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WSIS FORUM 2022
POPOV ROOM AFTERNOON

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     >> MEI LIN FUNG: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.
We're about to start our high-level policy sessions it. This
is session 1, High-Level Policy Session 1: Bridging Digital
Divides. We would like to request all the panelists of this
session to please come here with us.
     Just coming back from lunch and I'll do one small
exercise, I ask you to close your eyes and remember when you
were a child. Close your eye, remember when you were a child
playing hide and seek and somebody was going to seek you.
You're hiding. You're hiding, then nobody finds you, why is
this? Nobody finds you? Oh, your favorite aunt came and
took everybody to go and have ice-cream. They left you
behind. This is why we need to bridge the digital divide.
We do not want to leave someone behind.
     With this little exercise, I want you to know how it
feels when everybody else is invited to have ice-cream but
they forgot about you. This is the case for 4 billion people
in the world not connected. We're talking today about
bridging the digital divide and I'm very pleased to invite
the Director of the radio, Mario Maniewicz, action line
facilitator for the digital divide. Thank you.
     >> MARIO MANIEWICZ: Thank you. Good afternoon.
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to

address you today in this high-level policy session which is focused on bridging the digital divides. A warm welcome, many thanks to the panelists for being with us and to Ms. Mei Lin Fung for facilitating the discussion as a high-level track facilitator.

Information and communication technologies are crosscutting applications with tremendous capacity to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. The unprecedented events of the COVID-19 crisis demonstrated eat enormous potential of ICTs in helping billions of people to retain their quality of life, allowing them to continue working, studying, to access health information and to remain in contact with friends and relatives.

With many aspects of our daily lives going virtual, we have depended upon digital technologies and social media in ways that we would -- we would not have been imagined previously. The ITU report on measuring digital development indicates that the greatest digital divide lies in developing and least developed countries where connectivity in rural areas remains scarce. ITU's policy brief on the affordability of ICT service published in 021 found that the cost of fixed and mobile broadband has risen across the globe amid the COVID-19 pandemic. As the U.N. agency for ICTs the task before us is to unleash the power of digital technologies for everyone everywhere and to achieve this goal, the first step is to ensure all people from all nations are connected.

We must make a conscience, comprehensive effort to make sure more people experience the benefits of ICTs for Sustainable Development.

In the radiocommunication sector, we enable the development of new terrestrial and satellite services which have the potential to bridge the digital divide by increasing broadband coverage and making services and devices more affordable. Under the leadership of ITU, the WSIS Forum remains a global multistakeholder platform to bring together world leaders, international organizations, private sector, academia, Civil Society, all major stakeholders to collaborate, share experiences and to foster partnerships to address this and other key issues necessary building truly inclusive information and knowledge societies.

We're all here today because we share a common vision and we agree that we must work together to consolidate it. The solution will not be simple, but we must cooperate to make them a reality for the sake of all human kind.

Multistakeholder collaboration is critical and this approach is at the heart of the WSIS Forum. ITU has been working closely with all WSIS stakeholders to strengthen ate line. Of the WSIS process with a 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so that the WSIS action lines are a key framework for progress on delivering the SDGs. I'm convince that had today's discussion we provide valuable insights and

perspectives on bridging the digital divide. Our common goal is to leave no one behind which means leaving no one offline. Thank you so much.

>> MEI LIN FUNG: Thank you very much, Mario Maniewicz.

The action line is clear, the goals are set, how do we reach them.

A speaker from Gabon, His Excellency, Jean Pierre Doukaga Kassa, Minister of the ministry there in Gabon, I pose the question in English but I'll answer in French.

What strategy has been deployed to reduce the digital divide in Gabon and with can he say that today Gabon has available telecommunication infrastructures necessary to face the digital divide.

His Excellency, please.

>> JEAN PIERRE DOUKAGA KASSA: As you know, we were asked to shorten our contributions as much as possible. I tried to do so, but I was given 45 minutes and I will try to stick to that.

To answer the questions you have asked from me, I would like to say that it is a great honor for me to take the floor here at this very solemn opportunity on behalf my country, Gabon, on behalf of our head of state, on behalf of the Gabon government and on my own behalf.

Now, to answer directly the question that you have put to me, I would like to say that to realize the Digital Transformation, we have a plan in Gabon derived from the Strategic Plan close to the heart of our President. The fight against the digital divide is one of the pillars that will allow us to transform our country. The plan for Digital World relies on several pillar, first of all, the legal framework on the principles devised by the ITU, this is why Gabon now has a legal framework that's very favorable and is very appealing to most stakeholders with the sectors. A certain number of legal instruments have been enacted, including that on the digital communication eTransactions, digital privacy in cybercrime, cybersecurity, that one is currently being validated.

The second pillar has to do with the infrastructure that needs to be built for additional communications, Gabon has invested heavily which enabled it to rollout several thousand kilometers of cable in the country. This makes it possible for the country connect to neighboring countries, including Cameroon and the Congo.

The memorandum of understanding is going to be signed with Equatorial New Guinea.

We also have an Internet exchange point and we are a hub to connect together several countries at this region.

These investments together with the contribution of the private sector helps Gabon to reach a 90% coverage with 100% of the private subscribers. 10%, the remaining 10% will be possible through the developments of connectivity for remote areas.

We also wanted to develop eGovernment services and we want to digitalize most administrative measures, help businesses go digital.

In parallel, locally, thanks to the private implication of our President, Gabon is a founder of Smart Africa, this is an opportunity to highlight the important work carried out to address our agency for the important role it plays within the alliance.

Finally, the time when Gabon is on the verge of presenting to the United Nations its first voluntary report on progress made I would like to express the wish that ITU accompany all Developing Countries in our organization to reduce the digital divide between the north and the South, the Gabon government remains involved to promote these action lines and to fulfill its obligations so that we may work for the wellbeing of humanity on the whole.

Thank you very much for your attention.

>> MEI LIN FUNG: Thank you so much, His Excellency, Jean Pierre Doukaga Kassa.

So impressive, the commitment and engagement of the Gabon government to cross the digital divide.

Now we move to another country, India, who have been working on the digital divide in India, Devushinh Chauhan, Minister of state in India, go ahead. Please.

>> DEVUSINH CHAUHAN: Excellencies, distinguished panelists, dignitaries, ITU officers and ladies and gentlemen, at the outset, let me extend a very warm greeting on behalf of the people of the Republic of India and my sincere gratitude to ITU and WTSA for giving me the opportunity to be part of this high-level policy session bridging digital divides.

Excellencies, in today's world ICT technologies are playing a pivotal role in development and economy and bridging the digital divide is the most needed. Another dynamic leadership of our honorable Prime Minister, we, India, are clearly focused on inclusive development. Digital inclusion, it is the heart of financial inclusion and inclusive economic development. Digital connectivity must reach marginalized people and people living in rural areas of the country. The government is giving constant, consistent efforts to provide the infrastructure in this area of India.

Over 600,000 regions are being connected through optical fiber cable with nearly 175,000 already connected. 4G connectivity, they're being covered through universal service obligation fund. I'm sure USOF is a global phenomena because it was its success that's followed all over the world to take Telecom infrastructure to the areas which are left out.

Secondly, given the difficulty in lying optical fiber networks in mountains, other areas, our focus is on the use of technologies that can observe the development and bridge the digital divide, satellite connectivity among others, we have the first service license for new connectivity and hope

to harness the technology to enable digital inclusion in remote areas.

Thirdly, we are creating open public digital track points. These are all opensource track points. For example, the system on which any can join today and many transactions are happening on it. India's universal interface, UPI, they have forced a trillion in the financial area in 2021 and 2022 with 5 billion in 2022 transactions. Digital inclusion, it was possible in India due to the work of the Prime Minister and the programme, it is making bank accounts for 40 million unbanked person for first time in 75 years of freedom.

Other biometric identity for 41 approximately residents and 1.16 mobile connections. Affordable broadband accessibility is digital inclusion, developing 4G and 5G, the development of India 5G sustained and setting up the innovation Forum are initiatives to reduce costs and facilitate the faster spread in rural areas and element dependency on specific vender.

Further, security is dependent on the security of the Telecom and computer networks. We believe that ensuring security and design and development of Telecom technology it at the heart of security and cyber safety. Hence, India adopted the enablement of deployment of secure equipment in its Telecom network. It fully designs 5G by the honorable Prime Minister, it is developed through academia industry partnership at the USD30000000000n is part of a large ecosystem of India and they have the developed the 5G for radio access networks and many other 5G use case systems including smart energy measures et cetera.

These solutions have been licensed to industry and the 5G will be facilitated with the equipment and the solutions developed by India designers and developers. India is developing fully indigenous 5G communication technology and taking steps to develop the existing technology in the future.

Our premier centre for development will draw out the 5G and support by other, 2022. We have already tested and demonstrated and have successfully developed networks. We're a vast country with large rural and remote areas.

India standards development organization along with IoTs have developed the low mobility, large coverage standard using 5G towers to cover large areas in rural and remote areas. These standards are among the first 5G standards which have been approved by the ITU and have become part of the globally harmonized standards. This will be immensely helpful for countries with similar geographical spirit and India is posed to play a leadership role in global digital revolution.

>> MEI LIN FUNG: Thank you, Your Excellency. I think India has definitely raised the bar on Gabon. 440 million people have bank accounts. That is a high bar of digital enablement.

Now, we move to the Minister of Georgia, His Excellency, Mr. Guram Guramishvili, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia.

The questions I have for you, what activities are implementing to support the development of broadband infrastructure by your government and how are you bridging the digital divide and what is the part of the government to provide the ICT infrastructure.

Go ahead.

>> GURAM GURAMISHVILI: Thank you very much. On behalf of the Ministry of economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, allow me tokes tend my gratitude for the invitation to take part in the high-level policy session, bridging digital divides. It is are great pleasure and honor to be here.

Bridging the digital divide is one of the main challenges worldwide and for Georgia as well. The broadband infrastructure is needed for the development of the digital economy and society to put the economic growth, extend opportunities and to improve the quality of life of citizens by better service delivery.

This area has a key importance for the social development and creation of new job in all fields of economics.

COVID-19 has strengthened our views of the necessity of the development of digital technologies and broadband connectivity in a fast way. In order to maintain and increase the case of development of digital economy and Innovate2Connect society and bridge the digital divide in Georgia's ministry, the policymaking field of electronic communications and information technologies, it is working on various activities in, particular it should be noted that the nation broadband development strategy 2020, 2025 and its implementation of the Action Plan was adopted by the Government of Georgia for the implementation of the strategy which sets ambitious goal along with the gigabit society and the Government of Georgia with the World Bank launching Georgia project. The project will help to increase the coverage of high-speed broadband for sale and services in rural settlement wide zones of Georgia where the population is equal to 200 and operators do not plan to build broadband infrastructure in the next three years.

The development of the broadband infrastructure will enable operators, especially small and medium-sized ones to provide broadband services to the population with such services that have not been available before or to improve the quality of existing services.

The Government of Georgia continues to support the development community network in three areas, with the support of European Bureau of Internet Society in mountainous, remote areas of Georgia, the networks have completed in 2019. Mentioned networks are handed over the

local community members.

Regarding the role of government, private sector, other stakeholders to encourage cross-border ICT infrastructure, high capacity cross-border infrastructure is one of the best opportunities for the country to develop international connectivities bridges that still exist in the digital divide and ensure growth and development of --

>> MEI LIN FUNG: Thank you. If you could finish up soon.

>> GURAM GURAMISHVILI: Okay. Thank you very much.

I would like to stress that Georgia has potential in taking advantage of its geographical location, well-rated business climate is able to host a regional digital hub which is a help to other challenges of limited data connectivity.

Thank you very much.

>> MEI LIN FUNG: Thank you. That was excellent, how much Georgia is doing in so many different directions to build the digital divide.

Our next speaker is from South Africa. His Excellency, Mr. Phillemon Mapulane, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communications and digital technologies from South Africa. The questions are, accessibility to digital technology is an impediment to bridging the digital divide.

What interventions is your country doing to address this access and in the fourth industrial revolution, it can widen the digital divide so this needs a broader tech savvy society Human Rights Councils does society acquire the skills to ensure no one is left behind on this fourth industrial revolution journey.

Your Excellency.

>> PHILLEMON MAPULANE: Thank you, Madam Moderator, Honorable Ministers, Excellencies, ITU officers, Distinguished Delegates.

According to the study by the United Nations, 2.9 billion people or 37% of the global population have never been online. The International Telecommunications Union estimates that 96% of the 2.9 billion people would have access to the Internet in Developing Countries. This is largely unafford until least developed nation was young people, men, people living in urban settings more likely to use the Internet than older adults, women and those vulnerable areas. The gender disparities are more visible in developing countries.

Sustainable Development Goal 9 calls for governments to build resilience infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

It highlights the important need to ensuring that all human kind has access to robust digital and communications infrastructure that enables them to connect and to be a part of the global society.

More importantly, S DG9 acknowledging that communication in technological process is central to devise the lasting

solutions to both economic and environmental challenges, addressing the issues of digital connectivity will definitely effect the facilitating of the achievement of goals 1, 2, 3, 4, et cetera. It is encouraging to know that ITU through the leadership of the Secretary-General has committed to work with all parties to ensure that the building blocks are in place to connect the remaining 2.9 billion people.

The digital divide in developing countries like ourself, South Africa, includes lack of access to digital technology and Internet service and can also include the lack of accessibility to modern high-quality new technologies such as mobile phones and wi-fi access. We have developed a model to aim to expand the broadband penetration and rollout throughout the country, particularly in underserved area and to ensure that 80% of the South Africa population has access to Internet connectivity by 2024.

The revised SA connect model proposes the following three key interventions, the first, is to connect 30 those schools, health facilities and travel authority sites over a period of 36 months ; utilizing mobile operators through partnership foster groups as a part of the social applications arising from the recently concluded mobile broadband spectrum, connect over 15,000 governments, including the services, to connect communities and households in underserved areas by deploying over 33,000 hot spots in partnership with SMNEs and the Internet service providers.

The regulator has been a part of the licensing and conditions of the spectrum option imposed population coverage applications to maximize benefits to citizens, particularly in rural areas who are often left out.

Government is providing the broadbanding digital penetration, in order to release the valuables from the mobile broadband while expanding the broadcasting sector.

We are also waiting on rapid deployment policy in order to enable the rapid deployment of broadband infrastructure by facilitating access to where we live, other areas in the mat that are balances the Rights of licencees to enter the private and public properties.

The interventions will address the access -- will address access component of the digital divide and also contribute in the reduction of the cost communication reducing the digital divide.

The second question -- in order to address the digital skills deficit in our country, the national digital and future skills strategy has been adopted which seeks to ensure that the youth are provided with necessary level of basic digital life skills that will enable them to function in this 21st Century world increasingly pervaded by and dependent upon digital technologies.

Thank you very much.

>> MEI LIN FUNG: Thank you.

It is amazing how innovative South Africa is to use

social obligations and innovative non-monetary ways to bridge the digital divide. I think they're a wonderful example in this aspect.

Our next speaker is remote, do we have online Her Excellency engineer Gloria Carvalho Kassar, Deputy Minister from the Ministry of information and communication technology development, Venezuela.

Welcome to our hall, Your Excellency.

What measures have been taken in your country in the area of eGovernment to ensure that population is aware of the COVID-19 pandemic, and what public policies are implemented in your country, Venezuela, to guarantee the populations access to information technologies.

>> GLORIA CARVALHO KASSAR: Thank you.

On behalf of our Constitutional President, on behalf of our Ministry of Technology and science, as well as all of the delegates and attendants of this, in my country, more than 60% of the scientists are women, this is different than the social police, in the fact, Ministers of health --

>> Interpreters apologize, the sound quality is insufficient for interpretation.

>> (Poor sound quality).

we have been working on the digital governments, an example, it is a platform on lean which there is access to more than 70% of the population with data search and the physical location, the family composition, schooling, professional, economic activity, telephone e-mail, the most important, it is health condition of the people.

With the pandemic system reporting, this was enabled. With this, a list of symptoms in order to update this list with each world health report, the system allowed personalization of care. When we receive a report, a doctor is sent to the house. We achieved through this system one of the lowest mortality rates in the region. The platform has more than 20 million registered users and it is near 70% of the population, therefore we use actually the system as early detection and localization of infections and the healthcare, the vaccination programme, it was oriented by this system. Using this platform we know the activity of each family. In the COVID-19 pandemic the government used the system to send a doctor to each family according to their requirements. Therefore, the system in this case were like a digital bank.

About the second question, we have two big programme, the first, this required free Internet access and each centre, it has two more teachers that work in training the user in technology facilities and digital applications. (Poor audio quality).

it is the development of our own content and capabilities. We must have our own identity content and it will contribute to solving the local problems with inclusive perspective.

>> MEI LIN FUNG: Thank you.

If you could wrap up soon, please.
     >> GLORIA CARVALHO KASSAR: Sorry. I cannot control
the --
     >> MEI LIN FUNG: It is okay.
     I'm asking you to finish up in a few minutes in, a few
seconds.
     >> GLORIA CARVALHO KASSAR: Yeah.
     For, this the participation of everyone is necessary,
particularly that more women are in prevalent positions in
the development of digital application, especially in the
framework of the pandemic where women have played a
fundamental role by participating not only in teleworking but
also in the education of their children using tools provided
with the information technologies.
     Thank you so much.
     >> MEI LIN FUNG: Thank you very much, Your Excellency.
IP.
     Next we take this going around the world, we're seeing
how different countries are developing different strengths
and approaches. In the COVID-19 response by Venezuela, they
use it had as a way to develop local talent to address local
problems. I'm very, very glad to hear that.
     Thank you very much Your Excellency from Venezuela.
     The next speaker is His Excellency from Greece,
Athenasios Staveris-Polykalas, Ministry of Digital governance
in Greece.
     What are the practices that the Greek government con
used to confront the challenges to promoting digital
inclusion of the people and how can we reduce the digital
divide in your country and was the COVID pandemic a draw back
to Greece on implementing the SDGs of the U.N. and how did
the pandemic effect your country.
     Please, Your Excellency.
     >> ATHANASIOS STAVERIS-POLYKLALAS: Thank you, Madam
Chair.
     Your Excellency, honorable Delegates, distinguished
participants, good evening.
     It is a pleasure to participate.
     The first question, I would like to take this
opportunity to share practices in Greece promoting the
digital inclusion and reducing the digital divide that may be
due to disability, age, skills, we're working on the
implementation of our vision of not leaving anyone behind and
our priority focuses on the development of a network,
infrastructure that achieves SDGs roadmap environment and to
support social and economic development in the territory and
environment is available for access to all citizens so that
everyone can use and benefit from products and services on an
equal basis., this is for women, children, indigenous areas,
other, it was a complex procedure for my ministry considering
the population distribution of Greece. We managed to
overcome all implications related with the large scale

broadband projects that are applicable in certain environment, mainly related to the mapping exercise that needs to be carried out to identify the scope and innovation with specific settlements.

Today our high-capacity networks reached remote areas where are private investments are not due to the areas providing affordable connectivity issues, to all citizens in the Greek territory. Presently, we're in a contractual phase of our broadband to cover areas across Greece and they're estimated to widen the areas after the implementation of the private sector investment plans and the role of broadband project as well as areas where there is no offering of connectivity.

The infrastructures in our assets, the government seeks to create new infrastructures and services to promote the digital inclusion of People with Specific Needs. Areas of example is a platform where the work was published 10 days ago, this platform provides the necessary infrastructure for the stakeholders to develop heterogonous and solutions for Smart Cities and wellbeing providing the required security, technologies and architectural solutions to look at the scales and the synergies to the citizens of the benefits of IoT, the development of such solutions with a Greek added value will support it, using open standards and cybersecurity providing access to multiusers and accelerating the implementing of the IoT applications. This network will be the pilot of an implementation of other similar projects nationwide.

The second question, it is evident that the cope pandemic has highlighted the availability of the societies and in many cases deteriorating them. However, it also enhanced the demand for connectivity services with volumes exploding by 7% in Greece. As people rely entirely on the digital services.   The Greek government reacted converting the crisis to opportunity by establishing new reforms for the Digital Transformation of our country.

In this context we introduced the resilience plan Greece 2.0 which was approved in July 13, 2021. We introduced reforms which will effect the economic activity and the technologies and institutions paving the way for transformation that's aligned with the WSIS action lines. And it is forecasted that Greece 3.0 will result in the creation of new quality jobs and an increase in our GDP and this plan is constructed in four areas, the transition, the Digital Transformation, the employment skills and social cohesion and the transformation of the economy.

As a conclusion, it is everything that the WSIS is the ultimate place to gather and exchange the experiences of practices with global community of experts, being a member, my participation here is a evidence of our working to promote the digital cohesion and to the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Thank you for your attention and for giving us the floor.

Thank you.

>> MEI LIN FUNG: Thank you.

What an excellent presentation about Greece 2.0 as we talk about Greece, I think of the Olympics and we're in the Olympics of the digital divide as each country is hurdling over the obstacles.

We get to see each country and how they approach and what are the best races they want to win.

Our next speaker is remote from Costa Rica, engineer Gilbert Camacho Mora, the board Director and Chairman of the superintendency of telecommunications of Costa Rica.

Are you here? Great. Very good. Glad to have you.

I will ask you the questions, the national telecommunications fund managed by CITEL in Costa Rica is developing five programmes to access universal communication services for 31 projects in execution occurring, 400 districts in the country and more than 142,000 people are covered by the programmes. Cumulative execution of more than 237 U.S. dollar million at this point.   you have recently launched the bicentennial education network to provide the services to public schools.

Can you give details on this programme and how they're contributing to reducing the digital divide.

Meanwhile, Costa Rica's universal access and service programmes require a great accumulated investment for the execution. How is this being funded?

>> GILBERT CAMACHO MORA: Thank you for inviting us to this important meeting.

The network programmes objectives, it is to create a broadband network throughout a concrete to serve all public schools and higher schools. The part of the project assigned consists of 2375 educational centres located in rural areas and those schools will be provided with Internet service between 15 and 500. This is with the increase of up to 1 in the coming year, depending on the size of the educational centre.

In order to do so, we're working with telecommunication operators to provide wireless or fiberoptic services to this side.

In addition, wireless connectivity will be given to the main spaces in each school as libraries and administrative offices.

To fund this services, we will provide a subsidy of up to 5 years, up until now, they have already connected 282 educational centres and continues to expand the implementation in order to help to reduce the digital divide in Costa Rica.

May I address the second question?

>> MEI LIN FUNG: Go ahead.

>> GILBERT CAMACHO MORA: How we finance these

programmes, how it is being financed,s in accordance with the general development law in Costa Rica and mainly consists of resources from the granting of the spectrum section and a yearly contribution from the telecommunication operators from 1.5 to 3% of the yearly income. The resources can only be applied to universal, access telecommunication services, a second conclusion in our opinion as regulators in universal, access services, it is in a certain mechanism to facilitate inclusion of vulnerable populations, closing the digital gap where more citizens can get the economic and social benefits of the Information Society.

Thank you very much.

>> MEI LIN FUNG: Thank you.

The funding issue was brought up several times in the use of the Universal Access Funds and it is very important and we're seeing different models and how different countries are applying the funds.

We can all learn from each other and different things are going to work for different countries. The more we understand these models, the more we can put them in a registry so people can see the different models being used for universal service funds the more we can bridge the digital divide.

The next speaker is from Poland. I had the pleasure of hearing him last night, I was so impressed by his passion, Dr. Jacek Oko, the President of the Office of Electronic communications UK of Poland. They really can, Poland! And he is all I can tell you! About the digital divide. The questions are, knowledge and capacity building is a crucial part of bridging digital divides and the Polish regulator UKE carries out many educational campaigns, what are your observations Dr. Jacek Oko on data sharing and sharing, sharing over the Internet and would you give young people any tips to encourage them to care more for their security and safety in the virtual world? The digital gap is often a phenomena effecting our seniors, UKE dedicates educational campaigns also to elderly people. What is the most important in these campaigns? Dr. Jacek Oko.

>> JACEK OKO:

Madam Chair, delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the protection of personal data and privacy, it is very important issue these days, as a society, we gain a lot from the digital development and we chose to remember and to be aware of basic principles of our safety, UKE in its professional activities seeks to promote and teach safe and responsibility behavior of the Internet.

The latest study conducted in November of 2021, it means during the COVID pandemic by UKE on children and parents that are 98% of survived chirp use a smartphone, only half of them thousand started using it as an age of 8 or 7 years old. Most half of the youngest, age 10, 14 years old works have a mobile phone, carried it with them all the time, reacting to

every sound and message. This can be considered a fear of missing out. Meaning, fear of being missed, a form of social uh-uh certainty.

In 2021, 40% of children and parents published content on the various social networks, mainly posting on photos, videos on their own authorship or photos of relatives, family, friends. Unfortunately, a lot of young people despite feeling the Digital World like an infection in the water, considered -- they still forget about the security and safety online.

Young people, they don't think about the consequences of the actions and what should or should not be published, the line is blurry and shifting. Adolescents often forget they're not animals on the Internet and that every action online could be tracked and monitored.

Caring about content regardless of the age, we emphasize how important it is to protect privacy, to use the complex and repetitive passwords and our protection and just to be careful when sharing the data and the entire life on social networks. It always is important to remember that in the Internet nothing is lost or forbidden and that the information provided may be used against us in the future and that nobody will ask for our permission.

We encourage young people to always check and to read with understanding the privacy policy and the social media accounts and Internet and mobile application, the swept to download and to manage the privacy settings and not to disclose certain data online.

Not to share everything and respond to everything, everything that they think or do, and to carefully consider the aim and the validating of reporting in our lives.

>> MEI LIN FUNG: You have 30 seconds. Maybe we want you to wrap up soon.

>> JACEK OKO: Yes. For senior, we provide the same companions. Seniors and young people, they have similar activities.

For elders and seniors, they use the Internet tools.

We prepare companies to think, rate, be careful, absolutely be careful, don't sign anything without consultation with younger people, with family. I think at the end the operations and the complementary of activities of various institutions, it is very important. It can be an exemption of the protection office under the project that's for all people, for young, middle age, I think for teachers, the same, we -- as a University teacher, I say the same for my students. When I try to buy something or read something in the Internet, sometimes I forget about this classical rules.

Thank you very much.

>> MEI LIN FUNG: Thank you. I think you're bringing up areas of the generations and the different approaches that are needed to bridge the digital divide and also the area of

digital maturity, how capable are people to handle being once they're across the digital divide and I congratulate Poland on great progress.

Our next speaker, the executive Vice President in chief standardization strategy officer of the NTT corporation and the fellow of NTT DOCOMO in the NTT corporation. Seizo Onoe, your question, new generations of mobile communication networks are emerging one after another, now 5G has come. However, there are still some areas not covered by even 2G due to geographic areas not covered by 2G or 3G, NTT has been engaged in new technology development. How do you see the spread of new generation technologies in the world? The second question, can you tell what will play an important role in helping the spread of the new mobile network technologies to bridge the gap in this technology generation.

>> SEIZO ONOE: Good to be here. Thank you for the question.

The mobile networks each generation, I was asked as a partner to discuss that issue four years ago.

I have investigated that data. Looking at the data of the 3G deployment, there were more than 10 years difference between the fastest countries and the slowest country. For the 4G environment, the difference between deployed countries, it seems to be smaller than 3G. The countries have not yet deployed the 4G network. We need to them for improving the global situation.

For our technological point of view, there may be an easier upgrade in the future.

Research, we see some positives with the technical factors that can speed up the generational upward in regional differences in the future.

Regarding the conversation on the role in the worldwide spread of new technologies, simply we need the cost reduction and the generation of mobile networks. We have the first generation, the first generation, the many standards for the different countries and (poor audio quality). -- the standardization helps the cost reduction with economic principles.

I know it is not enough. More efforts are needed to make it truly affordable. Capturing the requirement of developing countries in the early stages of standardization may help with the duo employment in developing countries.

>> MEI LIN FUNG: Thank you very much.

The role of standards in reducing costs, when we can agree on standards, we don't have to have custom made deals closed, you can go to Target, Macy's, you buy it off the shelf. That's what we want to cross the digital divide. We don't want expensive customer item proprietary softwares. We want standard to pick it off the shelf and put it on and go.

Thank you so much.

Professor Umar Danbatta, executive Vice-Chairman of the Nigerian communications Commission, and, of course, Nigeria

is Chair of WSIS, we are eager to hear from you. These are
the questions, over 13 million Nigerian, mostly in the rural
areas, and the majority who are women currently excluded from
the usage of ICTs due to lack of access. What deliberate
effort is Nigeria making to ensure a inclusive participation
in the digital economy.

Congratulations on the successful award of the licenses,
what is the Commission's plans to ensure access and
availability of the services and what are you doing to
encourage the availability of the bandwidth intensive
services to ensure sustainability of the 5G services.

Professor Umar Danbatta.

>> UMAR DANBATTA: Thank you very much, moderator.

Let me just appreciate the appointment by Honorable
Minister of communications in digital economy to Chair the
2022 WSIS Forum.

The first thing, it is on the digital divide, it is
characterized by what we call in Nigeria clusters of access
gaps. There are close to 270 such clusters. It is close to
40 million Nigerians, they have access to telecommunication
services. So that was only about 2015, we have succeeded in
reducing the clusters by half.

Still, close to 20, 22 million, they don't have access
to the telecommunication services. That is our contribution
to the unconnected, it is 1.7 billion according to the
statistics provided by ITU.

We have three policy documents in place which the
Nigerian radiocommunication Commission is busy implementing.
One is the national broadband plan for the year 2020 to 2025.
The economy policy and strategy and that's for digital
Nigeria. The final one, it is on digital financial
inclusions, strategy and the entities responsible for the
deployment of the infrastructure needed according to the
policy documents in order to further bridge the digital gaps
in order to help in this country.

We are at about 60,000 kilometers of fiber in Nigeria.
A project that we're implementing is the deployment of the
deployment of 40,000 kilometers of fiber bringing us to over
100,000 kilometers of fiber before the end of the policy of
2020. We have a provision to provide a point of fiber access
in every local area in the country and we have 74 local
areas. Nigeria, we're a big country with a big population.

This is the speed of 10 megabits per second in rural
areas than 25 megabits a second in urban centres.

We're presently implementing the policy.

If I may, quickly, yes, we had a successful 5G auction.
Thank you for the congratulations. We are putting in place
measures to ensure that we have limited 5G services,
especially major cities and the statistics of the state
capitals are expected to enjoy and hence more broadband
services and we'll concentrate on providing the services
initially in urban areas and, of course, we're not going to

the unserved, underserved areas in the country with the important technology.

Thank you very much.

>> MEI LIN FUNG: Wonder. Thank you very much, professor.

It is wonderful to hear the countries with large populations and a variety of ways that they're going after crossing the digital divide, I'm very impressed with how Nigeria is undaunted and moving ahead, providing very good competition to India and trying to reach the most vulnerable, remote.

The last speaker is professor Joseph Noll, Secretary-General of the basic Internet foundation from Norway. His questions are how do you enable access for people and groups that are left behind in traditional business models and how can we provide local access to decentralize the information to address the global challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the SDGs.

Professor.

>> JOAN RIBO: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Probably the reason why I'm the last one is that I should have listened to all of my dear colleagues and taken so many actions up, saying that my 10 megabits a second, you know, I'm not going with these topics. What I want to bring to your attention, I'm German frameworks Norway, and involved in inclusion. Why are the Nordics, they have done that well through the pandemic when we have actually seen how much the inclusive attempt in the Nordics and the Baltics have helped us here. In order to bring that up, the Government of Norway had put out a paper on Digital Transformation and development policy, a paper which is really worthwhile to look at because it puts up four statements, it puts up the statement of access, it puts up the statement of skills, of regulations, of inclusion.

You have the access, that's the first question of what Mei Lin Fung is asking, how do we enable access in every destination. Here is simply the point where I would bring other, A, we need to look for all solutions. There is no such one solution and specifically what we are all after, it is the scale part which you have demonstrated very well, hey, we start with very limited bandwidth, we start with deploying every village one information and we ask the operators to help us. Let me bring directly the example out, on connected schools in Kenya, we actually reached an agreement together with ITU and UNICEF, an agreement to give us SIM cards with 5 megabits a second for a price of 58-dollar as month.

That was a gamechanger, and it allowed a community changer to have the low bandwidth, the 25 a second, towards running out, transforming the universities to actually think their duty of connecting schools and that brings me up to the second question about the localized access.

When we heard this morning, that we have about 7,000

indigenous languages and what we have seen, it is that the knowledge of how we tackle, it is located in our communities. We don't need more of the generic cloud, we need the decentralized cloud. When you talk about 10 megabits a sec, I would very much encourage you to say that in all of these centres, build the local knowledge cloud so that people learn how to create a webpage, how to start eCommerce and the eCommerce started within the decentralized access.

In the interest of time my hope -- I hope I have answered your questions. Thank you for listening.

>> MEI LIN FUNG: Thank you, Professor Noll.

We want to close with some remarks. We're running over. These will be very short remarks.

We have gone around the world in the last hour to see how people are bridging the digital divide, we have a special time, it was said that there are decades where nothing happens and there are weeks when decades happen. We are in these weeks now and bridging the digital divide will allow us and the populations and the people of our countries to confront the challenges that are ahead of us, COVID, inflation, food shortages, stack-inflation, many challenges, we can do t we can only succeed in concert and that's what WSIS represents as coming together to weave the tap industry of each of the threads of the ways we're bridging the digital divide.

Thank you, panel.