Closing Session
Thursday, 9 June 2022
12:15 – 12:30 Kigali Time
Kigali Convention Centre - Auditorium

Moderated by: **David Kirkpatrick**, Editor in Chief, Techonomy Media. *Joining physically*. **Confirmed**.

Speakers (in alphabetical order):

- **Doreen Bogdan-Martin**, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU. *Joining physically*. **Confirmed**.
- **H.E. Paula Ingabire**, Minister of Information Communication Technology and Innovation, Rwanda. *Joining physically*. **Confirmed**.
- **H.E. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful**, Minister of Communications and Digitalisation, Ghana. Focus Area Leader, Partner2 Connect Digital Coalition. *Joining physically*. **Confirmed.**
- **Houlin Zhao**, Secretary-General, ITU. *Joining physically*. **Confirmed**.

- Good afternoon, good morning, good evening, everyone.

- Well, WHAT an <u>incredible</u> and <u>inspiring </u>two and a half days!

- When we kicked off this Roundtable on Tuesday, we started with 250 pledges from entities in 80 countries, which together represented an estimated financial value of US$ 15.8 billion.

- Today, I can only say that my team and I have been <u>utterly overwhelmed</u> by the global response.

- In the space of just **44 hours**, the number of P2C pledges has grown by **44%**.

- We are closing this Roundtable today with more than **360** pledges worth a staggering **US$ 18.55 billion**. Wow.

- These leaders have shown their commitment to universal meaningful connectivity by pledging financial resources; ambitious and ground-breaking digital development programmes; enlightened, enabling ICT policies; and bold new advocacy plans to bridge the digital divide and create fertile ground for new connectivity partnerships and alliances.

- The **more than 360** pledges we've mobilized this week will be instrumental in transforming the lives of <u>billions</u> of around the world – people who, right now, are shut out of opportunities to learn, to earn, and to build a better future for themselves, their families and their communities.

- Ladies and gentlemen,

- In my opening speech to this conference, I spoke about the tremendous power of collaboration and the enormous difference we can make, as individuals, and entities, if we commit to working together towards a better world.

- Just <u>look</u> at what we have achieved together, here in Kigali…

- These P2C pledges are a testament to a growing global recognition that benefiting **others** ultimately benefits us <u>**all**</u>.

- The bottom line is that we will never properly unleash the vast, untapped power of digital technologies to change our world until we get <u>everyone</u> on that journey towards the 'Digital Future We Want'.

- This is an amazing start. But it doesn't end here.

- ITU is committed to continuing to **expand on the P2C vision**.

- Our Partner2Connect **online pledging platform will remain open for the submission of new pledges.**

- And pledge makers and the international community will be able to instantly and easily visualize those commitments, and their intended scale and impact, on the P2C website.

- For our part, ITU will help **track and monitor** the fulfilment of pledges made, to ensure <u>accountability</u> and <u>progress</u>.

- We will also continue to highlight **new pledges and progress** made on the implementation of existing pledges, through periodic reporting, updates and events that mobilize further collaboration.

- To facilitate that, today we're launching a new interactive dashboard where all pledges can be explored in detail. This dashboard allows you to search for specific pledges, see what entities are contributing, and visualize high-level analytics.

Pledge-makers, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

- The UNSG in his opening to the WTDC on Monday challenged us to be bold and ambitious…

- Partner2Connect has done just that…

- ITU and the global community is grateful for **your engagement, for your generosity, and for sharing our vision of an inclusive, connected world**, where every person on the planet gets the chance to live their best life, through the power of ICTs.

- Thank you.