so digitalization should cut horizontally across development efforts. Thank you.

>> DOREEN BOGDAN-MARTIN: Thank you so much, Ambassador Gill, for giving us a sort of sneak preview of what we can expect to see in the final report.

Next, we have Joshua Setipa, Managing Director of the UN Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries and it's the first time you're joining us and you're newly operational, if I understand correctly, based in Istanbul. The creation was agreed by the General Assembly in 2015 and now that you're up and operating and have had a view of what's happening here in the world of WSIS, how can we take advantage of the technology bank and how can the LDCs in particular benefit as well as the numerous projects linked to SDGs but more focused on LDCs. Please, sir, you have the floor.

>> JOSHUA SETIPA: Thank you very much. We're very happy to be here. This is our first WSIS conference so we look very much forward to participating in its work going forward.

The creation of the UN Technology Bank by the General Assembly marked the achievement of an SDG 17.8, and it's still the only SDG that the global community has achieved to date.

So from that point, it already saves the global community, and confirmed what we already know, and that is that LDCs run the risk of being victims of this widening gap between them and the rest

of the world.   As we heard I think also this morning, it is estimated that around 2 billion people are offline today in the world, and unless there is a deliberate, positive bias towards addressing that, the gap continues to widen, and that is where the UN Technology Bank comes in to play.

We are to work within the UN System with partners both inside and outside the UN System in the private sector to mobilize targeted supported toward least developed countries.   The reality is that the SDGs are interconnected, cross-cutting, but what we've seen is that technologies deployed to address SDGs still primarily look at solutions that are more sectoral and they're not looking at solutions that are multisectoral that address the entire range of the SDGs, and it is important that more effort is put into addressing that because as long as it's addressed in pillars and addressed in those central solutions, then we'll not have a sustainable solution that will address SDGs in their entirety.

The Technology Bank is working with LDC countries and to mobilize resource, to mobilize interventions that will have a transformational impact.

We start with undertaking diagnostics, so understand the realities on the ground, and of course, as we know, even, we see the differences.   We've got LDCs that already launch satellites and we have got countries in the LCD group still grappling with the most basic issues of connectivity, so we need to undertake diagnostics or we're already undertaking diagnostics with partners the UN including UNESCO and U.   CTAD and another series of diagnostics with the World Bank and OACD.

And now that gives us a very good picture of what the realities are, and then we're able to then with interventions and also because of leadership of the countries themselves, we can idols priority sectors.   We've recently started working in Uganda and ICT is a sector for them and that's how we can look at mobile support, other countries clean entry and others clean access to water and look at how to mobilize technological support from within the private sector and also from other non-state actors to be able to address that.

We are also using the convening power of the UN to mobilize support for LDCs, and if we can continue to make the case for more directed support for least developed countries within the multiple initiatives that are taking place to address science technology and innovation issues toward the SDGs, we believe we'll be able to make sure that at the end of the day, the process towards achieving the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development is attained and that LDCs are not left behind, and besides that is the commitment that the global community made and that is not to leave anyone behind.   Thank you.

>> DOREEN BOGDAN-MARTIN: Thank you very much for that, Joshua.   I hope we can count on you next year and beyond, and I think

I can speak on behalf of the ITU that you can count on us to be one of your partners as we try to mobilize support for the benefit of the LDCs.

So now I'm going to turn to my colleague from WHO, Dr. Chief Scientist at WHO, a close partner of ITU, we have lots of initiatives that we work on together.

As you know in 2003 when we had the first phase of the summit, world leaders agreed to actually connect all the world's hospitals and all the world's clinics by 2015. We didn't quite get there, and then of course in 2015 we had the SDG Summit and the adoption of SDG 3.

Can you share with us from the WHO perspective how your new digital health strategy can help us to accelerate progress to achieving SDG 3? Thank you.

>> Thank you very much. Many thanks for having WHO on the panel. It was realized my many countries around the world that digital technologies and tools can play a major role in really addressing some of the big challenges we have in healthcare delivery, particularly in lower-income settings.

Because just to give a few examples, it could help to map the facilities that are available using GIS. You could have realtime data on drug supplies, vaccine systems on all monitored using digital technologies on the vaccine viles. You can use obviously decision-support systems on mobile phones to help frontline healthcare workers provide the best possible guess especially where doctors are scarce.

And you can use it to reach people directly through messaging and begin the ITU and WHO are working together on a "be healthy be mobile" campaign for many years now, and some of the examples in countries show that whether it's diabetes or whether it's quitting tobacco, these M health technologies delivered through simple mobile phones can actually be quite effective, so there is a whole range of applications even without getting into high-tech things like artificial intelligence-based diagnostics that can be applied.

Last year we were asked, WHO was asked by several different Member States to develop a global strategy for digital health and in the next few months we'll be engaging in a number of multistakeholder discussions, including at your regional committees to really define what should go into that strategy, but the broad contours of that are really to be able to first engage stakeholders to define what the key issues are that need to be addressed to capitalize intervention of it because I think it's mentioned several times today that inclusiveness is very, very important and unless government starts scaling up and starts using it in the day-to-day business of delivering healthcare it's unlikely to have major impacts on health.

Then also one of the goals would be to measure the impact of

this. We already have a website, a digital health atlas and also digital health index which measures the state which countries have reached in their capacities.

Another interesting development late last year was that WHO was requested by the governments of Germany, another way and Guiana to develop a roadmap for SDG 3, realizing the world is off track on the SDG 3 health targets so this global action plan for SDG 3, which now has 12 significant trees from among the UN family and other multilateral agencies, but this number is growing, has identified 7 accelerators to achieve the SDG 3, and one of them is digital health and data, and so we have a number of a group working together now to really flush out what this would mean, what this accelerator would actually mean.

So, we also have the focus group on artificial intelligence for health and we heard earlier today about the importance of looking at the ethical and social and legal implications of some of these new technologies.

So we look forward to working not only with the ITU but with UNESCO and many of the other partners really on looking at and also building on the work of the high-level panel that Ambassador Gill just described the principles that have been described, and that I think it's important to keep in mind the people who are going to be the ultimate beneficiaries, so I think the way we will develop our strategies would keep the people at the center of the development but then also address the needs of practitioners and policymakers in the area. Thank you.

>> DOREEN BOGDAN-MARTIN: Thank you so much for sharing that and stressing the importance of keeping people at the center. Now I'm going to turn to my colleague from UNIDO, Phillppe Scholtes is the Manager Director of Program Development and Cooperation. Yesterday was a track on innovation and he's going to share his thoughts on innovation and how we can try to mainstream innovation across national and regional systems to achieve the SDGs. Philippe, please.

>> PHILIPPE SCHOLTES: Thank you, Doreen, and to the organizers and everyone for the 10th anniversary of this event. We are about a century younger than ITU is, and we are set to promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization across the developing world. Now, in the language of the SDG that is essentially SDG 9, which is and no coincidence, lumped together with infrastructure and innovation because infrastructure is obviously an important prerequisite for any industrial activity to take place and innovation is critical at this day in age of Industry 4.0, the New Industrial Revolution and what it entails for industrialization in developing countries in particular. So if you want to avoid the digital divide to widen and to somehow leave behind quite a bit of developing country, we have to take a few proactive steps at various

levels and we're trying to make user folder tools that are disposable and one is the convening power, the previous speaker referred to the convening power of the United Nations that we organized, for instance, with and support of the United Arab Emirates for a few years in the organization of the global manufacturing and industrialization summit, and which is an event that takes place typically and in this year the Russian Federation has offered to invite so it will take place in the Russian Federation and it is about setting the stage and brainstorming among experts, policymakers, leaders of government about long-term industrialization issues.

Second, is we work on policy and we have operations now in about 100 countries, or 110 countries or so, that we work with companies to apply policies not only technology policies but also very much includes education policies where it's about curriculum development, working at a young age to work with children, entrepreneurship and innovation that goes along with it and whether it is about trade policies because we are convinced that through trade and tangibles that come along with traded goods come increased incentives for innovations among countries, and finally it's at the level of various technical assistance initiatives where we work and in the four areas of inclusive sustainable economy and industrial development and we bring together some technologies that are inspired by Internet of Things, by new Industrial Revolution, by the information and communication technologies to bear on the various aspects of our activities.

For instance, we work on precision farming to increase productivity in countries, we work on wireless communications to -- in the context of our sustainable cities programs and to have the decision-makers monitor a number of variables that determine whether cities are sustainable or not. We work on digitalized electricity, many based on reliable energy as a means of powering industrial energy in remote parts of the country, but the key point for us is the coordination among all of these initiatives, so it's same way as we have this unique platform the WSIS here of coordination among different UN agencies, different stakeholders, with different vested interests and objectives, the same is also very much prevalent in the field on the ground and there we see that those dealing with information and communication technology are not necessarily the ones who would have the capacity and outreach to apply it on the ground, so we have to find a way to get the science and the bright ideas out of the lab and into the real world into economic activities, into productive activities, into small and medium-size enterprises for the benefit of the communities at large. Thank you.

>> DOREEN BOGDAN-MARTIN: Thank you so much for that, Phillippe. Now the last panelist, Ms. Moira Holmes. The head of

the International Federation for Information Processing and Ambassador Gill highlighted or explained the notion of common rails and guardrails and under the guardrails link to trust, and so we've heard from our speakers about the many benefits of ICTs to achieve the SDGs, so I wonder if you could share with us your thoughts about safety, trust, and how to minimize the potential risks. Please, Moira.

>> MOIRA DE ROCHE HOLMES: Certainly. IFIP is involved with the supply side, but ultimately everyone is a user of digital products and services. But we believe everyone has a duty of care to keep themselves safe when using digital technology, I often liken it to being physically safe. We do care and keep ourselves and family safe, possibly locking doors, having alarm systems, and only when things go wrong do we call in our local police force. We need to have the same attitude in a digital world. Cybersecurity is everyone's business and it's multidisciplinary, so if we're to achieve the promise of the fourth Industrial Revolution, the economic promise, then society needs to be able to trust the digital systems they use. Trust is essential, and remember it's very difficult to go in and very easy to lose.

When society loses confidence in digital systems, they shy away from using them and reducing the economic benefits of those technologies. How do we have trust? We believe it starts with the producers of ICT products and services having the necessary skills to be at accountable and trustworthy and behave ethically in all they do. In short, they need to be professionals.

With this extensive network of researchers and practitioners, it's well placed to help with the SDGs, specifically but not exclusively quality of education, and many in the community are involved with delivering and developing education and research on how to use digital technologies to create quality education.

We have a technical committee which is exclusively concerned with education and within that technical committee, there are many working groups that focus on digitally enhanced education or e-learning.

Goal 5, gender equality is a focus for more than one TCE and especially IPE3. Also, a domain on equity which covers gender equity and the digital divide.

Goal 8, descent work on economic growth, and as mentioned earlier we believe there are plenty of economic opportunities to be derived from digital technologies. I'm sorry.

Innovation and infrastructure, as mentioned earlier, TCs and working groups contribute to and often lead progress in state-of-the-art practice and knowledge, and finally Goal 17, partnerships, IFIP dedicated to developing partnerships with all sorts of organizations to help us all achieve the SDGs. Thank you, Doreen.

>> DOREEN BOGDAN-MARTIN: Thank you so much for sharing those thoughts. Ladies and gentlemen, this brings us to the end of our panel. I'd like you to join me in giving a round of applause to our amazing panelists.

(Applause).

I thank them also for being so succinct and I would like to hand the floor to our Chairman who would like to share a few reflections before we actually go to lunch. Chair, the floor is yours.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. Today the users of ICT, practically ICT has become digital technologies, and if you discuss about the SDG goals, what I can say is that without using digital technologies, it is impossible to fulfill the SDG goals. For every country this is important, for everybody this is important, so by the discussions we've had, I think we have understood the need of using the digital technologies at a personal level, at the social level, and the state level.

We'll have to get the benefit of the digital technology, we'll also have to face the challenges of the digital technologies, so thank you very much for attending this session.

And again, I thank the panelist and the moderator for a very good discussion. Thank you, again.

(Applause).

>> Thanking all the speakers. We would like to announce some changes in the schedules due to delays in the morning. That means this session will be followed as it was scheduled by the Hackathon teams immediately after this session.

At the same time, we'll start the high-level lunch, the high-level lunch, and the normal sessions, high-level track sessions start at scheduled at 2:30 the way you have in the schedule. But the only change is that we move the WSIS prizes ceremony from as scheduled at 5:00 in this room, the WSIS prizes ceremony is at 5:00 in this room.

And Session 7 from high-level track, is scheduled for 4:45 is scheduled for 6:00, so that means we'll have is now the pitches for hackathon and then start the 2:30 with normal high-level track sessions and in Room 1 we'll have at 5:00 at Session 6 this is prizes for one hour, and then followed by Session 7, the last session of the day, and then the Reception where everybody is invited, it is scheduled for 6:45. These are the changes.

(session completed at 6:15 a.m. CST)

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