RAW FILE

WSIS FORUM 2022
WSIS COOPERATION FOR ACCELERATING PROGRESS ON THE SDGS
HIGH-LEVEL POLICY SESSION 2: WSIS ACTION LINES AND THE
2030 AGENDA/INCLUSIVENESS, ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND
KNOWLEDGE FOR ALL/BRIDGING DIGITAL DIVIDES
MAY 31, 2022
14:00 CET

***

***

     (A CART captioner is present and standing by.).
     >> We got this on. Thank you. Distinguished panel
members, ladies and gentlemen, many my language, which is
at least 80,000 years old, that means "I see you." It is
my honor to facilitate the high level policy session number
two, WSIS Action Lines and the 2030 Agenda, inclusiveness,
access to information and knowledge for all, and bridging

digital divides.

My name is Mikaela Jade, and I'm from Sydney Australia. I would like to acknowledge all of our elders, past and present, for their contribution to now, and I would like to acknowledge all of our children who will carry our future forward.

I have flown 16,777 kilometers to participate with our team at what InDigital believes the most important part of the ITU. If we are not able to participate in our culture, in the digital age, then none of us. Inclusiveness and knowledge for all and bridging digital divides is essential for peace, stability and equality towards 2030.

Distinguished panelists, I invite you to make your interventions within a five-minute time frame, please. Kindly note that the questions are asked simultaneously, and each participant has five minutes to respond. We shall remind you when your time is complete. I would now like to invite the chief of the operations and planning department, TSB International Telecommunication Union to make his opening remarks.

>> ALEXANDER NTOKO: Okay. Thank you very much, Madam Chair, and good morning, good evening to all the sell gates. I'm going to briefly talk about two WSIS Action Lines. We can only access information if we understand it. So we believe that getting language really to provide the mechanism to transfer information in a way that is accessible to as many people as possible is really important.

It's one of the reasons why some three, two and a half years ago, we came up with our own platform based on our digital intelligence to do translation, because we produced something like 15,000 pages of text, technical, you know, standards, but we can only translate about 10% of it, 90% stays only in English. And if we have to reach out all of those who need to build systems in different languages, we need to make sure that we can reduce the cost of translation.

So ITU Translate is one of those services we work closely with the colleagues in WSIS to look at how we can translate, you know, the web pages in WSIS and also all of our own activities, for the delegates who want different versions of the translation, the engine exists, which it's for meetings for your documents themselves.

So this is something that our -- I will leave at just the high level. I will not go into the details but in case

delegates have questions, we are willing to answer them.
The second I'm going to talk about has to do with, you
know, how far have we gone? We need to be able to measure
the progress towards the SDGs, the sustainable development
goals. And, again, as some of you, most of you, I presume,
you know, still remember, we started with the MDGs, and
then, you know, we moved to the SDGs. But there's a lot of
work, which is necessary for you to even find out how
relevant the activities are to those goals. So we use AI,
digital intelligence to come up with a platform which is
going to show the relevance, map our activities to the SDGs
and be able to rank also how relevant certain activities
are to the specific SDGs.

     So what we have done is an automated platform. So
once you have done something, you describe whether it's the
standard or some kind of a brochure that you are putting a
particular language, we can take that and map it with the
description of what ITU is supposed to do within the 17
SDGs and also, again, this is something that is part of the
way that the goal -- the goal is towards meeting the SDGs.

     There's a lot also that can be said about this. The
mapping basically automates the possibility of collecting
the information itself and thus the ax I algorithm which
has to do with semantic relevance to see how it fits into
the particular -- any of the SDGs and compares what the
relevance to that activity to the different SDGs, because
as you know, there's a lot of overlap between the
sustainable development goals.

     Madam Chair, I would not like to dip into this but I
would like to thank you for listening and I want to, you
know, stop the explanation now in case there are any
questions or anything that I need to clarify. Thank you
very much.

     >> MIKAELA JADE: Thank you very much. Is the February
for Guyana with us?

     -- is the member for Guyana with us?

     Okay. I might call on the minister for the ministry
of information and digitalization, Malawi. So what is
Malawi doing for the people to easily access information in
the public domain to support the Information Society and
protect them from misappropriation? And for many people in
the economically developing nations, especially in LDCs,
mobile telephony and Internet access remain unaffordable.
The cost of broadband Internet access remains above the
affordability target, set by the broadband commission for

sustainable development. Namely 2% of monthly gross national income per capita for a number of LDCs. What are Malawi's missions being championed please?

>> GOSPEL KAZAKO: Thank you very much. Access to public information is rooted in Malawi's supreme law which is the constitution of the republic of Malawi. And this was adopted in 1995, as the constitution. Section 37 of the Malawi Constitution stipulates that subject to any act or parliament, every person shall have the right of access to all information held by the state or any of its organizations at any level of government, insofar as such information is required for the exercise of his right.

The constitutional provision has been favored and solidified with the enactment with the access to information law, which was enacted in Malawi. This law has come into force and according to the minister responsible for information is supposed to deal with that law. So I appointed 30th of September 2020 as commencement date of this act.

In addition, in January of 2021, I guarded it as subsidiary legislation to have efficient implementation of access to information. I must also mention that that puts Malawi to be one of the very, very few countries in Africa that have actually operationalized the access to information law. I'm not too sure if all countries in Europe or the Americas have actually done what we have done, but we have done it, and as I speak to you now, people in Malawi, citizens in Malawi have access to information that's making our government more transparent and our offices under place are in place to make sure the process is smooth, and we are accountable.

Let me just say that one of the motivations that we decided to -- to enact this one or to make this one or to operationalize this one, was because Malawi is a relatively small economy. I think its GDP comparatively is very small. We are a country on the go and a country on the move. I'm sure most of you know that we have a new government in Malawi has been this for two years. One the things that has not made us develop, was access to information by our citizens, as most of the resources that we used to have in the past, we're not being used very well and that compromised our progress.

So we decided to do something, that I think many countries find difficult, that is to present ourselves to the people so that we are able to -- to -- to be

accountable and to be accessible and we think that's part of the very important reason for us to develop.

Malawi has one of the highest Internet data prices in the southern African region, mainly driven by its geographical positioning, leading to high in transit costs and under dedicated supply of the international bandwidth into the country.

The government of Malawi's national Development Agenda, the Malawi 2063 and Malawi digital economy vat are in line with the fourth Industrial Revolution. You see, Malawi made the point that it has to be available and present much as it is a very small country. It's a very small country with a big heart and I know we are going to get somewhere. We are not present during the first Industrial Revolution. We were absent during the second and nowhere to be seen during the third. But this time around, we have made it a point that we have to be present and making sure that whatever we do is part of the major and the global movement that the world of digital transformation.

This digital transformation will be achieved through enhancing access to broadband coverage, to up to 95%, up from the current 35% of the population and increasing internet usage to about 80% from the current 38% and that's what we want to achieve. We might actually beat our own record.

The government of Malawi through minister of information and digitalization has come up with several initiatives to reduce the cost of connectivity and allow its citizens access to ICT services.

>> MIKAELA JADE: Thank you, sir. Thank you very much for your intervention.

I will now turn to minister within Office of the Prime Minister of Guyana, to address two questions, please, and we have five minutes for both questions, please.

What measures have your government taken to address issues of inclusiveness, access to information, and knowledge for all, in seeking to fulfill the sustainable development goals? And what challenges, if any, do you see as potentially impacting the successful implementations of the very substantial measures you outline as Guyana seeks to fulfill the SDGs?

>> KWAME McCOY: Thank you very much, madam moderator: Excellencies, colleagues, Distinguished Delegates, it is indeed for me a pleasure to represent the government of His

Excellency, Dr. Mohammed Aelfrin Ali at this year's Summit.
And in particular, with you, other esteemed panelists of
this ministry roundtable.

Our government in and out of office remains
dimetrically opposed to any notion that runs opposite to
the universal democratic values of inclusivity, access to
information, and knowledge empowerment for all citizens of
our country.

Therefore, the record would show that throughout the
colonial dispensation, we fought side by side with other
parties and civil society actors to secure the right to
self-determination. A right of passage that allows us as a
56-year-old independent nation to universalize those
principles as constitutional guarantees for our citizens.
However, most unfortunately, our country spent the greater
half of her independent life subjugated under dictatorship,
but good fortunes saw our country break free from the
self-inflicted bondages in 1992, when our party was finally
able to take reins of governance in one of the many
electoral victories we secured at the polls since
independence.

Since then, Guyana has steadily and progressively
climbed on to the shared platform of the international
community of democratic nations, with an impressive area of
transformational interventions that solidified the gains
over the post dictatorial years of inclusive governance.
Universal access to information and groundbreaking
initiatives for the building of a knowledge-based society.

Madam moderator and colleagues, within the past
decade, the push/pull factors that build and then test the
mettle of a democratic nation, between 2010 and 2015, the
peoples progressive party civic government opened --
between 2012 and 2015, sorry. Since returning to
government, we have been able to open the medium spectrum
to exponentially increase the options for information
transfer, beyond the state media apparatus. This move
quickly ushered in the proliferation of independent media
channels across the various platforms.

We introduced constitutional reforms for inclusive
governance, guaranteeing, among other measures,
chairmanship, for example, of the opposition in parliament,
and key sectoral parliamentary committees, including the
powerful public accounts committee. We established a
constructional office of commission of information,
guaranteeing universal access to state information, to all

citizens. We introduced a one laptop per family program with the first phase placing free mobile computers in the hands of 90,000 of the most vulnerable families representing a 12% target of our total population size.

This first phase was supported by several hundred community-based ICT hubs, providing Internet access and training to beneficiaries and since leaving office in 2015, the program was destroyed by the previous administration, but in our 2020 manifesto, the government -- the now government of Dr. Mohammed Elfri Ali, will return to the one laptop per family program in due course.

We developed a low carbon strategy, with built-in low carbon with a groundbreaking partnership with the kingway of Norway. Money was leveraged to guarantee self-determineition develop for Indigenous communities through direct access for those funds.

Colleagues, within a single five-year term while we reverted to the opposition benches, they unraveled many of those. And after losing the ability to mandate, our government was held hostage.

It took the judiciary, the international community and the power of the freedom loving citizens of Guyana to restore democratic order in Guyana to the rightful winners when we returned to office in October of 2020.

Since returning, we have reinstituted and recalibrated all the programs I mentioned halted by the previous administration and we have gone much further in two years. We introduced an expanded ICT empowerment program with egovernance. As a direct response of COVID-19, we streamlined Internet services and videoconferencing capabilities this over 400 educational institutions.

>> MIKAELA JADE: Thank you very much, minister. Thank you.

I will now call -- I will now call on vice mincister -- ministry of digital agenda, ministry of presidency, Dominican Republic: Did the 2030 Digital Agenda the Dominican Republic consider the aspects of inclusion, transparency and closing the digital divide. And did you involve all stakeholders in determining the best initiatives to address these issues, please?

>> JOSE MONTILLA: First, I want to thank you for the ability to participate in this forum. It's a beautiful opportunity to meet and talk about development and the digital transformation. Answering the questions, the Digital Agenda of the Dominican Republic is our national

strategy for the digital transformation and was developed on the basis of consensus, collaboration, and participation of all the sectors involved, as well as the intergroups related to the government -- interest groups related to the government, universities and civil social, and all the region of the country were represented.

In it, we set ourselves short, medium and long-term goals, with objectives and Action Lines that are aligned with the sustainable development goals, and the regional strategies such as Latin America and Caribbean Digital Agenda.

The objective of our strategy is to build a more competitive country with a better quality of life for its people by taking advantage of digital technologies.

Thus, contributing to achieving inclusive and sustainable human development. The implementation of our 2030 digital agenda, it's monitored by the digital transformation cabinet which is headed by the president of the Dominican Republic and coordinated by of the ministry of presidency, where organizations representing the different sectors and society participate in its different working roles because in our country, we are building the sustainable digital society together.

>> MIKAELA JADE: Thank you. Thank you very much for your response.

I now call on the ambassador and the Permanent Representative, permanent mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. Madam, what are the measures which have been taken by the United Republic of Tanzania to provide affordable digital services and what initiatives has the United Republic of Tanzania made to bridge the rural, urban digital gap?

>> MAIMUNA KIBENGA TARISHI: Thank you moderator. The government of Tanzania is focused on creating a contusive environment, including putting into place supportive policies to ensure affordable communication services for end users.

One the policies includes communications regulations of 2018, which it requires procedures for sharing passive infrastructure in collocation to avoid duplication of our investment efforts. One the main objectives so to reduce the operators investment cost to reduce the cost of services.

Together with the stakeholders, the government-based

interpretation rates for telecommunication network service providers in Tanzania. The government has constructed an 8,319-kilometer national ICT broadband backbone connecting neighboring countries or regional headquarters in Tanzania and international submarine cables of C-com and easy. We have SmartPhones, tablets, and modems to increase the uptake of such devices.

To conclude in the first part of the question, I reiterate my government's commitment to ensuring all Tanzanians and we welcome further cooperation in this regard.

As regards the second part, the government's role in bridging the digital divide between the rural and the urban areas, and facilitating ubiquitous connectivity is key, nevertheless, the private sector also plays a significant role, thus the government has been working closely with the private sector in extending communication services to all its citizens.

The government has put in place the Tanzanian national broadband strategy in 2021-2026 that emphasizes the 60,000 fiber optic cable to connect all wards in the country by 2026. Significant infrastructure has been made, including the construction of the national ICT broadband backbone and the state-of-the-art three national Internet data center for hosting IT services.

With the 80,319 kilometers the national ICT broadband backbone connects all regions, some districts, and the international submarine cables landing in Tanzania that is easy and CCOM. The construction of another submarine cable is underway and is expected to be operational in 2024. A 2,559-kilometer fiber optic network has been constructed between the public and the private sectors. This attributes to over 30,000 kilometers. This year we expected the construction of 4,442 kilometers of the national ICT broad band backbone.

In the year 2016, the government established universal communication service access fund. The fund facilitates and coordinates access to communication services in rural and urban and developed areas through partnership with the private sector, to achieve socioeconomic development in line with the national policies. Through UCSAF, they extend the communication services to underserved area. It has facilitated the extension of communication services to 1,068 with 3,097 villages and 12 million people.

We are upgrading areas from operating in 2G, to 3G, or

higher. We find there are other crucial ICT development projects including connecting schools and telemedicine. Another significant transaction that Tanzania has made to spectrum, that was made available following the successful migration from analog to digital, terrestrial, in 2018, the government successfully optioned a 20 megahertz spectrum in the 700-meter hertz band designed to achieve the national policy objectives and extending mobile broadband services, particularly in rural areas. The mobile network operators continue to use this spectrum to greet further the digital divide and a broadband inclusion in the country, especially in rural areas. These initiatives among others have led to the extension of telecommunication coverage to 94% of the population. We are now working to ensure that the remaining 6% are connected.

To this end, we, the government, continue to invest and welcome investment in ICT infrastructure. I thank you.

>> MIKAELA JADE: Thank you, ambassador.

I now call on the permanent secretary, deputy minister of research, innovation and digital policy, Cyprus. Where does Cyprus stand in terms of bridging the connectivity gap and what are your national plans to enable a gigabit society for all, please?

>> STELIOS HIMONAS: Thank you, madam moderator. Excellencies, colleagues, dear participants, aim truly honored to be participating in this panel to exchange and insights on a subject that is so critical and relevant to the future of our economies and our societies. I think we all share common goal to improve the quality of life of our citizens and to create an inclusive digital society.

The pandemic, as it was said many times during the morning sessions highlighted the importance of digital. During the last two years, we learned to work online. Students were taught online, and in Cyprus, we built systems in no time for people to get paid government allowances during lockdowns. All of these, of course, are not going to go away.

I think we all agree that the future is digital, and we need to make and execute comprehensive plans to achieve the digital transition we want. And bridging the digital divide is at the heart of this transition. Now, I need to point out that the digital divide is not a one-dimensional issue.

It has a number of dimensions. Of course the first one we all talk about is the connectivity gap. In the last

two years, in Cyprus, we have improved coverage with very high capacity networks. The rollout of fiber to the home is current underway. And we allowed 4G licenses and our operators are now building their networks.

However, operators do not intend to cover all areas of Cyprus, as we all know, it is not economical for them to cover the whole of the country.

Also, we have another issue, the takeup of gigabit speeds is significantly lower than the average. We therefore, designed ultra fast connectivity everywhere and also stimulate takeup. Specifically, we aim to fix connections with a download of 100 megabits to all organized communities in Cyprus, as well as increase takeup up to at least 70% of households. To achieve these goals we will subsidize the rollout of fixed and 5G networks in underserved communities, where the private sector is unwilling to invest. Also, to boost takeup, and stimulate demand. We will introduce within the year, a new voucher scheme in the form of a subscription subsidy.

However, as a said at the beginning solving the connectivity puzzle is not just to create the digital society we want. A society where all can reap the benefits of digital.

First, we need to provide high-quality services to the public and also create a digital society and businesses. Firstly, we are redefining the government IT systems. Secondly, we are industrializing the delivery of digital services, using agile methodologies. Thirdly, next month, we are announcing a grant scheme to help our businesses go digital, use the cloud and adopt new technologies, such as AI. Last but notelet we are creating the Digital Academy, to skill, the workforce, the unemployed and the public at large. For this purpose, we are building an eLearning platform, which will contain a self-assessment tool, a synchronous learning material and other relevant information.

This way, we will provide a single point of reference for people seeking to acquire digital skills.

We also have a shortage of talent of specialists in the ICT sector and we are introducing special training programs for ICT professionals. I need to point out that to execute all of these plans, we are making use of available EU financial instruments.

And in closing, I need to say that it is clear that the digital transformation is by no means an easy task. It

requires targeted actions in a wide range of areas, actions to build our networks, to deliver high-quality services, and to create digitally fit citizens and businesses.

So this, Madam Chair, are our plans to ensure a just, inclusive and prosperous digital society in Cyprus.

>> MIKAELA JADE: Thank you. We will now turn online to the permanent secretary ministry of digital economy and society in Thailand, please.

>> AJARIN PATTANAPANCHAI: Good evening from Bangkok. On behalf of the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society of Thailand, it's a great honor for me to be a part in this session of the WSIS Forum 2022.

First of all, let me introduce the Thailand digital economy and society. The Royal Thai Government launched a national plan as a framework to utilize digital technologies as a key mechanism for national economy and society development.

Thailand is now in the second phase of the plan which is called digital inclusion. We are committed to ensuring that everyone will benefit from ICT and the digital technologies. The strategy is focused on encouraging our stakeholders to take part in the digital economy and society, after the first phase of providing broadband access for all since accessible and equitable ICT are key to make sure that no one is left behind.

The second phase means creating equal opportunities for access and use of the digital technology by the public at large. In particular, the elderly, the disabled and those living in remote area.

Excellencies, every sector in Thailand must participate in the digital economy and society plan. Some of the various prioritized projects and initiatives have been implemented as we prepare for the next phase, as follows: Talking about infrastructure I mentioned. Digital connectivity is necessary foundation for the digital economy. Thailand has collaborated with relevant authorities to develop the village broadband net project that provides free high-speed Internet access to rural villages throughout the country. That means Internet user has reached 85.3% of total population now. The project led to another initiative which is called the village volunteers. They help teach people in the community on how to use digital technology in the most effective and efficient way, such as the learning credibilities and the raising awareness of the online threat.

>> Moreover, the ministry has draft the policy with this ability and elderly. We covered the measure to -- in promoting the use the digital technologies for the disabled and elderly people.

Prior to, that the ministry launched a mobile applications, which called D4D, our digital service for disabilities, which deploy AI technology that makes life easier for the disabled.

Recently, the ministry and the ITU Asia Pacific regions office has joined organized hybrid training for young girls in Thailand, under the program, girls in ICT day in 2022. We provide a course on eCommerce and raising awareness of Internet safety which is aimed to highlight the role of women in our society and increase young girls' digital skill for their future career.

Ladies and gentlemen, government dimension is also key enabler. In the second phase, the government agency will be connected and integrated of data among agencies will be complete. The government data center and cloud service, which is called GDCC is a primary project to provide cloud service for government agencies that we will be able to access through digital resource or demand. During the crisis of the COVID-19, many mobile applications were developed with cloud support for the GDCC, such as the disease contact tracing or the vaccination data.

It's important that the overall strategies under the plan must be placed on people's participation. The approach to digital inclusiveness, will take in into account the use of the digital technology in the wide spread and perceive the manner during into the Thai digital society where everyone can become a producer and also value creator.

In conclusion --

>> MIKAELA JADE: Thank you, permanent secretary. Thank you.

I will now turn to another online participant, Director-General office of the utilities regulation, Jamaica. Given the exciting possibilities promised by new technologies, and the gaps exposed and setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, what are some of the actions being taken by Jamaica to bridge the digital divide?

>> ANSORD HEWITT: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Good morning, from Jamaica, all. It goes without saying that digital services provide phenomenal possibilities to create a more inclusive and accessible world. At the tame

time, also deliberate and urgent action is taken to enhance digital inclusion and access, societies will become more polarized with deepening digital and social divides.

The digital divide is more than just who has access to the Internet and who does not. Addressing therefore, involved an examination of issues such as access to devices, affordability, digital literacy, and relevance of content. In the matter of connectivity as it did in many other countries, the COVID-19 pandemic exposed a wide chasm between the connected and the unconnected and the existing telecommunications infrastructure, both private owned and public owned did not extend to a significant portion of Jamaicans especially those outside of the urban major town centers. The International Space Station has been particularly accuse in schools of the 980 public schools about 400 had poor Internet service and 220 were without access. Several expedited initiatives were understain to address this problem. And so there was a buildout to build out high-speed Internet to 461 public entities.

As of May this year, 95% of the backbone was completed. To ensure the backbone, there is fiber technologies. It includes support and providing free access to infrastructure, such as schools and air fiber.

Community WiFi hotspots are being utilized as one business model to address connectivity challenges. With this bandwidth sharing approach, a total cost for connecting an end user can be significantly reduced when compared to the typical direct-to-premises approach. The community's WiFi program, focused on underserved and unserved communities and is on target to complete the implementation of 185 community WiFi hotspots by the end of this month.

So there are plans to implement an additional 63 community WiFi spot hots during '22/23. Access to the WiFi Internet is also being provided in major town centers, via the connect Jamaica WiFi programs. We understand infrastructure and a cost effective platform compared to terrestrial alternatives in challenges topology. We partnered with schools and 100 schools were connected in 48 days. Steps are being taken to connect additional rural schools via satellite technology. We intended to connect 184 public schools while the technology was completed in early 2022. The technology is utilized in the community WiFi hotspot and fee public WiFi.

There is a matter of device availability with the

students engaging in distance learning modalities, it became obvious that the absence of suitable internet enabled devices was an immediate barrier to access for many hosts in Jamaica, the primary way to get to the Internet was their cell phones given constraints such as data caps and trouble submitting files and documents, the SmartPhone should not be the go-to tool for learning at home.

Government has implemented in tablets and laptops in school an own your own device to ensure that students and teachers have appropriate devices for learning from home and the first program provided teachers and students with advice, while the second provided parents, guardian which can be used WiFi devices for their children. The government also partnered with mobile operators to facilitate access to the Internet for students through the provision of low cost data plans and zero reiterated data access for websites.

So the matter of inclusiveness for persons with disabilities, the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society is a key challenge of the global Development Agenda.

>> MIKAELA JADE: Thank you. Thank you, director general. Thank you for your comments.

I will now turn to the chairman and president of the board of directors National Communications Authority, Timor-Leste. Can you please tell us in which sectors are inclusiveness and access to information and knowledge currently the most important in your country? And related to that, what has Timor-Leste done to provide access to information and knowledge in those sectors, please?

>> JOAO OLIVIO FREITAS: Thank you very much, for your thoughtful questions. Yes, indeed, like many speakers before me, I agree to achieve inclusiveness and provide access and knowledge, requires a set of enables that are not unique to any particular countries.

>> First we need connectivity and then we also need the people to acquire the necessary skills to be able to participate in the Information Society. So governments and regulators around the world adopt and implement policies directed towards certain objectives in tackling those factors based on specific conditions in their countries. In Timor-Leste, we started almost from a greenfield in 2002. The government then had to rebuild the telecommunications network and set up a competitive market to benefit from private investment.

First, for us today, we have four mobile service providers and 4g services in all municipal towns across the country.

Certainly, access to information and knowledge is important to all sectors of our society, now your question, about the most important one, I would say the education sector. This is especially true as we have a large number of youth. To provide access to the education sector, we are developing the Timor-Leste research and education network, TLREN to we have emphasized our program.

At this stage, the Member States of TLREN have their share of educational institutions, in total eight, and other selects communities. We expect that TLREN will be able to develop the digital platforms needed to serve the secondary and elementary schools not too far in the future. To date, the government of the Timor-Leste has committed a 10 gigabit per second dedicated past on the first summary communication system for TLREN.

For your information, this morning at Timor-Leste time, the Timor-Leste signed a contract with ASM to start pulling a submarine to Timor-Leste and it will be ready for service by early 2024.

Thank you.

>> MIKAELA JADE: Thank you chairman and president. I will turn to the chief technology officer, supreme committee for delivery and legacy Qatar.

Qatar is hosting the biggest ever event, World Cup 2022 in November which will be demanding many ICT services in different levels. How Qatar and supreme committee is ready for this part of organizing the event and hosting almost 1.5 million spectators?

>> SAMI AL-SHAMMARI: Thank you very much, Your Excellencies and colleagues for having us in this session, to describe for you what we have done in the last more than 12 years. I think it's challenging to summarize it in five minutes. I will take you through a high level of what has been achieved.

This goes back before the Quinning and organizing the World Cup. We launched the 2013 vision which has social, human and economic and environment develop. And this bill needs infrastructure to be developed. One of the main services that would develop this is information to promote communication. So it was one of the main numbers for our file when we bid for the 2022, and that shows that Qatar has ambitious goals and objectives to be delivered and we

are up to these goals to improve the information and the communication technology in the country which is important to develop such a major event and that's significant for broadcasting and transmitting the information of the games during the World Cup.

So in 2010, our struggle was amazing, which means amazing service to present telecommunications and when we won the World Cup, our goal was to deliver this amazing goal.

We have three main categories or objectives to deliver the World Cup from infrastructure and telecommunication and the technology aspect. So we were looking forward to be innovative, fun centric and legacy.

So all the services that we deliver are innovative and something that would be meaningful for the world cup and also to improve the services in the whole country, not only for the SC or the supreme committee. So we are thinking about the journey of the funds and to be simple and to go easy and seamless.

So from the moment they think to come to Qatar, they are staying at home to book their tickets, and also to book their high or fun ID cards which will be the visa for Qatar during the World Cup. All the -- on their way to Qatar and arrive in Qatar from providing information, accommodation, and other services like restaurants, entertainment, and all the services.

And all the way getting inside the stadium, and what are the services that they need inside the stadium from, like 5G services, WiFi, and also for the way back, and the accommodation with Ghana and have services and all way back to their home countries. That is one side, for the operating team which will be providing the services. So how to provide this seamless and more effective or proactive kind of operation. This is one of the main objectives that we were working on for the last 12 years, to make sure that we are providing the latest technology, the latest information to our decision-makers to make sure that they have what it takes to take the right decision at the right time. So we have been really a very advanced infrastructure for all the stadiums from one main control room that provides all the information from CCTV, to utilizing Internet of Things, machine learning, to protect the right decision for our operation team, whether it's to management or even to the operation team level.

And it was very clear that it was very successful

delivery for these services during the pandemic.

So you know, we were in construction stage at that point of time when the pandemic started and we want to make sure that our work will not be impacted.

So during the pandemic, was like almost zero and back for our operation and construction and the time that we needed to deliver. And then it was during the Arab Cup last November, December, 2021 and we hosted almost half World Cup, 16 teams. The same quality will be provided for the World Cup 2022, but it will be very much escalated. So the coverage was an acceleration tool for the country to speed up our vision of 2030 instead of 2030, we delivered 2022 to make sure that all the services are available and it was really good to deliver our vision for the country.

>> MIKAELA JADE: Thank you chief technology officer. Thank you so much. We shall return online. I will call the Fundacio Abba Kohl, Colombia. How is Abba col applying the 2030 Agenda to reach opportunities in Colombia, please?

>> FARID LOZADA: Good morning from Colombia, Distinguished Delegates and speakers. Thank you very much for the opportunity that have given an NGO to speak about the digital inclusion.

Currently, AbbaCol is focusing its work on digit aloins Kluge and the SDGs for 2030. For the remote areas in Colombia that don't have access to the Internet, we work in hand with the local municipalities and vulnerable communities can have access to Internet, but as well access to computers on -- and other IT equipments.

Building digital bridges communities is important to generate quality access to those remote areas in the country. The importance of the international cooperation is key so we can build together connectivity, but as well build new opportunities for those vulnerable communities on population.

Our call is currently developing programs on projects focusing on digital transformation to create a culture of inclusion between the communities. Our current project focusing quality education, sustainable development goals, number 4 and focusing these on digital opportunities so vulnerable children can have access to computers in order to study.

I would like to finish with two challenges that we have in Colombia. The school rules the search engine. And the other is child labor. When we think the rule of searchen gin, I'm talking about the statistics that

Colombia have given us that from the pandemic until today, that the assertion of rural kids of the school have grown from 4.8% to 30.1%. And apart from that, we have now the ministry of ITICS, the ministry of Colombia has been involved in a very difficult construction case, where there was money lost for the kids that were able to have computer and Internet. Many of them have no access to the Internet and computers.

So we call now to the international community to bring help and cases to what is happening in Colombia with the Internet.

Thank you very much for this opportunity that you have given to an NGO to participate in these activity in WSIS Forum. Thank you.

>> MIKAELA JADE: Thank you, president, for your remarks.

In conclusion of session 2, I would like to thank our distinguished panel for their contributions to this important session. And thank you to the participants who are here, especially those online who have enjoyed very early mornings and very late evenings to be able to participate in this session.

Thank you.

***

This text, document, or file is based on live transcription. Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART), captioning, and/or live transcription are provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings. This text, document, or file is not to be distributed or used in any way that may violate copyright law.

***