

Excellencies!

Distinguished guests!

Ladies and gentlemen!

On behalf of the Government and the ICT community of the Republic of Azerbaijan I would like to congratulate the ITU with its 150th anniversary. It is a great honor and pleasure for us to be here today, and to be a partner of the celebrations.

A decade after the first International Telegraph Convention (1865) was signed the 'Nobel Brothers' oil company operating in the city of Baku connected its chairman's office and the house of a senior engineer with 6 kilometers of telephone line. This occasion historically and officially is considered as a starting point of development of telecommunications in Azerbaijan. Just to let you know, Baku enterprises were main production base for the company's impressive financial results and made the establishment of the Nobel Prize Foundation possible that we all are aware of.

As the telecommunications or ICTs were facilitating oil and gas or any production and supply chain, we now witness how the nature of ICTs has changed for the last couple of decades, and harnessing and utilizing it more effectively is the key for international cooperation. With its 150 years of journey the ITU has been clear with its mission and will be visibly developing it further even if we are not sure how the nature of ICTs will change in the future.

The priority of the ICT sector for our country has been frequently emphasized by H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in his “converting black gold into human gold” doctrine and also in the development concept called “Azerbaijan 2020: Vision for the Future”. With the support of the ITU our Ministry has contributed immensely both to the doctrine and the development concept.

Azerbaijan joined the ITU in 1992 and has since been fully committed to the values of the Union. With your generous support last year in Busan we became a member of the Council a very first time. Azerbaijan essentially helps the ITU General Secretariat to drive the broadband deployment across the world and is strongly involved in the activity of the UN Broadband Commission for Digital Development.

The Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan has initiated a platform for improving connectivity between Europe and Asia, and the ITU is one of the partners of the project. The first telecommunication satellite was successfully launched with a kind assistance of the ITU availing the reliable broadcasting and the internet connectivity for emerging markets within the coverage.

I would like to assure you that Azerbaijan will further continue supporting the ITU as it remains indisputably valuable platform for the global ICT community.

I congratulate you all once again and thank you for your kind attention.