FINAL TRANSCRIPT

ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2014

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>> CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, good morning. Please take your seats. We will soon begin our Second and Third Plenary meetings.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would appreciate if you take your seats, please. As soon as you are seated, we will begin our Second Plenary Session.

Ladies and gentlemen, we will soon begin our Second Plenary Session. Please take your seats.

>> ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen, the Plenary will be starting shortly. Please be seated.

Again, ladies and gentlemen, the Plenary will be starting shortly. Please be seated for the Plenary. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I ask you to put in your ear phone. As soon as you take your seats, we will begin our Second Plenary Session. We still have colleagues who are standing back in the conference room. I ask you to take your seats.

Good morning. The Second Plenary Session is called to order. I hope you had taken a good rest last night. Before turning to our draft agenda, I just want to say thanks to the Government of Cameroon and the Government of South Africa for hosting the lovely luncheon yesterday. I did not have time yesterday to say thanks to them. So I just would like to express our gratitude to them for hosting the lovely luncheons. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: I also heard that many of our women Delegates and including some of the men Delegates also joined today's GEM-Tech morning breakfast. I heard it was packed by 300 people. Maybe next time, we still have luncheon and dinner for this event. Many of you can join the event.

I do believe that you also enjoyed the opening ceremony we had yesterday, and the dinner gala provided by the Government of Korea and the Government of Busan City Government. I hope you enjoyed that moment.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: In the Opening Ceremony we heard a very strong message in the voice from Madam President of Korea and the Secretary-General himself. Both of them sent a very strong message to the global community that how ICT can contribute to the Global Development Agenda. And that sets a very good stage for today's discussion. Now we will turn to the Draft Agenda which is Document Number ADM/5E. The first Agenda of the Agenda is the Draft Agenda. I submit this document for your approval. Okay?

Saudi Arabia asked for the floor. Saudi Arabia, you have the floor.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Chairman. We have no comments on the Draft Agenda, but I would like to take this opportunity and take the floor to say good morning to everybody and to thank you most warmly. We thank the administration of Korea for the reception yesterday evening. This was a remarkable event. We have been accustomed to the attentive hospitality of Korea and Busan. And I thank the administrations who organized lunches, Cameroon and South Africa. Thank you very much to all.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Saudi Arabia, for your kind words. Any other comments regarding the Agenda Item Number 1, approval of the agenda?

If not, I will take that this agenda is approved. Agenda is approved.

We move to the second item of the agenda which is the definitive amount of contributory unit and deadline for notifying the definitive choice of the class of contributions.

I will ask the Secretary-General to introduce this item. Secretary-General, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you very much and good morning to you all. I want to say that the realistic revenue forecast is vital for the finalization of the balanced financial plan. It would therefore be most helpful if the conference could approve a definitive upper limit for the unit as soon as possible. And pursuant to 161B of the Constitution, the Council recommended that the definitive upper limit should remain unchanged, 318,000 Swiss francs for the period 2016-2019, which was a figure that had been used in budgetary planning over the previous four years.

I invite the conference to approve the Council's recommendation and would very much like to see all of the Member States announcing their definitive choice by next Sunday, 26 October, at 11:59 p.m. Geneva time, which is 7:59 a.m. on the 27th of October. We will have the time difference of 27 October, Monday morning, 7:59.

So I am presenting this for your approval, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary-General. Now, I open this for your consideration on this Agenda Item Number 2. Any comments?

Before giving the floor to the Plenary, I will give the floor to the Secretary of the Plenary. Secretary of the Plenary, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARY OF THE PLENARY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to clarify something that I don't think came over correctly in the French interpretation. The Korean time is 7:59 a.m. on Monday morning, the 27th.

(No audio.)

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: We can hear the interpreters.

>> INTERPRETER: I apologize.

>> CHAIRMAN: I would recommend you to turn off your mic.

So with that, I think that's very important. We have to protect our privacy. Let me turn to Agenda Item 3, Council Report on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Activities of the Union. I invite you to review a video on the activities of the Union first.

(Music.)

(Video played.)

>> NARRATOR: Every time someone makes a phone call, browses the web, watches TV, or sends an instant message, they benefit from the work of the International Telecommunication Union.

Since ITU first set standards for telegraph systems nearly a century and a half ago, we've been Committed to Connecting the World.

Through the global coordination of satellites, undersea cables, wireless technologies and broadcasting services, ITU has helped create the networks that underpin just about everything the world does.

Connecting: ITU is a place for building consensus. Through forums, debates and international treaty-making conferences held all around the globe, we create bridges between different communities, from policy makers and the technology industry, to ICT regulators, civil society, UN agencies, and, of course, consumers.

At our flagship ITU Telecom Event we facilitate knowledge sharing and networking, tackling the critical business issues facing today's fast-moving tech sector. ITU generates the connections and conversations that matter. A catalyst for change.

Strategic: ITU is a global hub for innovation. Through our technical Study Groups, we bring some of the world's leading technical community together to pioneer the new technologies of tomorrow's networks and devices.

ITU's policy experts also help promote global discussions on key issues like patents and intellectual property, regulatory best-practices that keep ICT markets growing competitively, and ways of harnessing broadband to improve health care, education and environmental management.

With its high-level expertise in ICT development issues, ITU teams provide vital advice to countries around the world on ICT inclusion. ITU encourages the implementation of national broadband policies as a core priority for growing digital economies. ITU works tirelessly so that everyone has the chance to benefit from the opportunities ICT can offer.

The UN Broadband Commission for Digital Development, jointly established by ITU and UNESCO, plays a leading role in promoting broadband as a catalyst for progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and future Sustainable Development Goals.

Effective: ITU's H.264 codec is at the heart of 80% of the world's digital video content. Building on its portfolio of technical advances that are transforming online video, ITU's new gold standard - H.265 - consumes 50 percent less bandwidth while providing outstanding sound and image quality - a development that translates into real benefits for device manufacturers, entertainment providers, and, of course, viewers.

Faster, more accessible broadband technologies are another key priority. ITU's new G.Fast recommendation helps operators make the most of their existing copper networks, accelerating the roll out of superfast broadband.

ITU is at the forefront of emerging technologies. We have already set the stage for the advent of 5G mobile, and are championing global efforts to develop advanced 3D and Ultra-High-Definition TV.

Empowering: ITU is a leader in developing global frameworks that help leverage the potential of ICTs for empowering under-served and under-represented communities.

We champion the development of "accessible" systems to help persons with disabilities to get online and make the most of today's and tomorrow's technologies.

We promote the power of ICT training and careers to women and girls around the world, encouraging them to become a driving force in tomorrow's tech revolution.

We also work alongside the United Nations to enhance our engagement with youth, promoting the ICT sector as a solution for youth unemployment and entrepreneurship. Ground breaking ITU initiatives have reached global audiences such as the Beyond 2015 Global Youth Summit held in Costa Rica. The Summit produced the world's first ever crowd-sourced policy statement delivered to the UN General Assembly, recognizing the unique place and role of young "digital natives" in a world that's being transformed by connectivity.

ITU is also active in harnessing the power of technology in emergency humanitarian response, providing vital telecommunications equipment to countries in the wake of natural disasters. When other networks are down, satellite mobile phones and terminals can help speed relief efforts, getting services where they're needed most and providing vital lines of communication between governments and aid agencies.

As a champion of "Green ICTs," ITU is tackling the pressing issue of climate change. We are developing new technical standards that not only reduce the carbon footprint of ICT equipment, but help cut emissions in other sectors through strategies such as smart grids and ICT-enabled environmental monitoring.

Collaborative: ITU strives to nurture a global culture of cybersecurity. Through our UN World Summit for the Information Society mandate, we've conducted national cybersecurity assessments in over 100 countries, helped countries set up Computer Incident Response teams, and trained over 2700 security professionals in 52 countries.

Collaborating with 33 other UN agencies, ITU has developed a UN-wide framework on cybersecurity and cybercrime, helping to make the world a safer place and to build trust and confidence in the use of ICTs.

In healthcare, ITU brokered a new global e-health standard through our joint mHealth initiative with the World Health Organization. Because ICTs are at the heart of tomorrow's healthcare strategies, this work continues to gain momentum by attracting new partners from the healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors, paving the way for a brighter, healthier future.

Looking Ahead: ITU continues to innovate to deliver top-quality, modern conferences. We pride ourselves on state-of-the-art facilities and inclusive working practices such as remote e-participation, paper-smart operations, and live text captioning. Through its wide multilingual public consultations, ITU is fully open to its global stakeholders.

Each year, ITU celebrates World Telecommunication and Information Society Day with engaging themes connected to the work we do. This global celebration marks the anniversary of the creation of ITU on the 17th of May, 1865. So much has been packed into our 150 year history, and we can't wait to get started on the next 150 years.

Whether through spectrum allocation, standards, or fostering global ICT development - all of ITU's work is dedicated to helping "connect the world."

Let's continue working and innovating together here at the ITU Plenipotentiary 2014, in Busan, Korea, as we build towards the future networked society, transforming lives through ICTs, and making the world a better place for all.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: ITU has made a lot of achievement for the last years and many of those actually belong to the hard work of the Union, at the same time the hard work of the Council itself. So at this moment I would like to invite the Chairman of the Council, Mr. Zourmba, to present the document PP14/20.

Mr. Zourmba, you have the floor.

>> ABOUKAR ZOURMBA: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Excellencies and colleagues. Congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, for your election as Chairman of PP-14. Congratulations to you from me as Chairman of the Council and on behalf of my beloved country, Cameroon. I hope my Minister, who is in the room, will not blame me or reduce my salary for that.

(Laughter.)

>> ABOUKAR ZOURMBA: He will do it properly when the time comes.

Document 20 aims to give an overview of the main activities of the Union over the four-year period since the last Plenipotentiary Conference in 2010 and summarizes progress in the implementation of Strategic Plan 2012 and 2015.

So I will invite the Plenipotentiary to endorse the report. In accordance with the express wishes of the ITU's Member States, management has focused ITU's activities on achieving ITU's strategic goals. I shall briefly summarize the structure of the report. Part 1 sets out the main aims of this report which consolidates various reports previously presented separately. The annual reports on the activities of the Union for four years, and the report on the implementation of Strategic Plan.

Part 2 summarizes the outcomes and results achieved by the main events hosted by ITU over this four-year period. These events are WSIS Forum, World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, the Council, ITU Telecom World Conference on International Telecommunication 2012 and World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum 2013 -- I mean 2012, not 2002, of course.

Part 3 gives an overview of activities in key areas and progress in ITU's work to implement the Strategic Plan. It summarizes the work of all three sectors and the General Secretariat.

These activities include cybersecurity, climate change, eHealth, accessibility, emergency telecommunications, Internet issues, broadband commission for digital development.

Part 4 describes progress in the specific decisions, resolutions, and recommendations on each ITU is required to report to the Plenipotentiary Conference.

As for resolutions, we've got 63 resolutions concerned. We have some annexes, four of them. Annex 1 provides a hyperlink to all the list of the ITU Study Groups and sector members. And Annex 2 provides a hyperlink to the status of Member States. Annex 3 provides the Fellowship Budget Summary from 2010 to 2019. And Annex 4, which I have added, is the report of the outcome of the Council Working Group on WSIS activities since PP-10 which the Council at its final session in Busan agreed to forward to the Plenipotentiary Conference.

Since this session 2014 of the Council, this report has been updated to take into account the most recent outcomes of various events, including the World Telecommunication Development Conference, WTDC, which took place in March. The WSIS high level event hosted at ITU in May, the Global Symposium for Regulators in Bahrain in June, and the financial results for World Telecoms.

This is what I wanted to summarize for you, Chairman. Thank you very much indeed.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chairman Zourmba. Before I open the floor I would like to express my gratitude to you for your excellent work as Chair of the Council.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: I think you realize that the bar is very high for your successors. Please remember, I will be your successor next year. I think I don't know how I can match the quality you brought to the Council, but I will do my best anyway.

So now I open the floor for your consideration on this report proposed by the Chairman Zourmba. The floor is open.

Russia is asking for the floor. Russia, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Chairman. Dear Chairman, firstly let me also thank the Chair of Council for the report. I would like to point out as the Chair has already said, as the Chair of Council has already said, that there is also the four-year report of Working Group of WSIS attached to this report as an addendum.

I don't know whether there's time to talk about this in greater detail now at the Plenary, but I just wanted to point out the two main points, which were instructed by Resolution 114 of the conference have been fulfilled by the group and we've proposed proposal on the adaptation of the ILO to its role in building the Information Society and on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes.

So I would like to ask that this document be sent to the Plenary Working Group, to the Working Group of Plenary and used in discussion of issues on the revision of resolutions 114 to 172. We agreed on recommendations which could be used when examining these resolutions.

Thank you, Chairman. Oh, yes, and since I have the floor, please let me thank all participants of the group for their very hard work and the management of ITU and the Secretariat for the enormous amount of help which they imparted to us. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr. Minkin. Yes, both you and the Chairman Zourmba mentioned that this Addendum 1 to document 20 would be included in this report. I think there would not be a problem if the WSIS discussion will be taken up in the Working Group of the Plenary.

With that, any other comments on the report?

Then I would like to ask to endorse this report. The report is endorsed.

Now, we will move to the next Agenda Item. Before moving to the next Agenda Item, I give the floor to the Secretariat to make an announcement about the gifts provided by the Delegations. Secretariat of the Plenary, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARY OF THE PLENARY: Thank you, Chairman. Again, good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Just to remind Delegates to please stop by the gift distribution desk as there are a number of gifts that have been made available for you from Algeria, Argentina, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Lithuania, Mexico, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Turkey. I mentioned yesterday Korea and Busan City. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Doreen. Now we will turn to the next Agenda Item which is the General Policy Statements. Before moving into the general policy statement agenda, I want to make some statements. I just want to reiterate that you are encouraged to complete your policy statement in three minutes and not go beyond five minutes. A time clock will be used to help Delegates keep time when making policy statements. The clock will begin counting down from five minutes and begin blinking in red after three minutes. Once time is through we will begin counting in the negative. I sincerely hope we can avoid the negative territory.

Finally, the list of speakers will be noted in the Plenary minutes and all policy statements will be posted on the ITU website in full length.

And I think I have some time, so I will make another announcement regarding some ground rules, how we will use the time. So I want to deliver the message that during the conference we will not have more than two substantive meetings in parallel and other groups will be limited to a minimum. And interventions should be brief and focused at all times.

With that, I will invite first speaker of today's general policy statement, Malaysia. His Excellency Minister of Ministry of Communication and Multimedia Malaysia. Your Excellency, you have the floor. Malaysia has the floor.

>> MALAYSIA: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, every four years, Malaysia together with the membership of the ITU gives our unwavering support and commitment to its Union and its goals. At this PP my Delegation and I are single minded in our goal to convince this conference of only one thing. When I last addressed the ITU at the WTDC in Dubai, Malaysia had just lost an airplane. In the early hours of 8 March this year, one of our Boeing 777s, flight MH370, disappeared without a trace on its way to Beijing from Kuala Lumpur.

With the help of the international community we launched the largest and most expensive search in history to locate the missing aircraft. To this day, there has not been a trace of MH370, and the search continues for the plane. Passengers, crew and its black boxes.

Four and a half months later, Malaysia lost another Boeing 777, flight MH17 was shot down over Eastern Ukraine on July 17. Along with it, all 298 passengers and crew, including 83 children. This time the black boxes were recovered. But it took time to negotiate for them to be returned, and more time to retrieve the data.

What happened to MH370 had already strengthened our resolve to stand with ITU to make sure that we extract the most benefit from ICT towards saving lives. With two tragedies, Malaysia is determined to do its part to intensify efforts for ITU to play a bigger role in the aviation industry. Locating the black box should be a thing of the past because it is technology from the '60s. Even more so, I'm certain that today eye technology should be submitting data from the aircraft including from the black box in realtime.

I thank the ITU for acting so swiftly on Malaysia's call to work with industry experts to find a way to establish international standards for realtime monitoring of flight data, together with the ITO, the Expert Group dialogue, how in Kuala Lumpur issued a communiqué which gave both ICT and experts the further impetus to further this work. Interestingly, the issue is not about technology. As a proposed action in the community, some participants call upon ITU to take action at the earliest opportunity to provide the necessary spectrum allocations as emerging aviation needs are identified.

The meeting encouraged ITU to continue to study and address current and future spectrum requirements for flight tracking and realtime flight data monitoring and make appropriate allocations at upcoming world radiocommunication conferences including WRC 2015.

Malaysia stands steadfastly behind the ITU to facilitate an open multidisciplinary multistakeholder and performance based approach towards the establishment of international standards for the use of an aviation cloud for realtime monitoring of flight data.

Malaysia is thankful that at least four Regions have submitted proposals regarding this to this PP. Today there are approximately 100,000 scheduled commercial flights daily. As such we call for this conference to take a united stand in urging the WRC 2015 to take swift and affirmative action on this matter.

Mr. Chairman, we congratulate you on your appointment and thank the Republic of Korea for hosting this excellent conference. Mr. Secretary-General, we also commend you and your team for organizing what we believe will be one of the most challenging PPs in the history of the Union. Malaysia has very high expectations from this PP, that we will help us to make sure that air travel will be safer because of ICT and because we trust in the ITU to make a difference. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your policy statement. Once again if you would like to express our condolences to those who lost their lives in those two aircraft accidents. I do remember the time in the WTDC when you brought this issue on the table, and I think as you mentioned the Member States and all Union, actually, is responding to your, and the four Regions have submitted proposals on this matter. I believe that we will discuss this matter comprehensively and professionally throughout this whole Plenipotentiary Conference.

Having said that, I would like to call upon His Excellency vice Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Okay, actually I made a mistake. The order was a bit messed up. So according to the original list, the next speaker is China. So if the Kyrgyz Republic would allow, I would like to call upon the Vice-Minister Si for his policy statement. China, you have the floor.

>> CHINA: Honorable Mr. Chairman, Honorable Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, we are pleased to come to the beautiful City of Busan to attend this Plenipotentiary Conference. The world is now stepping into a new state of economic development featuring the rapid development of information industry. ICTs are penetrating rapidly into the social and economic sectors. Against such a backdrop the ITU proposes the vision of Connect 2020, and the initiates the equation of Information Society empowered by the Internet Society which is visionary and at the very right time. Under the capable leadership of Secretary-General Touré, the ITU has made remarkable achievements in promoting the booming development of the global ICT industry. As active participants in the Union, China is taking special and practical actions to support the initiatives of the Union, and we plan to work together with all the member countries to build harmonious society together.

China is engaged in promoting the reform in the ICT. We plan to set up a market oriented environment which is fair and transparent, in order to promote the sustainable development of ICT technologies and services and also to bring benefits to people's livelihood.

China has been accelerating and improving the network infrastructure. Broadband China strategy has been, broadband has been up grated to promote the 4G mobile communication development. Broadband access in rural and remote areas has been improved, aiming at bridging the digital divide between the urban and rural areas and mountainous regions. China made great efforts in promoting in depth conversion of ICT applications and industrialization and we have been making efforts to increase adoption of ICTs in the industry sectors through integration and innovation. Renovate and upgrade traditional industries, transforming our manufacturing industry to a digital network and smart one.

China has been very active in expanding international exchanges and cooperation in the ICT field under the framework of the ITU, we are glad to strengthen our cooperation with all the member countries in the field of ICT development, technology, innovation, standardization and resource allocation. In this way we hope that the ICT can bring benefits to all mankind.

At this conference, Mr. Houlin Zhao, the candidate nominated by China, will run for election of Secretary-General. China is also running for the reelection of the Council, and we hope that we can get the great support from all the member countries.

Mr. Chairman, and dear Delegates, ICTs are becoming very important driving forces for global economic growth and social development. We expect the Union to continue its efforts and play an increased, play a critical role in the global ICT industry. We hope that the union can have a good command much the industry trend and implement the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan to be adopted at this conference. We hope that the Union can help to promote the wide adoption of ICTs in order to make due contributions to the U.N. Post-2015 Development Agenda. The Chinese Delegation would like to unite together with the stakeholders in a positive and constructive manner and we hope that we can work together to reach more consensus on the work of the Union based on consultation. In this way we can enable the proceedings of the conference in a very smooth way.

May I conclude by wishing the conference a complete success. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Vice Minister, for your policy statement fond for keeping the time limit. Actually, we are all impressed by the achievements you have made in the field of ICT for the last ten years. That could be a kind of reference for many countries.

Having said that, I would like to give the floor to Kyrgyz Republic, followed by Ukraine. The Vice Minister of Transport and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic, you have the floor.

>> KYRGYZ REPUBLIC: I should like to on behalf of my Republic to greet all participants and express gratitude to the organizers of this conference, the Government of Korea for the warm and welcoming conditions they have created. We hope that this conference, which is just before the 150th anniversary of the ITU here in South Korea will give us a boost in resolving all of these topical issues in our work. I would like to thank Mr. Touré for his wise guidance and the excellent results which he has achieved with the ITU.

Kyrgyzstan also has an anniversary. It is our 20th anniversary of membership of the international telecommunications union. We are a young country. Nevertheless, we already have much to report. Not only the fact that we are the first country in the region with a parliamentary system of Government. We also have to mention our achievements in ICTs. Kyrgyzstan is participating in the activities of the International Telecommunication Union.

In particular, on the territory of Kyrgyzstan, there have been important studies on digital radio in mountainous regions. The results of the study are in more than ten contributions to the work of Study Groups in ITU. In Kyrgyzstan we developed an analytical model on the cost of the radio frequency spectrum, which is a boost for its more effective use. As of 1998, this model has been used in our country and it is in the report of the ITU-R sector. We have developed an automatic management system for the national frequency spectrum which is called Cereos, which is included in the ITU handbook on managing technologies. The representative of Kyrgyzstan in 2007 is a member of the radio regulation board of the ITU. Two representatives of our country are Vice Chairs of the TDAG and Study Group 1 of the ITU-D.

The Kyrgyz Republic is always participating in the work of the Committee and at world conferences, and we have often had Vice Chairs from our midst. As regards communications in Kyrgyzstan today, mobile penetration is 122 percent. The tariffs for cellular communications are becoming lower. We are providing services and have been doing so now for 15 years.

Today we have commercial exploitation of fourth generation network. We are building optical fiber links and operating over 5,000 kilometers of line. Over the next two years we will lay 7,000 kilometers.

In addition, in Kyrgyzstan we are working on digital television. In 2015, digital broadcasting is to cover all regions of the country. Digital television will be used inter alia for educational and social projects. This strategy for development of ICT in Kyrgyzstan is in full agreement with the key priorities defined in the International Telecommunication Union.

Every time our country is participating more and more actively in the work of the ITU. We would like to become even more active participants. Therefore, Kyrgyzstan put forward a candidacy to the ITU Council. We believe that the experience which we have acquired will be very useful for the work of the ITU Council. The Kyrgyz Republic would request you to support our candidacy to the ITU Council and we thank all of you who give us your support. Thank you very much for your attention. We wish all participants of the conference every success in their work.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Vice Minister, for your policy statement. And let us know about the achievements you have made in Kyrgyzstan. And thank you also for keeping the time limit.

I would like the Minister of Ukraine. Ukraine has the floor.

>> UKRAINE: Dear Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency Secretary-General, dear guests and participants of the conference. On behalf of the Government of Ukraine, let me greet the participants of ITU Plenipotentiary Conference and express our gratitude for the Government of the Republic of Korea for organizing the conference of the highest level in the hospitable and warm Busan City.

Next year we celebrate 150th anniversary of ITU which over these years has become the main driving force in the progress of Information Society. Now, this role is especially important as the development and use of ICT produces a positive impact on short and long-term social and economic development of each country, as well as on the global economic growth.

At this conference, we obviously have far reaching implications for the community in the coming years. In the course of our work we will try to implement new strategic solutions in the frames of ITU's Strategic Plan Connect 2020.

Dear Delegates, ITU Secretary-General in his speech at the opening ceremony PP-14, mentioned about the importance of big dreams. I would like to continue his words by saying that as dreams turn into reality, good dreams should turn into good achievements.

Now, talking about achievements, I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that Ukraine is an ITU member for more than 20 years. Overall this time, it has accumulated rich experience and potential in the field of telecommunications. Yet, for the first time over all these years Ukraine nominates its candidate, Dr. Ievgen Khairov for the post as a member of the Radio Regulation Board.

We do hope for your support for our candidate and expect that our support will turn our good dream into good achievement, not only for Ukraine but for all ITU members.

Ladies and gentlemen, one of the stabilizing factors in the field of ITU in Ukraine is that Crimea is an occupied territory. Therefore, telecom frequencies are silent and are being used by the broadcasters over the Russian Federation. This fact violates the rules of the international law stipulated by the ITU basic text.

I would like to make a statement where despite annexation of a part of Ukraine's territory by the Russian Federation, our country by virtue of active support of the international community are confidently moving towards building the Information Society. We hope for your support and protection of the rights of Ukraine as an ITU Member State. We expect that ITU Plenipotentiary Conference by its decision will once again confirm ITU adherence to the provisions of the ITU basic text, thus promoting cooperation, solidarity and respect for serenity of each ITU Member State.

Let me wish good luck and achievements to all participants of the ITU conference. Thank you for your attention.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chairman, for your policy statement and keeping the time limit again. We are setting up a good standard here photograph now I would like to call upon the Minister of Science and Communication of Sudan, followed by Mali. Sudan, you have the floor.

>> SUDAN: Mr. Chairperson, Mr. Secretary-General of the ITU, Honorable Ministers, heads of Delegations and participating Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, greetings. It is my pleasure and honor, Mr. Chairperson, to convey to you the greetings of the people and the Government of Sudan for hosting this important event. It is my pleasure to congratulate you, Chairperson, for presiding on this conference, wishing you much success. I would like to seize this opportunity to present to you on behalf of the Government and people of Sudan the thanks, our thanks to the people and Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting this world conference and for the kind welcome.

Please allow me to congratulate the ITU for the continued successes in supporting the sector of communications to provide the infrastructure that would allow world connectivity. This was possible thanks to the wise leadership of Dr. Hamadoun and his team. We wish the new elected team much success. And wish Dr. Hamadoun prosperous future.

ICTs have contributed in the Arab region and the world to help other sectors, whether in the field of education or health and in order to achieve prosperity and, therefore, all societies are highly dependent on ICTs.

Mr. Chairperson, that is why Sudan adopted a national strategy based on eight pillars. Amongst them is the pillar of communications and information. And which has taken into consideration the Millennium Development Goal and therefore ICTs played vital roles in all economic and development programs and contributes in reducing poverty. We can even say that ICT projects are starting to compete with other projects. And we have included the infrastructure of ICTs in the developmental strategies in order to ensure the ICTs reach all remote and rural areas. We disseminated thousands kilometers of miles of optic fibers. We can't neglect Sudan when we talk about African connectivity. We are working in ensuring electronic access for all services at all levels. I would like to say that Sudan enjoys a environment of which is competitive and highly regulated thanks to the information undertaken in privatizing the sector of communication.

We are not just limited in developing the infrastructure for ICTs. We have also encouraged scientific research in pioneering distinguished projects such as the technology incubators. We have cooperated internally and externally with our partners from global organizations, regional organizations and the private sector and Mr. Chairperson, Sudan is facing many difficulties because of the unilateral sanctions imposed on it, and because of the unjust embargo which had an impact on our electronic applications.

Here we are calling upon ITU to manage all the networks professionally and actively to ensure fairness while taking into consideration the technical aspects and not taking into consideration ideologies and political matters.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson, I would like to congratulate and commend on all those who have participating in assuring the success of this conference, whether at the level of the ITU or Republic of Korea or all other Member States in participating. I hope our conference comes up with recommendations, resolutions and decisions that help Developing Countries and that it will come up with a clear defined strategy for the benefit of the Member States. May God's blessings be upon you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your policy statement. And keeping within the time limit.

We will move to Mali's policy statement. That will be the last policy statement before the coffee break.

Now I will call upon Minister of Communication and Information Technology of Mali. Mali, you have the floor.

>> MALI: Mr. President of the conference, Excellencies, Secretary-General of the ITU, Directors, elected Directors of the ITU Bureaus, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen. I should like to take advantage of having this honor and privilege of addressing this august Assembly in order to convey the fraternal greetings of Mali and its people to the authorities of the Republic of Korea and all of the people of the Republic of Korea.

We would like to thank the authorities of the Republic of Korea and the City of Busan for the fraternal welcome which we have enjoyed since our arrival in the Republic of Korea.

Also, sir, I should like to convey to you our warmest congratulations on your brilliant election to the head of this conference, and we would like to assure you of the support and availability of the entire Delegation of Mali, which it is my honor to lead to contribute to assuring the success of the conference.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, Delegates, my Delegation which is participating in this Forum, has high hopes in the results of our work because these results will determine the future of our organization for the next four years and beyond it will determine the future of our peoples. The success over the last ten years has demonstrated that ICTs are an extraordinary development tool. This development has enabled many of our countries to emerge in an economic sense. ICTs are a strategic development tool. The Government of Mali is fully aware of the progress which ICTs have enabled and we have ever endeavored to leverage ICTs for our economic, social, and cultural development. We have conducted in depth reform of this sector. We have created a ministry for the digital economy, for information and communication in order to show our will to make the digital sector an important lever for development.

The Government through my department has taken a major initiative. It has developed a national strategy document for the development of the digital economy. It is the 2020 Digital Mali plan. It is within the Connect 2020 agenda.

The vision in this plan is to make the digital economy a vector for social development and a source for productivity and added value for enterprises and public administration. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, we have not given you an exhaustive description of the development of ICTs in Mali, but we have just stressed the progress since the last Plenipotentiary Conference. In addition to investment by the state and private operators in order to build over 6,000-kilometers of optic fiber which enables Mali to have broadband connection with four of its seven neighboring countries, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Core d'Ivoire, and Senegal, we have followed with technical and financial institutions the implementation of 3,000 kilometers of optic fiber in addition. These installations are accompanied with applications and especially security applications in order to guarantee the security of goods and persons throughout the national territory and that better to face the global terrorist threat today.

All of us together have to make sure that ICTs are used as a weapon against this threat and those who avail themselves of terrorist ideology also use this weapon.

Mali has been participating for a long time in the work of ITU. We have been supporting the various strategies and policies of the Union. We've hosted the 2000 conference in Bamako, which had all the major players in ICTs present. This was a milestone for the Geneva Summit in 2003, in Tunis in 2005. We have been an ITU Council and have been are reaffirming our will to continue along this path and count upon your support for the candidacy of Mali for the next election.

I must congratulate and thank the staff of ITU for all their work and especially I should like to mention the Secretary-General, my compatriot, Mr. Hamadoun Touré, he increased visibility at the head of our organization. I would like to thank all those in the ITU Member States and other structures who have supported Mr. Touré in his eight years in office as Director of BDT and Secretary-General. Mali is very grateful for you and thanks you most warmly.

I would like to encourage ITU to continue its role, which it plays through the BDT in Developing Countries. And I wish the Plenipotentiary 2014 every success in its work. Thank you very much and I'm sorry for exceeding the allotted time.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, for your statement. I think as a member of the Union we should thank to you because you provide excellent leadership to the Union for the last 16 years. So we are very thankful to Mali for its contributions to the ITU.

Having said that, I want to say thanks to all Delegations who have provided congratulatory remarks to me. I did not want to use too much time, but collectively today and yesterday, I'm very grateful for your congratulatory remarks to me. Thank you very much.

The coffee break is sponsored by Malaysia. The venue is actually the same as yesterday. Hall 3A, close to the pigeon hall.

The Secretary-General wants the floor. Secretary-General, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it would be fair for me to also thank all the Delegations who made policy statements for the very kind words towards me, my humble person. I just want to thank you all for the very strong support, just like Mali Minister just mentioned. I have very much enjoyed the support that I received from each and every one of you during my position as Secretary-General here and as Director of BDT as well.

The achievement we have made over the past years are really, even though the credit is given to me, it is really actions taken underground by yourselves, our members.

But also I could not have achieved any of the things I achieved without the support of my colleagues, elected officials during my 16 years and I would like to thank them all for the very strong support and cooperation.

So really, I very much enjoyed every single minute much my time and don't regret anything. And I think that when time comes to pass the baton to the next team, I can proudly look them in the eyes and continue to give them my support as well. Really, thank you very much for your kind support. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary-General. So again, the coffee break will be sponsored by Malaysia and the place will be the same place as we had the coffee break yesterday which was sponsored by Rwanda, Hall 3A near to the will pigeon hole. When we resume we will begin with Bhutan, Gabon and Uganda. We will meet at 11:25, 11:25 sharp. Please come back to the conference room at 11:25. We will take a coffee break. Thank you.

(Break.)

>> ANNOUNCER: Attention, please. The session will be starting shortly. Please be seated.

Once again, the session will be starting shortly. Please be seated. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, please take a seat.

We will resume our session. So please, take a seat. I hope you had a good coffee break and it is time to start our work again.

So please, take a seat.

I need your cooperation because our colleagues are waiting for making policy statements. If you are standing in the conference room, that will delay their statements. Please, take your seat.

Ladies and gentlemen, could you put your headset? Thank you.

I hope you had a good coffee break. We are running a little bit late. We will resume.

Our policy statement, I would like to invite the Minister of information and communications of Bhutan. Bhutan, you have the floor.

>> BHUTAN: Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegate, ladies and gentlemen, at the outset, I would like to extend my heartiest felicitation and greetings from the Government and people of Bhutan to the Distinguished Delegates of the Plenipotentiary Conference 2014. It is my singular honor and privilege to be part of this august gathering, and be amongst great leaders, intellectuals and experts from across the globe in this vibrant and historic City of Busan. I would like to congratulate the organizers and the Government of the Republic of Korea in particular for hosting this very important conference.

Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, development in the field of telecommunication and ICT has revolutionized every sphere of human civilization and the way people communicate or share information. ICT usage has now proliferated to almost all sections of society through the concerted efforts put in by the Government machinery, as well as the generous assistance provided by our development partners.

Internet is gaining rapid popularity and the mobile usage has reached an unprecedented level. Recognizing the growing demand for reliable and affordable Internet connectivity, the Government has embarked on a number of initiatives, including the establishment of a nationwide ICT backbone and infrastructure.

G2C projects reaching through the grassroots through the community centers, optimizing the use of technology and data-sharing through adoption of uniform standards.

Going paperless across Government machinery, creating the right environment through appropriate policy and legislation instruments especially those dealing with cybersecurity and data protection, as well as promoting ICT literacy.

In addition, the Government has recently adopted the whole of Government e-Gov master plan that provides a clear vision as well as holistic ICT programs and strategies for the next five years. Guided by the vision of an "ICT sector-enabled, knowledge-based society as a foundation for gross national happiness," this will be a principal enabler for a knowledge-based society, a society that learns to learn.

Despite major notable achievements, Bhutan faces peculiar challenges as a landlocked country in terms of difficult terrain, high cost of building ICT infrastructure, scattered and small population size, relatively low ICT literacy and the absence of local content.

As a result, Bhutan continues to experience the digital gap between the rural and urban population. High cost of international connectivity is yet another major challenge in our effort to achieve full potential.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, as a Member of the International Telecommunication Union the Royal Government of Bhutan fully endorses the visions, goals and targets of Connect 2020. This is mainly because we strongly believe that Information Society is about empowerment of people so that they can achieve their full potential. The vision will additionally feed into building a sound foundation for gross national happiness which requires the Government to create the right conditions for people to pursue a contented life we are confident that by 2020 more than 90 percent of our rural population and 50 percent of all households will have access to affordable broadband connections.

While ICT has brought about positive transformation in the country, will continue to remain indispensable. Cyber threats is something that we must address collectively through international effort. Among the many proposals proposed by the amendment during the APT preparatory meetings, ICT/telecommunication applications for health seems particularly important and urgent.

Collaboration between ITU and Bhutan has been exemplary and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and place on the record the invaluable assistance received from our other development partners as well as in our ongoing effort to develop this vital sector.

However, this is not the end. Implementation of our e-Gov master plan will be particularly challenging and we will be soliciting all possible assistance from the ITU and other development partners.

We have also noted that with its huge mandate, ITU has been organizing various events for the benefit of Member States. However all these events that are held frequently cannot be easily availed by every Member State owing to various constraints. Therefore, I would suggest ITU rationalize these events taking into consideration the financial concerns of the emerging economies like Bhutan. Let us focus on our attention on the visible deliverables which would make immediate impact on the lives of our less fortunate citizens.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion let me take the privilege of congratulating in advance the new post holders on their election and look forward to working with them. I wish successful outcome of this conference. Thank you and Tashi Delek.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chairman for your policy statement. We will hear from Gabon and then Uganda. I would like to invite Gabon, Gabon Minister, you have the floor.

>> GABON: Mr. Chairman, Ministers, Secretary-General, Excellencies, Ambassadors, I particularly am pleased to be able on behalf of the President of the Republic of Gabon, Chief of State, Head of State, His Excellency Ali Bongo Ondimba, and on my own behalf, thanks to the Government of Korea for their warm welcome and all the facilities they have provided in order to make our stay a pleasant one. I should also like to take this opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to ask you to, the highest authorities of Korea, particularly Madam Park Geun-hye, the President of the Republic and the Korean people, the warm brotherly salutations of His Excellency Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of Gabon, Head of State and Chief among the people of Gabon. I'm also delighted, Mr. Chairman, to congratulate you and the members of your Bureau and the Steering Committee for your election to the Chairmanship of this 19th Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the ITU.

I would be remiss were I not to recognize the work accomplished by Dr. Hamadoun Touré, who is completing his second mandate as Secretary-General of the Union. The same holds true for the other elected leaders of the organization.

Ladies and gentlemen, the President of Gabon, His Excellency Ali Bongo Ondimba, has made digital, the digital economy one of the principal drivers of the development and growth of our country. We are part of the Central African backbone, which will be about 4,000 kilometers. The first phase has just been begun in Gabon. It will be 1100 kilometers long with an interconnection with Congo.

The other phase which will be undertaken in the future in the north of the country with interconnection with Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea and will cover all of our regions and sections. It will be starting from the arrival point of the submarine cable. At the end of this project, Gabon will be able to offer Civil Society and corporations the tools it needs in order to benefit from the huge potential of the digital economy and will allow them to learn to access healthcare, the administration and once these services have been generalized thanks to eHealth and eEducation and mobile operators are introducing electronic payment with a mobile development, where penetration is 112 percent in the migration of the principal operators to 3G, 4G, a very important sector of the population will have broader services available to them and better connectivity. Gabon has also reinforced the mission of the regulatory authority in order to ensure that all operators respect our laws and regulations regarding equitable access to the market and to avoid any abuse of dominant position.

Furthermore, the future creation of a new Internet exchanger in Gabon will contribute to reducing the cost of access to Internet.

Ladies and gentlemen, I could not conclude without thanking the ITU for its cooperation and technical assistance it has provided to Gabon in the area of the digital economy. I remain convinced that under your leadership, Mr. Chairman, the work of the 19th conference of Plenipotentiaries will be a success. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your policy statement. You just keep the time limit as punctual. I will certainly deliver the warm greetings of your President to our Madam President Park Geun-hye.

Next country for making policy statement will be Uganda followed by Kenya. I will invite the Minister of Information and Telecommunication Technology, Uganda. Uganda, you have the floor.

>> UGANDA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your Excellencies, Ministers, Ambassadors.

>> CHAIRMAN: Microphone is not working for Uganda.

>> UGANDA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, heads of Delegations, the Secretary-General of ITU, distinguished ladies and gentlemen. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of Uganda, I wish to congratulate and thank the Government of the Republic of Korea and its people for hosting this ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2014 and for all the courtesies extended to us since our arrival. I take this moment to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and pledge to work with you and all other Delegations towards achieving a successful conference.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to thank the ITU Secretariat for their valuable contribution in ensuring the success of this conference.

Mr. Chairman, let me also use this opportunity to thank most sincerely Dr. Toure, the outgoing Secretary-General and his team for providing strategic and steadfast leadership of the Union during their tenure. My Government notes with deep satisfaction that the Union has since grown in strength and stature in achieving its mission and objectives.

At the national level the rapid growth of the ICT sector has made Uganda more competitive and resulted in efficient and effective ways of doing business in both productive and social aspects of our economy. We have put in place a robust ICT policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that have resulted in significant achievements which include among others: Connecting all our major towns with optic fiber and extending it to the borders of our neighboring countries. In addition, Uganda has achieved 100 percent voice coverage at the lowest level of administrative units.

We established computer labs and Internet connectivity in our secondary schools and institutions of higher learning.

We established eGovernment networks currently span Government institutions each of the districts of Uganda have a website.

Complementing private sector efforts, we have facilitated the establishment of community access points and the provision of community ICT training. Our post offices have been provided with ICT facilities and we have also had provisions for telemedicine facilities and Internet access to our hospitals and major health centers Mr. Chairman, the Government took cognizance of the challenges associated with the ICTs and part of its remedial strategy has enacted cyber laws and established a sector specific computer emergency response team in partnership with the ITU to build confidence in the use of ICTs. In addition data protection laws, national information security and online child protection frameworks are being developed.

Uganda firmly believes in collaboration with ITU Member States and the international agencies in furthering its strategic objectives and benefits from the lessons learned thereby to this end we have worked with a number of the development partners and Governments like world bang, Commonwealth telecommunication organization, the Republic of China and the Republic of Korea, to mention a few. Some of the support and collaborations have included the development of an eGovernment master plan, the establishment of a Government information access center, the establishment of BPOs and the established of IT parks, the establishment of ICT innovation centers and centers of excellence and extending the last mile of connectivity to our rural communities.

In order to foster innovation and partnerships, the Government through the regulator put in place the annual communications innovations awards which recognizes the initiatives of the individuals and institutions in ICT innovation.

The Strategic Plans of our long-term national development goals are set out in our vision 2040, which assumes the existence of a vibrant knowledge economy, enabled by the widespread use of ICT specifically broadband. Some specific ICTs strategies and projects highlighted in vision 2040.

We are a key pioneer in Africa when we started in the ICT sector and is also active in various global and regional organisations on telecommunications and ICT developments and we pledge to remain active. In conclusion, Mr. Chairman and distinguished heads of Delegations I wish to ask him you all to support the candidature for election to the ITU Council representing Region D. Once elected we shall diligently work towards providing strategic leadership within the Council as we have done in the past. I therefore respectfully request the valuable support of your Governments for our candidacy.

In conclusion, I wish all Delegates fruitful deliberations in the coming three weeks. Thank you for your attention.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your policy statement. Next will be Kenya, and I will invite the Minister of Information and Telecommunication Technologies. Kenya, you have the floor.

>> KENYA: The Chairman of ITU PP-14, Mr. Wonki Min, Secretary-General Touré, Your Excellencies, heads of Delegations, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to address this august meeting the 19th Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU in this beautiful City of Busan.

On behalf of my Delegation, I wish to express our profound gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Korea for the warmth and hospitality accorded to us since our arrival. I further wish to give special men to the courtesies afforded to my Delegation by the Embassy of Korea in Nairobi, Kenya. They demonstrated the level of detail given to this conference which I note with gratitude.

Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for your election as Chairman of this conference and the able stewardship you have demonstrated so far, which is an indication that this meeting will be a great success. Mr. Chairman, this conference is taking place at an epoch of revolution of telecommunications technologies and services and also when the world is in dire need of solutions to narrow the gap of exclusivity as well as inspire rapid growth in the diversity of various ICT applications and services.

Therefore, I see our vision Connect 2020 to be the slogan we should all individually and collectively endeavor to achieve. My Government under pins the significant role ICTs play in the transformation of the socioeconomic development of our countries. Upon this recognition, my Government has placed high emphasis on the utilization of ICTs as a key enabler in converting Kenya into a middle income economy by the year 2020. The framework of realizing this dream commenced in honest in the year 2010 when in our new constitution we spelled out the need to have an independent regulator that will catapult rapid development in the country's ICT sector.

Mr. Chairman, to complement the public policy frameworks we have put in place, my Government is investing in infrastructure roll-out and other Government-driven ICT initiatives through public private partnerships. The independent regulatory framework established has given rise to multiple players in the ICT space and subsequently Kenya is now witnessing increased national and metropolitan fiber backbones and wireless broadband networks. These efforts, we believe, firmly place Kenya in a position to participate in the global information economy and is the most dramatic illustration of our country's proactive determination to roll out ICT broadband infrastructure that will secure it as the hub of ICT business in the region.

My Government through the development of a conducive legal and policy framework has inspired innovation from among the private sector players which has brought about diversification in applications and extensive use of ICTs in Kenya. One such innovation for which my country is well-known in our sector is the mobile money code named M-PESA. This has revolutionized the banking industry, brought about financial inclusion, and is playing a major role in the development of eCommerce in my country.

Mr. Chairman, my country in conjunction with private sector players is developing innovative approaches in the delivery of public service. Some of the projects already initiated towards achieving this objective include the Presidential Digital Transformation Project that led to the creation of a citizen hub, Homodo Center, that provides all services to our citizens, implement digital registry services that creates a master database of all Kenyans to provide a platform for the demographics and the services that will create greater transparency in Government.

Ultimately, Mr. Chairman, we should take advantage of PP-14 to develop policy frameworks to enable us to achieve our objectives. For instance, we as policymakers can make lower spectrum bands available, promote infrastructure-sharing provide roll-out and reducing fees for rolling out networks in rural areas. Operators should also, on the other hand, look at their operating models by developing low cost packages, scaling up compelling applications and making better enabled handsets available more cheaply. These measures will boost the ICT revolution worldwide and move us closer to Connect 2020.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, the need to impress forward-looking ICT policies cannot be over-stated especially as we approach the deadline to the realization of the Millennium Development Goal and Connect 2020. Let me lastly reiterate that Kenya is committed to supporting the activities of the ITU and we will work closely with fellow Member States to advance the global digital agenda. We have experiences, knowledge, and expertise to share. And in that vein we humbly request for another opportunity to serve the Union on the Council and the radio regulations board, roles that have always been a humbling delight for us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for in your policy statement. The success of M-PESA is well-known and the Kenyan ICT is well respected by other countries. Your success story can be a model for many other countries. Thank you very much.

Next country in my list for policy statements is United Arab Emirates followed by Argentina. I would like to invite the Director General of the regulatory authority, a well-known colleague, Mr. Mohammed Al Ghanim.

You have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Chairman. We believe that the general policy statements of the United Arab Emirates, we thought it would be at 4:00 p.m. Would it be possible to reschedule this? Of course, we will be contacting the Secretariat for the modification. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Of course. We will modify the schedule. Sorry for the confusion.

Then with the understanding that the United Arab Emirates will make its policy statement in the afternoon, I will invite Argentina, the Vice Chair of the National Communication Commission, for making Argentina's policy statement. Argentina, you have the floor.

>> ARGENTINA: Mr. Chairman, thank you. First of all, I should like to thank the administration of Korea for hosting this Plenipotentiary Conference and for offering the generous hospital. I should also like to thank the ITU for their work, commitment and the strong leadership which have allowed us to reach the goals of the Union during their term. We are now beginning a new cycle at ITU with renewed challenges and goals to set. I believe that the most important thing is to work hard to achieve the goals for the benefit of all the international community and being aware that a fairer and safer world can only be achieved through great equality among countries.

We need to put a true multilateralism into practice. This is unavoidable. It is not enough to speak to the progress of telecommunications. We also need that in the framework of renewed multilateralism, we have communications which, first of all, respect national sovereignty, support for development, and the guarantee of technological sovereignty of each nation should be the basis of internationalism in this area, as should inclusive policies.

Here I wish to stress that Developing Countries need a central role. There is no room for new form of colonialism. Science and knowledge are tools for the liberation of peoples. And this path cannot be, we cannot turn back from this path.

In 2003, Argentina recognized the need to reinvent itself and make each decision at national and international levels on that basis. Thus in 2002, thanks to the active participation of the State, the AR-SAT satellite corporation was established. A few days ago Argentina marked an historic milestone in the field of telecommunications that was the successful launch of AR-SAT1 in French Guyana. The it will provide services for data and IP telephony and is a special accomplishment since it was designed, manufactured and tested in our country by national scientists. Not only that, the satellite is a symbolic in many ways. It is a proof positive of the implementation of public policies for the development of nationality space industry which is currently in full expansion.

It also serves in order to exercise space sovereignty since the designs of the footprints of AR-SAT1 reaches peak power over the Antarctic bases and the Islas Malvinas Argentinas. It allows connectivity to all regions of the country and is a part of the States and national public policy to reduce the digital divide.

It is the first satellite of the Argentina GSS Telecommunications which has designed and manufactured of three satellites during the coming years, in order to make effective and efficient use of the orbital positions assigned to the country by the ITU and force the development of all of the space industry.

We will continue to foster digital inclusion policies with the principal goal of reducing the digital divide. There is a great deal which remains to be done and the actions undertaken have already achieved a great deal in relatively short period of time.

We also hope to continue to reduce the gap between our own country and improve relations with other countries and in conclusion I would like to stress the notion that in the world of telecommunications the capacity of the State must also be built if the State is responsible for social, cultural and economic equality of its citizens. It is currently needed, necessary to build true multilateralism which will allow us to achieve the goals set by the international community, and that in the balanced manner.

Argentina is committed to active participation so that this may be achieved since we believe that it is the key to future development. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>>CHAIR: Thank you, Minister, for your policy statement. You are almost punctual, almost punctual.

Now we will invite Ethiopia followed by South Africa. I invite the Minister of information technology, Ethiopia. You have the floor.

>> ETHIOPIA: Mr. Secretariat, Dr. Toure, Distinguished Delegate, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the people of Ethiopia and my Government I would like to thank the government and the people of the Republic of Korea and in particular the people in administration of Busan for hosting its ITU, Plenipotentiary Conference and for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to me and my Delegations. I would like to commend and wish my deep appreciation for the excellent work done by the Secretariat of ITU in making the necessary preparations for the conference.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, and ladies and gentlemen, at this juncture I couldn't help but proudly remind you of the shining history in Busan by my fellow Ethiopians 63 years back. I'm proud to be here in Busan where our military forces arrived to share their blood and sacrifice their precious life in the most challenging period of Korean world. They were remembered by winning all the battles they were engaged in. Now we can testify that their contribution was not in vain. We Ethiopian Delegates are proud in looking at the miraculous changes in Korea.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, my country has been a member of ITU since 1932. Cooperation and partnerships between ITU and the Republic of Korea have lasted 80 years. On top of this, we are host of the ITU regional office for Africa. My Government and its administration will continue to support and cooperate with ITU and I confirm that we will keep up the historic relationships we have with ITU in transforming our society into information and knowledge based society and realize the proposed vision of ITU's Connect 2020.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, for nearly a decade including the slowdown of the global economy, the economic growth rates in Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing oil exporting regions in the world. The IT landscape is also moving fast. However, more needs to be done to close the digital divide during Connect 2020. Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, let me raise one of the thorny issues we all know but need to be settled once again in the coming years. Time and again we have been deliberating about affordability and narrowing the digital divide among countries and within nations. Compared to other, ICT development has lagged way behind. The subsequent reports have concealed and will continue to conceal the state of digital divide.

With this backdrop I think it's time to reflect on what is not working well for the poor people. The current situation should not be allowed to continue by doing business as usual. Affordable and accessible IT, we must understand the contemporary rules of the game. To this end, let's regularly measure the digital divide of the rural poor in particular by its own right. Monitor and assess the challenges, achievements made along the line. Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion I would like to congratulate ITU and all Member States for ITU's 150th anniversary. We are going to celebrate in the coming year. I also express my heart-felt gratitude and appreciation to the Secretary-General, Dr. Hamadoun Toure for his committed leadership in the last 16 years as Director of the Telecommunications Bureau and Secretary-General of ITU. Kamsahamnida and I thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your policy statement. On behalf of the Korean people I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to you and the people of Ethiopia for your support when we had difficulties in the time of the Korean War. We have never forgotten the support we received at that time from Ethiopia, as well as other countries who joined the forces to protect our country. And our people will never forget that. And we owe a lot to our development to those countries, and we will do our best to work as a colleague to pay back the support we have received from those countries.

Thank you.

Having said that, we will listen from South Africa, followed by Singapore. I will invite the Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services of South Africa. South Africa you have the floor.

>> SOUTH AFRICA: Mr. Chairman, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates, I would like to thank the Republic of Korea for their wonderful hospitality and for hosting the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in this beautiful City of Busan.

The Republic of Korea is an inspiration for those who seek to harness the use of the ICT as tool for socioeconomic development.

This year, South Africa celebrates 20 years of freedom. Sadly, before we reached this landmark, we lost our icon, Nelson Mandela. I thank the ITU for its tribute and would like to indicate that South Africans are deeply moved that our grief was shared by so many people around the world.

Madiba himself recognized the importance of the ITU in his 2009 video link: I quote, we need a vast expansion of our communication and information network and ITU as the regional driving force behind international policy, technology development, cooperation and skills transfer is an indispensable agent in this regard, close quote.

I have no doubt, Chairperson, that Nelson Mandela was going to be proud of our efforts to implement the ITU's 2020, Connect 2020 Strategic Plan. Last year, South Africa adopted South Africa Connect, our broadband policy, which details the part to reach 100 percent broadband access by 2020. Our priorities to modernize and increase affordability of ICT infrastructure and electronic communication services and implement programs of digital and economic inclusion. South African Government has developed the national development plan as our blueprint to overcome the Apartheid legacy of poverty, inequality and unemployment. This calls for greater engagement with global ICT institutions such as ITU. Our involvement in the ITU is part of our long-term commitment to work with the international community to contribute and benefit from international development, peace and prosperity.

An immediate and continuing priority for South Africa has been our participation in the ITU Council to support the Developmental Agenda. In the realty sector, we support the national, regional and international debates around utilization of this spectrum for inclusive development.

We must encourage our citizens to utilize ICTs in everyday life, and as we expand our networks, we must honor our responsibility to ensure they can do so in a safe and secure manner.

Among the growing ICT markets, Africa is one of the growing ICT markets, but needs equitable access to scarce global resources for global economy and information security. South Africa will continue to work with ITU to serve the needs of Developing Countries. In this respect I'm proud to announce our country's candidate tour for the ITU Council. Let in take this opportunity to announce South Africa will maintain its financial contributions at four units to the ITU.

Finally, I would like to commend and thank Dr. Toure for the leadership he has provided to the ITU. On behalf of South Africa, the Developing Countries, and of course global community, we wish him well in his future endeavors.

I thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your policy statement and thank you for keeping the time limit.

The loss of Dr. Mandela was not only the loss of South Africa, but the global community. Even though he is not living with us right now, his message is always with us. I'm happy that our new connect 20/20 vision has included his vision and message within that program.

Now, I would like to invite Singapore, followed by Bahrain, for the policy statement.

Next, the Managing Director for the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore. Singapore, you have the floor.

>> SINGAPORE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my honor to participate in this Plenipotentiary Conference. On behalf of the Singapore Delegation I would like to extend my appreciation to our hosts, the Republic of Korea for their warm hospitality and efficient organisation. I would also like to congratulate the Chairman, Mr. Wonki Min, on your election to this important position for the conference.

The ICT sector has enjoyed continuous and outstanding growth over the last decade. Digital technology, broadband transmission and cellular architecture have combined to bring revolutionary improvements to the lives of the world's people.

As we usher in the next phase of development in the ICT sector, especially with the advent of the Internet of things, Governments will need to find new and meaningful ways to leverage technology to enhance public service delivery and improve the lives of their people.

In Singapore we think that part of the answer lies in the development of smart cities built around intelligent applications, innovative practices and integrated ICT systems. This is a vision which Singapore is committed to. To build Singapore into a smart nation which empowers citizens and facilitates anticipatory services by both government and private sector.

Singapore believes that the effective use of open data and technology can enhance the quality of living for people and help them make better and more informed decisions. For example, in healthcare, wearable technology and digital healthcare have been making great strides in the last few years. The rapid adoption of wearables has opened up new opportunities to better manage patient care, facilitate communication among care providers and empower people to make more informed decisions about their health.

In the transport sector there are mobile apps which integrate data from public transport systems that enable commuters to make decisions about the best route to their destinations based on crowding, traffic and weather conditions.

A smart nation also facilitates what we call anticipatory governance, unlocking the potential of data will allow Governments to provide more responsive and citizen centric public services. More resources can be deployed to the areas of projected need. Urban planners will have more concrete data on which to plan, and Government agencies get direct feedback from the people which they can act on immediately. A key critical component is our smart nation platform. The smart nation platform will be a nationwide network providing pervasive connectivity across Singapore for a host of sensors and devices. This will revolve around three key concepts: Connect with ICT infrastructure, a sensor network to collect data and comprehend, using data analytics. The first phase will be available by 2015.

Singapore notes that many countries already have a wealth of experience in developing smart technologies for their cities. As we gear up to realize our smart nation vision we see much potential for us to collaborate with our international partners. The ITU has been playing an important role in the management of radio spectrum, global standards and development of telecoms and infrastructure services. Singapore believes it is important for the ITU to continue the work to expand to a rapidly shifting environment and set diversifying needs. The ITU will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2015. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the ITU for its outstanding work in connecting people around the world through ICT to fully realize the ITU's Connect 2020 vision, I would like to urge all Delegates to lead the strong foundation we have before us and contribute to building a inclusive Information Society where ICTs can bring benefiting to all countries and their citizens. With that I would like to wish everyone a fruitful and successful Plenipotentiary Conference thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your policy statement.

I have this idea that Singapore is always one step ahead of others. Now Singapore is talking about smart nation. Most of us are just juggling with this smart city notion, but they are one step -- not just one step. Given Singapore is a city country, but I think the initiatives that Singapore has implemented throughout the implementation of ICT can be a good reference for many countries.

Now we move to Bahrain followed by Egypt. I would like to invite the Chairman of telecommunications regulatory authority of Bahrain. Bahrain, you have the floor.

>> BAHRAIN: Chairman, Secretary-General, Distinguished Delegates, the elected Directors, ITU staff, ladies and gentlemen, I should like first on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain, I should like to express our gratitude to the ITU and to the Secretary-General for the great achievements we have witnessed during his term as Secretary-General. And we would like to thank the host country, the Republic of Korea, brother country for their welcome hospitality and for having hosted this historic conference.

Ladies and gentlemen, there has been great development in the area of ICTs in recent years. And the Kingdom of Bahrain has attempted to take part in that dynamic and rapid development. Bahrain is now well advanced in the area and our country has indeed been congratulated by the international community for the progress which has been achieved in the ICT domain.

Recently we achieved the 18th place in the U.N. report on eGovernment. We move from 36th to 18th position in that report. The World Bank in its own report on broadband networks in the region has recognised that Bahrain had a flourishing ICT sector because of the deregulation of the sector.

We have Internet penetration of 172 percent, and fixed telephony is 192 percent.

We are committed in Bahrain to make every effort in order to support innovation and to eliminate obstacles to competition, and improve the services offered to consumers. We remain convinced that development cannot be achieved single handed. All stakeholders at the international level must interact in order to implement their common vision.

The path before us contains many obstacles and challenges. We will witness many changes which will undoubtedly change the sector. Consequently, the Kingdom of Bahrain is a candidate to the Council of the ITU and hope that we will be able to support and reinforce the work of that Council. Thanks to our highly developed approach and to our strategy which seeks to achieve consensus between all parties.

We intend to take every benefit possible from the development of ICTs. We hope to achieve these goals and others in the future. Thanks to the support you will provide to our candidacy for the Council of the ITU. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chairman for your policy statement and congratulations on your recent achievement in U.N. eGovernment ranking. In fact, the achievements of Bahrain is very well recognised in the community.

We move to Egypt followed by Anatel, Brazil. I would like to invite the executive Director of the Regulatory Authority of Egypt, you have the floor.

>> EGYPT: Mr. Chairperson of the conference, Wonki Min, may God's blessings be upon you. Let me express my thanks to the Government and people of the Republic of South Korea for hosting this important conference and for the warm hospitality and the p wonderful preparation and for making all that is necessary that no doubt will allow the august Assembly from achieving the best of successes and to achieve the desired objectives of the conference. It is my pleasure to convey to you the best words of appreciation from the Minister of ICTs, Mr. Atef Helmy.

Ladies and gentlemen, Egypt has contributed in a manner that is distinguished for the ITU since it adhered in September 1876. And this is a testimony of its historic relationship with the ITU and the pivotal role it carries out in order to move forward with the Information Society, where Egypt has headed a number of Study Groups both at the ITU-R and ITU-T and presented a proposal to create a Focus Group for smart management and has also headed the preparatory work for the high level event of reviewing WSIS in 2040 which shows how Egypt can achieve consensus.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we are presenting our visions and our ideas with regard to the ITU strategy Connect 2020, please allow me to present to the august Assembly the vision of Egypt and the efforts undertaken by Egypt in order to achieve the desired objectives for the four main pillars: Development of access to the ICTs. The Egyptian government is well aware of the informance of digital societies in ICTs in developing the digital society and using high-speed Internet in order to guarantee investment and creating a sound environment in terms of providing services and also encourages the building of infrastructure in order to provide the high-speed Internet for all at an acceptable price and providing digital services and also the content industry and ensuring space or security.

Secondly, digital inclusion. Egypt ensures that all its citizens have access to ICTs and also is providing high speed Internet and has presented a national plan which is to be achieved in 2021 in order to cover the country at the fixed Internet services and to ensure that 90 percent of Egyptian households can access 25 megabytes of high-speed Internet and also providing services to those with special needs.

Thirdly, sustainability and facing challenges. The benefits that the world enjoys today thanks to the impressive growth of ICTs has become very normal. We do not have to delve into it. However, we have to be well aware of the social, moral, and environmental challenges developed, that result from such a swift growth of ICTs.

While Egypt is ensuring access of citizens to ICTs, fully understands the dangers with regard to the environment and people and tries to reduce them by also protecting children on the Internet, and privacy. On the other hand, it is striving to transfer ICTs sector to an environment-friendly sector through the sustainable development of ICTs in order to reduce the environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources.

Preserving the environment. Egypt through the ICTs strategy is working to create an ideal system that allows to benefit from the ICTs in order to create a critical mass of emerging companies in order to create opportunities to attract foreign direct investment and find smart solutions for the environmental and economic and social problems of Egypt. And we are presenting initiatives and programs such as ensuring training and encouraging innovation and also protecting Intellectual Property rights at SMEs.

Ladies and gentlemen, before closing, I would like to indicate that Egypt would like to be reelect the on behalf of the African continent in the ITU Council in order to work hand-in-hand with other countries. We are therefore looking forward to your support at the level of voting in order to have Egypt reelected to the ITU Council for the period 2015-2018.

Finally I hope that our discussions in this conference will be characterized by positive cooperation and we would like to emphasize that Egypt would not spare any effort in order to participate because multiculturalism of Egypt makes it able to work in order to achieve objective consensus. I finally thank you for your kind attention and I hope that our conference will be fully successful. May God's blessings be upon you.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your policy statement. I think your policy statement clearly shows how connected to certain Connect 2020 could be translated into national ICT policy programs. Thank you very much.

The next country will be the last country for this morning's policy statements. I would like to invite the head of international affairs of Brazil, Brazil, you have the floor.

>> BRAZIL: Mr. Chairman? Honorable Ministers and Ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor to address this conference on behalf of the Government of Brazil. We wish to congratulate the Government of Korea for hosting this conference and to express appreciation for the warm welcome we have received.

We would like to thank all Member States for Brazil's elections to the last period of time of the ITU Council at PP-10. We hope our work at the ended at every group in the last four years has been up to your expectations and has met your trust in us. We would be thankful if we can again receive your vote for a new term in the Council. We would like to express our honor in Chairing or Co-chairing many groups during this period, in particular the Com 3 of WTDC and Council Working Group on the strategic and financial plans of the Union.

The group established elaborated a very comprehensive Strategic Plan which will be discussed at this conference. This new Strategic Plan will surely drive the ITU and global ICTs towards bright and sustainable future.

Mr. Chairman, during the last couple of years we have advanced significantly on discussing the evolution of the Internet. Last year Brazil addressed the issue of telecommunications, cybersecurity and Internet governance in the General Assembly of the United Nations. At the Assembly our President's statement affirmed that telecommunications and information technology cannot become a new battlefield between states.

This is the moment of creating conditions to avoid the cyber space is instrumented as a weapon of war. Through espionage, sabotage and attacks to our systems and infrastructure of other countries.

The U.N. should play a leading role in the efforts of regulating the behavior of states against illicit use of technology and other methods to promote the importance of the Internet as a secure social network for the construction of democracy in the world.

Cybersecurity is a sensitive issue that involves many different agencies and stakeholders, but the ITU definitely has its role as reflected in Action Item 5 of WSIS Tunis Agenda. The PP-10 and the new Strategic Plan. It is highlighted in Strategic Goal 3 in which the ITU and all members negative externalities on ICTs and produce positive outcomes for the global community.

Regarding the Internet governance, Brazil's President talked about guaranteeing principles such as freedom of expression, privacy and respect to human rights. Democratic governance, multilateral open and transparent, participating stimulation of Government, universality, cultural diversity, net neutrality, respect and ethical criteria with no restriction of political, religious or commercial nature. Towards this end, Brazil held a multistakeholder meeting on the future of, known as Netmundial.

We formed a roadmap for the future of the ICTs, aiming at Democratic relations among Governments and between Governments and organisations. Creating an environment where all stakeholders saw the process as legitimate.

The outcome of the meeting was a nonbinding government prepared by multistakeholders around the world. We believe the experience from Netmundial may contribute to international governance.

When Congress approved the Brazilian civil rights framework for the Internet, a law that establishes principles and rights and governs the use of the Internet in brazil. We will continue to play a role in confidentiality and integrity and we believe in the implementation of responsible regulation that assures a free and neutral Internet that serves the interests of peace, connection of people, and circulation of information.

Convinced that ICTs are a crucial instrument for social and economic development, the Brazilian demonstration is implementing consistent and ambitious public policies under nationality broadband plan. The goals of the plan include expansion of the networks, developing affordable devices and broadband services. Growth of ICTs. Digital inclusion. Sustainability, innovation, as much as the new ITU strategic goals are also the building blocks of Brazil's goals and policies for ICT in the middle and long-term. This is not a coincidence. Brazil is aligned with the goals of ITU. It is an indication that ITU will benefit and Brazil will benefit from the synergy of working together, sharing the same goals. We look forward to continuing our active participation in this important union.

Finally, we would wish to express our thanks to our Secretary-General for his tireless efforts leading ITU and wish you the best in the coming challenges, Mr. Secretary-General.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(Applause.)

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Brazil, for your policy statement. We all appreciate your effort delivered through the Netmundial.

And at the same time, I would like to stress our appreciation for you personally. We would like to thank you and your colleagues for your work to the ITU.

With that policy statement I would like to express appreciation to all speakers who have spoken this morning and their efforts to keep the time limit provided by the Secretariat and myself. And in the afternoon, we will meet at 2:30 and we will begin with the policy statements of Romania followed by Hungary. We will meet at 2:30 and this session is adjourned.

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