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LEADERS TALKX
MORNING SESSION 2 OF 2
Session 417, 419, 421

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>> HOST: This is about WSIS the Leader TalkX. The next session is Accelerating global access to information and knowledge in the digital era. Your moderator is Professor Abdulkarim Oloyede. He's a Full Professor of Wireless Telecommunications University of Ilorin. The floor is yours.

>> MODERATOR: Good morning, whether you are here with us in Geneva or online. Good morning. I'm a Professor of Wireless Communication at University of Ilorin in Nigeria. It is a honour and privilege to moderate this Leaders TalkX session. And it is on the heart of the WSIS vision, accelerating Global access to information and knowledge in a digital era, which aligns with the Action Line C3.

For me, coming from the Global South where Digital Transformation holds tremendous promise where digital divide presents a pressing challenge, the topic is one that I'm

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personally passionate and professionally engaged in. This conversation is not only timely, but it is also crucial.

In our interconnected world, access to information and knowledge is you not a luxury or privilege. It is a fundamental human right. It is strengthening communities, drives innovation and accelerates Sustainable Development. We're fortunate to be joined by a distinguished panel of leaders working tirelessly to close the gap. Leaders that are turning aspiration to action, potential into progress in their countries and beyond. We're going to start the session. We will begin from South Asia where Cambodia is making progress in the connectivity, I would like to invite the Excellency, of telecom from Cambodia. Honorable Minister, your question is, your digital growth is commendable, what additional measures has Cambodia taken in addition to the foundational efforts to make sure information is available to all across the Digital Divide? You can sit if you want or go on the stage.

>> CAMBODIA: Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in Cambodia, we're entering a new era of accessing knowledge, building on over two decades of peace and development. The Government has made digital technology a core pillar of inclusive and sustainable growth as reflected in our National strategy and policies. This commitment is operationalized through the digital economy and society policy framework. And the digital --
(Technical difficulty, lost connection)

>> MODERATOR: It is commendable and bridging the Digital Divide, thank you, Honorable Minister.

From Cambodia, we will shift to West Africa, where Ghana is championing innovative public-private partnership. It is an honour to welcome my Big Brother, His Excellency, Honorable Minister, Minister of Communication digital tech and innovation, the Republic of Ghana. Thank you so much. How has this contributed to economic growth, and what lessons can be shared with other Distinguished Representatives' Nations in developing the WSIS Action Line C1 on multistakeholder Governance? You have the floor Your Excellency.

>> GHANA: Thank you, welcome to all in the room. The digital economy for us in Ghana is no longer the luxury, it is the Foundation of our modern development. Ghana is a country under the leadership of His Excellency, recognizes this and were intentionally bringing together, Government, the Private Sector, Civil Society, Academia, our international partners.

And this is meant to drive the Digital Transformation initiatives in Ghana.

Our multistakeholder approach is a strong example and a shining one at that, on the continent of how inclusive

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partnerships can accelerate Digital Transformation. By aligning the strengths of Government, Private Sector, Civil Society, and development partners, Ghana is building a resilient and inclusive digital economy.

We're doing this on three key pillars. Leadership, policy framework, active collaboration with international and development partners and Private Sector partnerships.

On leadership and policy framework, Ghana's leadership plays a Government leadership in playing a pivotal role in shaping the Ghana economy. My industry leads this initiative by creating frameworks and championing the strategic direction to legal environment and institutional support needed to foster innovation, attract the necessary investment and ensure there is inclusive access to digital technologies. We cannot address new challenges with old solutions as a country. As such, His Excellency, the Government has initiated various reforms that respond to the fast pace of technology and at which our economy is changing. Key among this, as three weeks from now, I'm leading all of cabinets to an AI bootcamp for all Government Ministers to show them use cases on the directive of His Excellency for AI adoption and ministries. This will form the KPIs for Ministers in 2026 and the Government. This is our way of ensuring that we include AI in our Public Sector delivery.

Under active collaboration with international development partners, we know that no country can achieve this on its own. That is why on the 29th of May this year. I signed a \$1 billion agreement with the Government of UAE to build Africa's first AI hub in Ghana to signal the desire to be the leading player when it comes to artificial intelligence machine learning, Cloud computing and new technologies. When it comes to the public private Sector partnerships, we will see it give new skills to the future for one million Ghanaians, for civil servants and young people.

It is true partnerships for those like MTN, Yahweh and Google.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you. The approach of Ghana demonstrates how public-private partnership can drive real economic on economic growth and inclusive Governance.

So next I would move to the world's largest archipelago. Indonesia it is building an inclusive digital economy. I would like to welcome Her Excellency Ms. Hafid, the Minister of Digital affairs Indonesia. Thank you.

We acknowledge the significant progress made by the Government of Indonesia in ICT, and digital development, in this regard we also recognize the challenges posed by Indonesia's vast and diverse geographical landscape and demographics. What Programmes has the Government of Indonesia implemented to ensure

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that ICT development policies remain inclusive, both in terms of physical digital infrastructure and human capital development? You have the floor Honorable Minister.

>> INDONESIA: Thank you, Moderator. Good morning to the distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, Indonesia's Digital Transformation policy is firmly guided by the recognition that digital connectivity is a right rather than a privilege.

It is stated in our constitution that information is basic human rights and thus must be extended across all Regions, rural, urban and remote, as an archipelago nation, as stated. Indonesia is a country with more than 17,000 islands and population of over 280 million citizens.

We have designed a digital development model that prioritizes the infrastructure and human capacity.

On the infrastructure front, the images of the villages Programme for bringing digital access, public services and community based activity to the Indonesia most underserved areas. July 2025, we have reached more than four thousand villages in outermost Regions, connecting over 3.8 million citizens to digital services for the first time.

Additional to that is the deployment of 7500 based transserver stations has expanded 4G coverage to areas where commercial operators were previously absent.

Our infrastructure push is supported by the National fiber backbone, targeting to achieve 90% population level broadband coverage by 2030 and 100% by 2045 as outlined in the vision of 2025. We recognize building infrastructure alone is not meaningful for the people. That is why our Government places equal emphasis on human capacity development. Our digital talent scholarship that the Ministry has undertaken has strained almost 4,000 individuals since it was launched in 2018. This includes 76,000 people from 2024 alone. From this number, importantly to note is 40% come from nonmetropolitan Regions and over 10,000 of them are women from rural and low-income households.

In a broader scale, we also complement this with National digital literacy movement, which as of this year has reached more than 22 million citizens through offline and online training modules. This Programme targeting youth and also teachers, small medium enterprises, homemakers, senior citizens. Using cultural relevance and linguistically appropriate context.

It is in many languages.

We are working with Civil Society and Private Sector to ensure Digital Transformation is responsive to local realities and also needs. So to close I would like to say that our digital vision under the leadership of the President is clear. We wish to make Digital Transformation work for all in Indonesia, regardless of who they are and where they come from. Thank you

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very much.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you Minister. Indonesia's commitment to more capacity building alongside infrastructure is a model for many Nations facing similar diversity.

We now turn to Russian Federation where there is a development that is playing a role in the National policy and international cooperation. We welcome His Excellency, the Deputy Minister of Digital development communication and mass media. Your Excellency, your question is in today's world, many countries are paying increasing attention to issues of isolating Global access to information and knowledge in the digital age.

Is there a similar practice in Russia? If so, what policy is being pursued at the state level in this area? You have the floor Your Excellency.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Good morning everyone. I'm happy to be here and see you all here. I will do my speech in Russian. If you don't know Russian well, you may consider using the translation tool. The development of human oriented and inclusive digital society where everyone can create knowledge and have access to them, focus ourself on minimizing the gap, especially taking into account the geographical aspects. Unfortunately, this was not achieved for everybody. Up-to-date, 2.6 billion people have no access. But in our country, more than 90% of households have access to high-speed Internet connection.

Also our mobile connection is very reliable one. Many social utilities, facilities have access to high speed fiber optical Internet. At the same time, we use the ability of Russian potentiality. We also made massive investment in our ICT complex.

We also actively developed our artificial intelligence technologies, Russia has two models which can be compared with international leading models. We're also developing a very good possibilities for the future as regards our public Governance Sector, our big models can provide access to the population to digital public services.

For that, we have digital assistance, our public services Sector, which can help our people to resolve their daily problems, daily more than 2.5 million people use this service. We also develop the market of digital technology. Last year, it made up about 40% of development. We also made development our leading space technology. In 2026, we plan to put on the orbit four broadband space facilities.

This process is connected with Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, and this is incorporated into the potentiality. There is no need to make or develop something apart, because it would mean duplication of our functions. Because the UN should be the leader. ITU should be the leader in this Sector.

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And we're open to cooperation with those countries which would be interested in our partnership. Thank you for your attention.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you for sharing your policies addressing digital access on a broad scale.

Now, we most to East Africa, Somalia has taken a bold step forward by introducing the digital policy inclusion making a milestone in the Digital Transformation. Please welcome His Excellency, Minister of Communication and technology. Thank you. Your question -- you can sit down. I will give you the mic.

Honorable Minister, earlier this year, Somalia's Council of Ministers approved the National digital inclusion policy, making a major milestone -- marking a major milestone in the Somalia Digital Transformation journey. Can you share how the new policy will significantly advance digital inclusion for women, youth and marginalized communities and what steps are being taken to ensure the effective implementation especially at the grassroots level? You have the floor, Honorable Minister.

>> SOMALIA: Thank you, Moderator. Good morning all of you. Congratulations 160 years for ITU.

Let me begin. Indeed Somali's new approved policy is a critical milestone in our journey, to build a digital future that leaves no one behind. The policy is not just a statement of entity, it is a National commitment to ensure that women, youth, whole of communities and other marginalized Groups can fully participate in and benefit from the digital economy.

This policy sets a clear priority and measurable target by 2028. We aim to first have the whole of urban activity gap. Second increase Internet use by 25%. And also ensure that every Somalian regardless of location or background can access essential digital services.

To translate this vision into action, we are taking practical steps at the grassroots level, including expanding high speed Internet access to several areas which are focused on community schools, health centres and public spaces.

Introducing targeting digital skills Programmes for women and youth, ensuring that they are not just consumers of technology, but also creators and innovators. Providing subsidized smart device and public digital services to reduce the cost to barriers that many marginalized communities face.

We are also working closely with local Governments, the Private Sector, and Civil Society to deliver these interventions in any way that is inclusive, sustainable, and community driven.

In Somalia, we understand that digital inclusion is about more than just access. It is about environment, equity and opportunity. Through this policy, we are determined to open the digital door for all. Thank you, all of you.

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>> MODERATOR: Thank you Minister.

I'm sure the Secretary-General of ITU would be glad to hear that a postconflict nation like yours is striving to include women and youth in its digital Agenda. Thank you very much Honorable Minister.

So we're going to move quickly now to a country at the crossroad of continents, who plays a pivotal role across Europe and Asia. Join me in welcoming the Minister of Transport and infrastructure in Turkiye. What is the policy to implementing access to ICT services. You have the floor, Your Excellency.

>> TURKIYE: Honorable Secretary-General Ministers, colleagues from around the world. Good morning, I wish everyone a fruitful and successful session. We talk about the ICT, we usually handle this term in technical aspects, but is it only a technical sent or is it only the visible part of the iceberg?

Access to information technologies has emerged as a cornerstone of the economic and social being in today's world, ensuring fair and inclusive access to digital services is not merely a technological challenge, but also a strategic and humanitarian responsibility.

Therefore, it is crucial to take decisive steps toward reducing digital inequality. The WSIS Summit has played a pivotal role, emphasizing the critical role of ICT and importance to equitable access to digital services worldwide. This year holds particular significance as it marks 20th anniversary of WSIS Summits with the comprehensive review, scheduled for December at the NGA level. A robust sustainable communication infrastructure stands as the Foundation for achieving digital inclusion. And expanding broadband access, in the mobile networks and making digital services, universally available require a comprehensive infrastructure strategy. In this end, public policy must serve as principles and frameworks.

Outlined with Turkiye's vision, we are designing, developing and exporting it. The aim is to bolster technology, establish end-to-end communication, infrastructure with the local capabilities and reinforce digital independence. However, digital infrastructure alone is not sufficient. It could bring individuals with digital skills and enhancing digital literacy are essential to ensure everyone can effectively benefit from the services. To ensure the digital process we must focus on the infrastructure and skills and strengthen the regulatory framework is another key priority, effective regulations should foster innovation safeguarding user rights. Policies aimed at expanding information technology must be shaped through inclusive, visionary and multistakeholder approaches, not solely rely on technical solutions. Every step in this direction will contribute to building a more equitable, connected and resilient

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digital society and Turkiye will continue to strongly support the collaborative endeavours.

Today we all see accessibility drives the increased use of technology and innovation as AI continues to integrate every aspect of human life, ethical responsibilities and human values should play a fundamental role in the development of technology.

Otherwise, the development of AI may further deepen social injustices and undermine human rights. I would like to take your attention to ethical concerns over AI with a fresh example from yesterday.

In the case of Global, we witnessed an act of artificial intelligence that ignored these basic principles and caused issues in the society. It is not just a software error, but a serious and ethical societal irresponsibility. Turning a blind eye to the dissemination of language that harms human rights, respect and social peace especially through technology platform is not simply a mistake, but a clear violation.

This is irresponsible and undermines trust and technology. Allowing abusive language and hate speech to spread on a platform poses a serious threat to the security, not only on one platform but our entire digital ecosystem. It is seen that we will face more ethical concerns than ever. As experts we can distinguish this is artificial intelligence, but what about the children, teenagers, people with low digital literacy? It is clear that developers should adhere to the ethical principles such as objectivity, transparency, accountability in their actions and decision-making processes.

As policymakers and Regulators we should establish rules and regulations to ensure AI systems respect cultural diversity, social acuity and human rights. This shows having no geographical boundaries, we should work in collaboration for responsible AI to reflect common values of humanity. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you, Excellency.
I'm sure that is why the ITU has AI for Good.

We move to Caribbean, where Dominican Republic is promoting social opportunity. I welcome the Chairman of the Dominican institute of telecommunication.

Dr. Gomez, could you share with us how the Dominican Republic is using ICT to promote digital inclusion and skills development in traditionally marginalized community? You have the floor Your Excellency.

>> DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Good morning. It is a great honour to represent Dominican Republic in the institute of telecommunication.

To answer your question, in the Dominican Republic, more than 22% of the people between the age of 15 and 24 are neither studied nor working, according to the data from the National

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statistics office.

Considering this reality in the Dominican institute of communication, we understood it is not enough to connect community, we must connect the opportunity. The training to transfer destiny. We create a rapid skill centre, space equipment with virtual classroom where the people from vulnerable communities learn programming, data analysis, artificial intelligence, and Cybersecurity alongside soft skills and English.

We currently have one centre operating in Santiago. And four rapid skill points along the borders, specifically in some of the poorest provinces in the country. According to the multidimensional poverty Index, over 60 of the household border areas live in the structural poverty and less than 35% of Internet access. That is why we started there because where there is more exclusion, there must be more state presence and more innovation.

Our goal is clear, to have the Programme fully operational in 12 provinces by the end of 2026, impacting thousands of people from the intensive and transformative educational model.

Indotel provides connectivity and basic training to facilitate digital participation.

According to the records, over 60 of the beneficiaries have been females, head of the household or single mothers. This not only bridge the access gap, but also empower women to educate their children, engage in the digital entrepreneurship and access public service independently.

I respect the three minutes. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Let me say on behalf of the Chair of WSIS+20, I want to extend our deepest appreciation to each of you for your insightful contributions today. We have heard perspectives from across the globe, from South Asia to sub-Saharan Africa, from Caribbean to Europe. Despite our different areas, we have access to information and knowledge is not just a technical issue, it is a cornerstone of Sustainable Development of human rights and inclusive digital societies.

Today's session reaffirms that WSIS process is more relevant than ever. 20 years on, it continues to provide a collaborative platform where Government, Civil Society, the Private Sector, Academia, and international organisations come together. Not only to exchange good practice, but to co-create the future of truly inclusive Information Society.

We must continue to uphold and expand multistakeholder cooperation, just as we outline the WSIS action C1 and C3 to impact the international and Regional strategies, the response to local realities, let this session be a renewed call to action for each of us to go back to our countries, our institutions,

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our communities, with a commitment to keep driving it shared vision.

Once again, thank you for your contribution and I thank the ITU and all the WSIS for sustaining this powerful process. I would kindly invite my panelists to join me on the stage for a Group photograph. Thank you.

>> HOST: Thank you very much Professor and the panelists. A great big round of applause, please. Thank you very much. Very diverse views.

Now we would like to move to the next Leaders TalkX. It is in line with the C4, capacity building. I would like to invite Ms. Cheryl Miller to lead this conversation, Cheryl is the Moderator for this Leaders TalkX. Cheryl, the floor is yours. It is over to you.

>> MODERATOR: Good morning, Your Excellencies, esteemed leaders my name is Cheryl Miller. It is an honour to moderate this session Future-ready, enhancing skills for a digital tomorrow. Building digital skills is an urgent priority to equip people with the tools needed to participate in an open, inclusive and people-centred Information Society. As we dive into this important discussion, I would like to introduce our distinguished panel, we have the Honorable Minister from Estonia. And Tanzania, Maggie Jones from United Kingdom. And we have a Representative from Turkiye and the Executive Director of taking it Global, Ms. Jennifer C. I would like to pose my first question to the United Kingdom. The Honorable Maggie Jones. I understand the United Kingdom has its own unique approach to digital development and the progression of skills. How are digital skills integrated into the UK's approach? How does that support the WSIS Agenda on digital inclusion and connectivity?

>>UK: Our approach in the UK to the development of our own digital skills is exactly the same as the approach that we apply internationally. Our approach is simple.

Our approach is simple. For ICTs to benefit all aspects of life they must be accessible to people. One-third of the world's population still doesn't have access to the Internet.

We won't bring them online by just making an Internet connection available to people, connectivity must also be affordable.

And for people to engage about the digital world meaningfully and safely, we must ensure they have the necessary digital literacy and digital skills. The UK's digital access Programme has helped drive affordable last-minute connectivity for over 15 million people in 5,000 underserved communities in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Brazil, and Indonesia.

By promoting sustainable technology and business models, our digital access Programmes helped partner to reduce the

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digital gap by 26% in 2024, it shows what can be achieved through international cooperation and partnership. Connectivity must also be inclusive.

Promoting digital skills is a key part of the UK's approach to achieving this goal of inclusive digital development. Digital skills are not just for the tech savvy, they are enabling all of us to use new tech with confidence and safety. Digital skills are also critical for a thriving economy. Digital and computing roles projected to grow by more than double those in the wider workforce by 2030. The UK partners in Digital Economies, through initiatives such as skills in digital participation within the British Council. That project helped build the whole spectrum of digital skills to increase digital literacy and raise Cybersecurity awareness.

We fully support the WSIS Agenda and its priority to connect the remaining third of the world's population.

The UK's new digital development strategy was launched last year, it outlines a vision to bridge the Global digital divide in partnership with Developing Countries and promote a more inclusive, responsible, and sustainable Digital Transformation.

It recognizes the international cooperation and multistakeholder approaches are vital to achieving inclusive and responsible Digital Transformation.

The UK has partnered with the ITU through since 2020 and we're proud of that work and the partnership. Inclusive digital development is fundamental to unleashing technology's potential as an enabler cross all of the sustainable goals. Those are our priorities. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Give a warm round of applause. Thank you. We turn next to Estonia. I understand Estonia has been consistently scoring high in their results.

So I would like to pose this question to Her Excellency. How do we approach teaching and skills development in a rapidly changing environment? What can other countries learn from what Estonia has put in place?

>> ESTONIA: Thank you. So Estonia is a fully digital country. And I can share with you quickly some of our experiences.

First, we regained our independence after Russian occupation in 1991. During the Russian occupation, learning at school was a way to show resistance. So when we regained our independence, we were very poor, but we had a lot of talent out there who had really learned at schools also IT. This was the baseline to build up a fully digital society where we now have 100% of Government services digital.

Going forward from that we had (?) We delivered Internet to all of the schools, including primary schools and started with

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teaching IT skills from the very beginning.

What we are doing now, now during the AI era, we all know that all you learned two years ago is not very relevant maybe today. And we do not know exactly what are the skills you need after two years, but in education systems, you build education systems for 10 or 15 years.

In order to fulfill the requirements of innovation, economy, democracy, just for everybody, equity and all of the values that we really have, we start from the first of September this year, as a first country in the world AI Programme for the schools. So all of the 10th and 11th graders in Estonia will get free access to use the AI tools throughout the school learning.

We would like to have our children to be the best users and the best developers of artificial intelligence in the world.

This is absolutely needed in we want to go on with the innovation with the digitalization using AI, developing AI for the good of our citizens. Will so this very shortly has been the Estonian path.

Now, I have to underline that this has all supported learning all other subjects as well. We have constantly been in top rows of the tests that measure the general understanding and skills of students throughout the world.

So democratic values, equity, but offering the free access to absolutely everybody to learn and use all of the technological possibilities out there has been the ground for Estonian success for digitalization. We are fully open to share our experiences, and cornerstones, lessons learned, and mistakes made to everybody interested. Only with cooperation can we build a better world. Thank you so much.

(Applause)

>> MODERATOR: Thank you so much. It is truly inspiring to hear the amount of effort you are putting into this preparation. It really takes an enabling environment to roll out these types of initiatives and skill building. I would like to turn next to the Honorable Minister of Ministry communication and information technology for the United Republic of Tanzania.

I understand that Tanzania has been doing a lot of work to get ready. My question to you is, in terms of the enabling environment, what is the enabling environment you created?

>> Tanzania: In Tanzania, we are really proud of how we have provided good involvement for digitalization. And like five pillars out of many. We start with the political will. We have a big huge commitment from our Excellency the President of the Tanzania herself. Through the digital economy strategy she launched on 29 July 2024. Also on the infrastructure, we have massive, high investment in infrastructure. We have 93, 91, 95,

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broadband connectivity in 3G, 4G, 5G respectfully. We have 13,820 National ICT backbone connecting 109 districts out of 139. We are doing massive investment in last mile connectivity and also on legal framework. We have just enacted the personal data protection act and forming a personal data protection Commission. We have strong legal institutional institutions to manage the digitalization of the country. The Regulator and huge inclusivity in terms of partnership, in terms of Government, private, Civil Society, international organisation, ITU and Global Platform players. Also in terms of youth, we have a very high-level inclusion of youth and now building eight innovation hubs, which will incubate the ideas in the innovation of youth, in the startup ecosystem to make sure they're not left behind. But also, we are having a huge commitment of the Government in terms of putting up a level playing field for all players, so that when we go for digitalization, we don't leave behind anyone in the society.

And the best and the major huge pillar is the skills. We have incorporated digital skills in our curriculum from the elementary level in primary school to the University. But also as my colleague from Estonia said, digitalization knowledge is changing. The Government is currently now designing a digital technology institute, which will be an institute to act as a leverage for out of school and in school experts to brush their knowledge in terms of emerging technologies, artificial intelligence, big data analytics and all of that is growing at an unprecedented pace, as Tanzania should be also a player. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you so much. I think a key aspect to this all is access making sure we have access to ICT skills.

I want to turn next to the Honorable Chairman of the Board and President of the authority for the information and communication technology authority in Turkiye. My question to you. I understand that Turkiye has been very much focused on the access portion. What is the significance of ensuring widespread access to ICT skills and digital literacy in Turkiye? And what steps are being undertaken to address the issue?

>> TURKIYE: Thank you, Chair. Good morning to all and to our great panel. I wish everyone a fruitful and successful session.

Ensuring nationwide access to ICT skills and digital literacy is a strategic priority for individual empowerment and inclusive National development. It is also vital for fostering meaningful and sustainable international cooperation. First and foremost, basic digital competencies help promote equal opportunities in the labour market. Educational resources and

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training opportunities must be accessible to all. Much as those who are already digitally skilled are well-connected.

Such inclusivity helps narrow Regional development gaps and alleviate youth migration pressure from underdeveloped areas.

Moreover, equipping businesses and entrepreneur with digital skills significantly enhances access to Global markets, enabling stronger integration into international value chains. ICT also plays a key role in enabling the full participation of all segments of society including persons with disabilities and the elderly.

In today's world, digital literacy is no longer optional. It is a foundational skill and a core element of any modern education and development strategy.

In line with this vision, the BTK academy was launched by the information and technology authority of Turkiye at the end of 2017. It serves as an online training portal to provide individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in the digital era. Beyond the online access, the academy delivers in-person camp-based trainings, particularly targeting rural and underserved Regions.

It offers Programmes for all levels, from beginners to professionals, with content development by experts in areas such as software development, Cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and Cloud computing.

As of today, the BTK academy hosts 317 training Programmes in total 165,000 minutes of content across 12 thematic categories and serves a growing category of over 2.65 million users.

We believe investing in the literacy skills is investing in a more inclusive, innovative and future-ready society. We're proud of the progress achieved so far and remain fully committed to expanding and diversifying our efforts. Our goal is to ensure that no one is left behind in the Digital Transformation journey and we believe we are on the right track. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

One of the great things about this WSIS high-level has been the focus on youth. There is many sessions and conversations around young people and their interaction in tomorrow's digital economy.

I would like to turn next to our final panelists, Mr. Jennifer the Executive Director of taking it Global. I understand there are different phases of our journey and you focus on K-12. We would love to hear your perspective. What approaches are needed in supporting the skills for a digital tomorrow?

>> Jennifer: I'm happy to be here. In a nutshell we need to focus on hands on learning opportunities to inspire kids.

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How many of you are a parent, aunty, uncle or mentor to a young person in your life. Raise your hand. Tell me if you have a child in your life. I hope to see more hands up. All right.

Together, I hope that we can increase investments in public education so that we can utilize technology in ways that allow from enrichment opportunities for all children.

For every child to feel they are surrounded by role models, by people who they can relate to through offering virtual field trips, connected North was recognized, we were the Canadian project highlighted in the WSIS champion recognition earlier this week. Virtual field trips with galleries, museums, science centres, aquariums, the Space Station, inspiring children to see what the possibilities are for their futures.

And also, how can we focus on community building and well-being? And not let technology get in the way of our humanity and the importance of connecting with one another. As people and to feel a sense of Agency.

I believe that we should invest in funds for youth-led community-based projects.

25 years ago, I started this charity taking it Global with my co-fonder, who is here in the room, Michael. We started as teens in the early days of the Internet. We were high school students wishing for more interactive learning experience while we were at school.

So we created one of the world's first online communities, one of the world's first multilingual websites on the Internet. We were the Founder for the youth caucus on the Youth Summit of the Information Society in 2003 and with the prep comms. We were in Geneva, at the youth pavilion in Tunis. I'm here advocating not as a young person, but as a mother, an aunty, a mentor, someone so grateful to the people who gave me a chance, who gave me the mic and asked for my input when I was young.

That is why I invited you to think about the young people in your life. And also think about when you were a child. Who were the people that gave you a chance? Who are the people that encouraged you to be the leader that you are today? And what can we do collectively? As a Global community, to take the responsibility, not only for our own kin, but the children we may have never met before. Because they can't be here on this stage. It is our duty, our collective duty to care not only for the babies of today, but those that are unborn and make sure the ways that we're creating technologies and using technologies are truly enriching, generations to come, to help them thrive. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you so much. That concludes our panel. But I would love to give you all the warmest round of applause. I thought this was an awesome panel. Thank you all in the

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audience for joining us. Louder. We can't hear you! Ha-ha-ha. Got to get ready for lunch.

>> HOST: Thank you, Cheryl. Can we please invite you for a Group photograph before you leave the stage? Thank you to your photographer and Moderator. Cheryl it was a great panel on capacity building and skills development. A big round of applause for this panel, please.

We would now like to move on to the next Leaders TalkX about Cybersecurity and towards a safer connected world, Leaders TalkX: Towards a safer connected world: Collaborative strategies to strengthen digital trust and cyber resilience.

We have been hearing about cyber resilience from day one. We would like to invite Lucien to take the floor. He will be the Moderator for the TalkX. We invite you to the stage, please. Over to you.

>> MODERATOR: Hello, everyone. Excellencies, dear colleagues from the rest of the world, my name is Lucien Castex. If you wonder, this session should have interpretation in the six languages. If you need it, you can use the interpretation as well. I'm delighted to be hosting this session. With the review of the WSIS this year, let us try to draw here today from the Geneva spirit in Palexpo to collaborate toward the safe, open and innovative connected world. It is a perfect time, indeed to be working together, all stakeholders, in their diversity to find ways and means to find effective strategies and collaborative solutions to reinforce cyber resilience and trust in Information Society from cables and wires to networks to Internet protocols and digital services.

This is the aim of the session. From sharing of Best Practices, concrete use cases, this is essential. But first of all, having bold ideas as well.

Imagination is the only weapon into war against reality.

So first, in the discussion, I would like to turn to Malaysia. And I would like to ask Excellency, Minister Ahmad Fahmi Mohamed Fadzil, Malaysia is currently taking a leading role in the development of the guidelines on the safe and responsible use of the social media platforms for Asia,ing can you share the outcomes, Malaysia hopes to achieve, and how it is contributing to the broader goal of building a more resilient and digitally responsibility Asian community?

>> AHMAD FAHMI MOHAMED FADZIL: Thank you. Good morning, bonjour. I was following the -- I was following closely the speech given by the President Macron in palace of west minister yesterday, I think it was. He was talking about, if we do not choose then those, our future will be chosen by those who choose the algorithms.

There are many countries that are discussing the role and

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impact of social media not only on our immediate societies but also our futures.

Unfortunately, many of our countries we're not all the size of India for example, where the girth, width, breadth of the population where all social media platforms will pay attention to.

Some countries like Estonia, Singapore are not big in size. Malaysia is only 35 million people. Indonesia is more than three hundred million. Within the context of Asian, particularly in Malaysia's role of Chairman this year we decided we are stronger together, will work better together, collaborating together. We have signed a Declaration, a Political Declaration which will take effect, God willing during the 47th Summit in October. 47th Summit in October. Where some of the principles for Asian countries to face the same direction and adopt perhaps similar ideas, strategies, given that Asian is polyglot. We are many different types of countries. And we do not have a European Parliament, per se.

So these guidelines will help to serve perhaps as a beacon in the dark for Asian Nations in order to travel safely to where we need to go. Respecting our respectful sovereignty and also the principle of Asian centrality. In that way, we hope we will have a bigger, stronger voice.

A lot of big tech, perhaps, it is very interesting to say this here in this context. Big tech is not bigger than our laws. Nations, sovereign Nations have laws, and these laws need to be adhered. There are regulations that have been put in place for safety, for security. And big tech must listen to our laws.

So these are my comments, thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much, Excellency. Indeed, the digital authority is key topics when we discuss digitally technologies.

In this session we will travel around the world, literally a lot of miles going around. I would like to turn to Greece. Excellency Minister Christos Dermentzopoulos, what do you consider the main challenge in implementing the directive in Greece? How are you addressing it in Greece?

>> CHRISTOS DERMENTZOPOULOS: Thank you for having me here. Your Excellency, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, for us, Cybersecurity is no longer just a technical matter. It is a strategic pillar of national resilience and digital is solidarity. Impacts, impact not only the economy, and the democratic institutions and public safety and social cohesion. In Greece as you asked, we have made strides to strengthen our Cybersecurity posture across strategic, legislative and operational fronts.

According to the ITU, Global Cybersecurity Index, Greece

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scores the maximum points in the legal measures, and other measures. This is a fact since 2025, we laid the groundwork for securing cyber resilience digital environment according to the WSIS Action Line C5. It is the infrastructure, data protection, public awareness and the cooperation standards.

Building on this, we're frequently drafting the 26-31 strategy taking into account the evolving threats, the complex geopolitical realities, by respecting, protecting and promoting the human rights. In this respect, we're also promoting the rights of the child, according to the accommodation of the UN general comment 25 on children's rights in relation to the digital environment. My Ministry recently launched a National strategy for protecting minors for online addiction.

To enhance readiness, where developing both the National risk assessment plans and the National response plans for large scale cyber incidence. It ensures real-time situational awareness, where the National SCRT delivers rapid response capabilities for critical Sectors.

Transporting it into the NRLA marks a milestone with broad regulatory coverage, imposing obligations and enhancing oversight. A key challenge lies, in the range of coverages, particularly in the vital economy. To the system, the National Cybersecurity authority provides guidance, self assessment tools and gap analysis resources. We're boosting our capacity in deepening a public private collaboration through regular webinars, engagement and open communication channels. These actions are part of our horizontal whole of Government approach to Cybersecurity Governance.

In parallel, EU funded initiatives are helping strengthen Cybersecurity Public Administration, health and we aim to close the Cybersecurity skills gap and build in National training in synergy with the EU efforts.

Finally, our overarching goal goes beyond compliance. More specifically we strive to foster a culture of Cybersecurity awareness, shared responsibility and digital trust across our society. Risks remains committed to the threat detection, crisis response and trusted digital supply chains. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much, Excellency. Indeed, the Cybersecurity framework into making a number of EU countries are in the phase of implementing this in the respective countries, really important to think about collaborative Cybersecurity across continent and throughout the world to fight against threats emerging.

I would like to move across the world to India. And to ask Mr. Anil Kumar Lahoti. Cyber resilience can only be achieved through cross Sector cooperation and coordination. How true is it from India's perspective?

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>> ANIL KUMAR LAHOTI: Thank you very much. Good morning to all of you. The three Rs of cyber resilience include resist, recover, and rebuild.

Now achieving cyber resilience is significantly dependent on cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination. Critical infrastructures like energy Groups, financial networks, transportation systems, et cetera, are all highly interconnected.

Which means a cyber attack in one Sector can quickly have cascading effects on others.

Moreover, cross-sector collaboration allows for better intelligence sharing to participate and respond to emerging threats more effectively. Sharing knowledge tools and personnel can also be significantly enhance use for the cyber resilience.

Cross-sectoral collaboration facilitates the development and adoption of common standards and Best Practices for Cybersecurity, maybe it easier for organisations to implement robust security measures.

India has National Cybersecurity policy to maintain operations and recover quickly after an incident.

India has developed various institutional mechanisms for coordinated management of Cybersecurity.

The National Cybersecurity coordination centre or NCCC is a multiorganisational centre which gets inputs from multiple Sectors through sensors deployed. The results of an analytics are shared with the relevant Sectors for proactive mitigation. The telecom security operation centre or TSOC monitors the traffic in the telecom measures the network and provides the information in different Sectors and feeds into the inputs for analysis and dissemination.

The Sector Cybersecurity incidence response teams gets feed from therefore the organisations for the actions. It is getting inputs. It is getting the feed and sharing its own intelligence.

For example, if a smart grid communication network provided by a telecom service provider for power Sector is affected by a cyber attack at a power distribution location, the communication network monitored by TSOC captures the alarm and it is reported. Where the experts from various Sectors analysis and feed into various CCERTs of the affected Sectors for immediate action and future prevention.

So these are the cross-sectoral measures India is taking. I think Excellencies, I have spoken beyond cross sector, it is important to have multi-National as well to have good Cybersecurity. That is also an important part of the Mission.

>> MODERATOR: It is interesting to have concrete uses as you indicated. We will move back to Europe and Lithuania. I would like to turn to Madam Jurate Soviene. From your

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perspective, what are the main factors of success in strengthening digital trust and cyber resilience, especially for vulnerable Groups or society?

>> JURATE SOVIENE: Thank you, I would like to answer by sharing two examples. For the first one, may I ask you to play a very short video? No sound, strange.

(Video, no English translation)

Thank you.

You just saw a short video education to join a digital wave. One of our key events of our National digital skills project, no one is left behind. And why this video is important, with the help of AI we brought to life a more than 100-year-old picture of the Lithuania Founders, first President and Parliament members.

It is not just a simple symbol. It is a call to raise the digital wave together. And across generations, both online and on-site, on the same day, in all 60 Lithuania municipalities. Even with a strong digital infrastructure in Lithuania, many older people still feel left out. And that is why we started our project no one is left behind, to help seniors gain the skills needed to feel safer online. It is a National movement with more than 160 partners, volunteers, public private Sector institutions, libraries, municipalities and local media.

And another great example of collaboration is how we tackle scams.

Instead of fighting alone, we team up with telecom operators, the police, the general prosecutor's office and Cybersecurity, National Bank, we meet together and identify patterns of scams, block fake calls and end messages early and raise public awareness. But let's be honest, saying let's collaborate is easy. Doing it is much harder. And someone has to take the first step. And someone has to lead. And I believe this is exactly where Regulators should step in.

In today's fast-changing world, we can't just stick to the old means of formal competence, all the limits of formal competence, if we want to make a real change, we must dare to do things differently. Must be brave, be creative, and less bureaucratic. Because that is how we build digital trust. That is how we make sure no one is left behind. Thank you.

(Applause)

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Indeed someone has to take the first step. It is the first place here in Geneva during the WSIS+20 High-Level Event, to discuss such issues in light of the discussions at the Global level.

I would like to move again across the world, this time to Thailand. I would ask Mr. Trairat Viriyasirikul, as a telecommunications regulatory body in Thailand, what strategies or frameworks have proven most effective to foster collaboration

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to derive inclusive sustainable ICT development?

>> TRAIRAT VIRIYASIRIKUL: Thank you, Chair. In Thailand, the collaborative innovation frameworks, to create sustainable ICT development, one of the most effective tools has been the sandbox, which allow Private Sectors to test advanced things like 5G, AI IoT in the real world setting with the support and flexibility, this creates a low risk to refine policies. We work closely with University and private firms to ensure this trial for societal deeds.

Another key area has been in the private public issues in particularly healthcare. For example, we have a hospital and emergency system using 5G AI. We help develop the project with public hospital, the body and telecom provider.

This effort demonstrate how target collaboration can improve public services.

We have also launchable by ID, the platform that is a secure access to service across Public and Private Sector from Government Officer to bank at e-commerce, it enhance trust and prevent digital fraud. In the area of AI Governance, we partner with the Governance centre and electronic transaction in raising awareness and provide guidance for the ethical use of artificial intelligence technology among personnel in the telecommunication Sector. This is the effort to study and develop the established framework for the technology in telecommunication to align with Thailand context. There is directions and relevant regulations clearly an act of Parliament and of the decree in the issue in the process of the public hearing.

This ensures emerging technologies are effective, fair, transparent and secure. Our strategy is built on three pillars, co-creation, and inclusive development will happen with stakeholders in the problem solving and innovation process. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you, indeed. Today in Geneva we are trying to navigate the Internet Governance. To try to inform this among stakeholders, digging into country policies. I want to turn to the Internet Society now. And ask you Sally Wentworth, how do we work together to ensure that people everywhere have an Internet experience that is safe, secure and protects them online?

>> SALLY WENTWORTH: Thank you, it is a pleasure to be here today. The Internet Society is an organisation dedicated to the vision that the Internet is for everyone. We're closely aligned with our partner the Internet Engineering Task Force and other colleagues across the Internet ecosystem that have worked tirelessly to ensure that the Internet reaches everybody and the Internet is secure and trustworthy and that users can in fact ensure that their experience is safe and secure.

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As we developed our five-year strategy 2030 for the Internet Society, one of the areas we were focusing on is the question of ensuring that people everywhere have an Internet experience that is safe, secure and protects them online. We think that is carried forward in a number of different ways for us. The first pillar is around education. We do a lot of work around the world to ensure that people can come online in an affordable, reliable way. But as we bring communities online, we need to ensure that these vulnerable populations have the tools to come online safely. And so through training initiatives and partners, partnerships, with expert organizations in that topic, we're trying to ensure that the end user has the skills to operate online safely.

The second important area for us, given our relationship with the Internet Engineering Task Force is to ensure that the work on security in standards continues to move forward and there is robust adoption of strong and security-related protocols, such as encryption, things related to routing security and other components that ensure that the traffic flows safely and securely, that we can rely that the websites we visit are in fact what we expect to see.

All of that depends upon protocols and standards. The protocols and standards are developed within the Internet Engineering Task Force in an open way. Everyone can participate. There is a lot of participation from industry, of course. But also Academia, Civil Society, and Governments. It is really important that there is robust participation in the standards development process, but also that the policy environments exist for the standards to roll out.

And then finally, there is a whole body of Civil Society Groups that are integral to our online safety and security that are traditionally underfunded but which we depend upon.

And recently we launched a co-funded initiative with our partners in the Global Cybersecurity Alliance with support from the UK and Canadian Governments to build a fund to support Cybersecurity initiatives that protect Civil Society or are driven by Civil Society Groups around the world.

We depend upon the technologies and many of us don't even realize it. It is really important for our collective security that this work is sustainable and well resourced.

There is a lot of different things that we need to do. I think the last thing I would leave you with is there is no one actor in the ecosystem that can secure the Internet for everyone. It is not going to happen that way. We need technologies, experts, research, commitment, strategies, industry investment. We need the voice of Civil Society to ensure that what we do on security allows us to keep speaking

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freely and access information.

It is really important that this is a collaborative effort. And that is the approach that we use to ensure that people can communicate safely and securely online.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Indeed. And thank you for highlighting the importance of the multistakeholder model. And the collaborative solutions to be found within Civil Society and technical community, Academia, Private Sector and Government. Each playing its part in making the online world safer.

I would like to keep digging towards solutions and turn to Madam Lennig Pedron of Trust Valley. What is your view on the importance and relevance of public and private partnerships like Trust Valley for enhancing security in digital society?

>> LENNIG PEDRON: Thank you, Professor. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, yes, it is really an honour for me to be here today with you. And at Trust Valley we strongly believe the multistakeholder cooperation is essential, it is crucial to securing our digital future.

The question of PPP, public-private partnership is at the heart of what we are doing in the Trust Valley. We were created, funded by the state of Geneva and the state five years ago, by the Department of Economy. We're a Center of Excellence in digital trust and Cybersecurity because for our Cybersecurity, we do the basic. This is the pace of the pyramid. But we are working on whole emerging technologies.

And our Mission is really to ensure a safe, secure and more responsible digital economy. We bring together more than 400 partners at the Global level right now. We were funded at the Regional level and work globally. We are in the heart of Europe. So in the centre of Europe. We're a very small country. We work with a lot of partners at the worldwide level.

Over the past five years, we supported more than 250 innovative companies. So it is staffed, scaled up, sometimes SMEs, because sometimes we forget that SMEs have a very good path in what they're doing.

This should also one example I want to give to you. We created some Programme. What we really wanted to do is to have all of our partners, the Government, also Private Sector and the Academia on board. It is really difficult to fund a work on the best interest of these kind of actors.

What we did is created a neutral platform. With this neutral platform, we created very concrete actions. One with SMEs, in the Programme is to secure the right to the quality of what we're doing with all about Cybersecurity. This is a bridge about cyber attack. All of the people now have the same Programme. All of the Governments have the same problems. We

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worked on this challenge for a long time.

The second example I want to share with you is what we created this year, with the World Bank, and this is the Department of the The economy of the National level of Switzerland. We created an innovation challenge for Governmental technology, so for gov tech. This is really that. Right now, we work with business to Government BTG to push what we are doing here. So for us, joint pillar project, flexible financing mechanism and simplify the legal initiative in partnership. This is what we are doing together.

Thank you.

(Applause)

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much for concrete use cases and examples.

So now, in the few minutes that we, we will move online, and I would like to give the floor to Spain, Excellency Minister Matías González. What key measures has Spain implemented to become a tier one organisation in the Global Index?

>> MATÍAS GONZÁLEZ: Good morning, Excellencies, members on the panel and those at the event. It is a pleasure to be here, wishing I could have joined you in person in Geneva. Since the beginning, since the origin of the Information Society, our own constitution, which is dated in 1978, establishes the protection of communications as one of the first rights of Spanish citizens. This is why we consider security as a holistic question that includes technology Government, companies, citizens. Cybersecurity should be tackled from a holistic point of view, taking into account internal actors and external ones. The Index of which you were referring to in your question, this Index measures the different areas regarding Cybersecurity.

Spain gets a very impressive score thanks to our legal, technical, organizational, and cooperation measures.

I would like to focus now on our international aspects. The cooperation to say that Spain is committed to spread its security model to other countries. We are convinced that cooperation is key for a safer future for all. In this regard, one of the most important projects that we are now doing is with the organisation of American States. This cooperation began in 2016, it is promoting joint initiatives for the generation and strengthening of capacities through different actions.

Maybe the most important action is the Cybersecurity summer good company. Besides the creation of the network of experts, summer would come has been in action for nine editions now, the 10th is about to start. More than 20,000 students have attended this international Programme. We also have other Programmes like woman cyber, focusing on attracting women to the Cybersecurity world.

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Another important highland aspect of our international cooperation is the signature of AOU, the cooperation of the University of Salem and the Cybersecurity University of Transport. Our University, funded by the Arab League in Egypt with 29 countries of the Coalition. I will conclude by reiterating the span of ITU in Action Line C5 on Cybersecurity and the World Summit on the WSIS. The Spanish vice presidency on the Group of telecommunication and our active participation in the cyber drills is a clear example of our commitment to cooperation in the development of capacities in order to improve resilience of the digital world. Thank you very much for your question and for the opportunity to participate in this panel.

(Applause)

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much for this clear, concrete examples of cooperation. There is inspiring that in the 30 minutes we had today, imagine what we could do with one hour a day or week of concrete use cases we can find to inspire from, to get concrete solutions with one thing in mind, have bold ideas, because anything one man can imagine, another man can make real.

Thank you very much.

(Applause)

(Concluded)

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