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BUSAN, KOREA

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ROOM A

SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION

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>> CHAIRMAN: The Seventh Plenary Session is called to order. First, I hope you had a good rest, and I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Pakistan and Republic of Korea for providing us nice luncheons and I also want to express our thanks for morning coffee from Senegal and afternoon coffee from Azerbaijan, and in the morning, I missed to mention about Thailand. Thailand provided the lunch yesterday. So thank you for that.

And I would like to summarize what we did this morning. Actually, we have elected our new Secretary‑General this morning. That was a marvelous achievement. Once again, congratulations.

[ Applause ]

And we finished the first round of elections for the Post of Deputy Secretary‑General, so we will at 4:35, we are do our second round voting. Now I would like to submit the draft agenda for your approval. Are there any comments? Samoa, you want the floor for this subject? Samoa, you have the floor. Apparently not, no. So no comments.

Then I take it that the agenda is adopted. Before moving to the next Agenda Item as I promised to you, I would like to open the floor for receiving your congratulatory remarks to the newly elected Secretary‑General but I believe that most of you already approached him during the luncheon time and provided your personal congratulatory remarks, so it would be highly appreciated if you want to make this congratulatory remark, please do that very briefly so we can take some time for our Policy Statement. Now the floor is open. So if you want to make any congratulatory remarks, this is your chance. Now I will give the floor to Bangladesh. You have the floor.

>> BANGLADESH: Thank you very much, the Chair, Wonki Min, for giving us the opportunity to share our greetings to newly elected Secretary‑General of ITU, Mr. Houlin Zhao and we would like to extend our heartiest gratitude to newly elected Secretary‑General on behalf of Bangladesh, and we can assure that the support of Bangladesh will continue to you under your leadership. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Bangladesh. Now I'll give the floor to Samoa. Samoa you have the floor.

>> SAMOA: Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity given me. I speak on behalf of the Pacific island states and on behalf of my Delegation who are present here in our Conference today. I warmly congratulate you, Mr. Houlin Zhao, for your overwhelming election victory for the Post of Secretary‑General of ITU. We in the Pacific sincerely wish you all the best, and continued success in the future and that you will continue to support us in the Pacific. To Dr. Touré, we thank you sincerely for your support for us during your tenure. Thank you. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Samoa. Now I give the floor to Yemen. Yemen, have the floor.

>> YEMEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We should like to congratulate Houlin Zhao on his election and wish him every success, and would like to congratulate Mr. Hamadoun Touré for all the work he has done on behalf of the Union.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Yemen.

[ Applause ]

Now I'll give the floor Kyrgyzstan. Kyrgyzstan, you have the floor.

>> KRGYZSTAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sir, friends, may I on behalf of the Bureau for telecommunications of Kyrgyzstan congratulate our newly elected Secretary‑General Mr. Zhao and the Government of China. We are confident that under his wise leadership the ITU will continue to develop and to serve the cause of ICT throughout the world and may we assure you Sir that we will of course continue to cooperate in all three sectors of our Union. We wish you all success in your new Post and hope you achieve all your goals for the good of our great ITU. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Kyrgyzstan. Now I give the floor to Guyana. Guyana, you have the floor.

>> GUYANA: Good afternoon, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of Guyana, we'd first like to extend our appreciation and gratitude for the excellent stewardship of Dr. Touré over the last 16 years the Director of BDT and secondly as Secretary‑General and secondly we'd like to extend our congratulations to Mr. Houlin Zhao for his election as Secretary‑General. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Guyana. Now I give the floor to Azerbaijan. You have the floor.

>> AZERBAIJAN: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. This morning we achieved first positive results of our Conference. Deputy Secretary‑General Mr. Zhao who was candidate of the People's Republic of China was elected Secretary‑General. On this regard on behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan I congratulate elected Secretary‑General Mr. Zhao, and wish to him success with the very responsible task. Taking this opportunity I want to express congratulations of RCC community, too.

We believe that his leadership will bring more innovation and creativity to the Union, and will make the spirit of unity stronger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Azerbaijan. Now I give the floor to Equatorial Guinea. Equatorial Guinea, you have the floor.

>> EQUATORIAL GUINEA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, we wish to congratulate Dr. Zhao and tell him that he has inherited a legacy which is the fruit of the hard work of all elected officers of the ITU under the leadership of Dr. Hamadoun Touré, the outgoing Secretary‑General. Therefore, on behalf of our Equatorial Guinea we would like to congratulate Dr. Zhao for his brilliant election to the Secretary‑General of this Union we will of course continue to support the Secretary‑General and of course the Secretary‑General elect and I would like to issue an invitation to visit our country so that we can personally experience the efforts undertaken by my country in its attempt to catch the very fast train of ICTs.

We would like to thank Dr. Touré for his indefatigable work at the leadership of the Union, and for the support that he has given my country over these many years. Congratulations, Dr. Zhao.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Equatorial Guinea. Now I give the floor to Bosnia Herzegovina. Bosnia Herzegovina you have the floor.

>>BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA: On behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina I would like to extend our warm congratulations to Mr. Houlin Zhao in his new capacity of Secretary‑General. Inevitably we wholeheartedly congratulate Dr. Hamadoun Touré for outstanding achievements during his tenure. To both Mr. Zhao and Dr. Touré we wish best luck in the professional and private lives. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Bosnia Herzegovina. Now I give the floor to Iraq. Iraq, you have the floor. Iraq.

>> CHAIRMAN: Iraq you have the floor.

>> IRAQ: Thank you, on behalf of the Republic of Iraq I wish you a good afternoon. On behalf of my Delegation and of my country, I would like to congratulate Mr. Zhao on his election, his unanimous election which I think is proof positive of his great worth and of course the trust which all countries of the world feel. We would like to thank Dr. Touré for his achievements, extraordinary achievements. He has seemed to make it easy and while it may have facilitated the work of his successor, he will have a great deal to live up to. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Iraq. Now I give the floor to Cameroon. Cameroon, you have the floor.

>> CAMEROON: Thank you, Chairman. Cameroon through me would like to congratulate Mr. Houlin Zhao, who has been unanimously elected by our Assembly. I should like to take this opportunity to ensure the Secretary‑General elect that he will have the full support of Cameroon in the accomplishment of his task and would like to thank Dr. Hamadoun Touré, who over the last eight years has achieved a great deal of progress both within the Union and in the world of telecommunications. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Cameroon. Now I'll give the floor to Botswana. Botswana, you have the floor.

>> BOTSWANA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Government of Republic of Botswana and its Delegation, I would like to congratulate the newly elected Secretary‑General of ITU, Dr. Zhao. Botswana also salutes Dr. Hamadoun Touré for the invaluable contribution he has made to the ITU.

The outgoing Secretary‑General set the ITU performance bar and we trust the Secretary‑General elect will raise it even higher. Botswana pledges her unwavering support to Dr. Zhao and the work of the Union. I thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Botswana. As you already know, we will begin our second round of elections for Deputy Secretary‑General position, so now I'm going to close the rest of speakers.

Currently I have Uganda. Guyana, you need the floor again? You're on the list. I hope you can ‑‑ okay, thank you. Uganda, Thailand, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Bhutan, Palestine, Guinea‑Bissau, Comoros, Burundi. So I'll close the list.

And then after Burundi, we will have a second round of elections for DSG.

So now I'll give the floor to Uganda. Uganda, you have the floor.

>> UGANDA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies. On behalf of Uganda and with the permission of my neighbors in the African region I'd like this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Zhao for the unanimous mandate the members of our Union have given him for the next four years, and we are looking forward to work with him, and we know we shall benefit from the decades of experience Dr. Zhao has achieved in ITU.

In the same breath, we'd like to thank most heartily Dr. Touré for the great work he did for our Union. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Uganda. Now I'll give the floor to Thailand. Thailand, you have the floor.

Thailand, you have the floor. Then I'll give the floor to Ghana. Ghana, you have the floor.

>> GHANA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Ghana wishes to associate itself with the numerous congratulatory messages that has gone to our brother and friend, Mr. Houlin Zhao. His success in this election is a clear manifestation of progress, success, and continuity. He's going to continue the good work of his colleague, friend, and brother, Dr. Touré.

He has worked with a wonderful team. He was in Ghana during the regional development Forum, and the meeting that took us to Dubai for the WTDC. We hope to count on his rich experience to drive this Union to greater heights beyond the 150‑year mark. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ghana. The now I have Bhutan, Palestine, Guinea business saw, Tanzania, Peru and Malawi on my list. Malawi will be the last one to make congratulatory remarks. So now I'll invite Bhutan. Bhutan, you have the floor.

>> BHUTAN: On behalf of the people of the Kingdom of Bhutan and on behalf of the Delegates I have with me, I would like to sincerely congratulate Mr. Houlin Zhao for attaining this position. The ultimate result of the vote, 152 countries out of 152 voting for you, is a testimony that we have so much of faith in you, so much of devotion in you and we hope that you will really live up to our expectations. Only voting you to this position is not the limit, is not the end. We are there till the end of your tenure to help you out, to assist you out in anything that you need from the Member States. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Bhutan. Now I will give the floor to Palestine. Palestine, you have the floor.

>> PALESTINE: On behalf of my country, the State of Palestine, the State which is impatient to join the Union, we would like to congratulate Mr. Zhao and hope that he will continue to develop the ITU. We congratulate Dr. Touré, and we are quite sure that the work of the ITU will continue to develop.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Palestine. Now I'll give the floor to Guinea‑Bissau. Guinea‑Bissau, you have the floor.

>> GUINEA-BISSAU: Mr. Chairman, distinguished Delegates, on behalf of the country of Guinea‑Bissau we'd like to join our voice to previous speakers by thanking Mr. Zhao for his election. We also congratulate the Government of China for this great choice. Mr. Zhao's dedication, enthusiasm and insight are really inspiring, and will lead ITU to higher levels. We'd like to wish him many, many years of achievement.

To the outgoing Secretary‑General, we want to take this opportunity to acknowledge his leadership, his drive, and vision during his tenure. He is indeed a great son of Africa. We'd like to wish him well, and we ask God to bless him. Thank you so much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Guinea‑Bissau. Now I give the floor to Tanzania. Tanzania, you have the floor.

>> TANZANIA: Mr. President, on behalf of the Delegation of the united Republic of Tanzania, I wish to congratulate Mr. Houlin Zhao for being elected as the new Secretary‑General of ITU. We wish him success and my Government will support his leadership throughout his tenure. We also wish to commend Dr. Hamadoun Touré for his outstanding leadership of ITU during his tenure. I thank you, Secretary‑General. Thank you, Tanzania. Now I give the floor to Peru. Peru, you have the floor.

>> PERU: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Delegation of Peru, I would like to congratulate Mr. Zhao on his election. We place the trust of the community in him, virtually unanimously, and we know that the progress is being made so rapidly and things are getting much more complex and he can be assured of our support and the support of all members for what we can contribute in the future.

I should also like to thank Mr. Touré for the excellent work accomplished, and he can continue to count on our friendship.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Peru. Now I'll give the floor to Malawi. Malawi, you have the floor.

>> MALAWI: Good afternoon, on behalf of the people and the Government of Republic of Malawi and the rest of my Delegation. I would like to express our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Houlin Zhao on being elected as the new ITU Secretary‑General. As we say back home, when the webs of a spider join, they can even trap a lion. Malawi pledges to continue supporting all ITU activities, and wishes to extend an invitation to Mr. Zhao to visit Malawi, the home heart of Africa.

Let me also salute the outgoing SG, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, and wish him all the best in all his future endeavors, having provided able leadership that has left ITU on a sound footing. Thank you so much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Malawi. I assume there was a problem in the system so some countries were not mentioned when I closed the list of speakers.

So I will give the floor to more countries. This is final. I'm asking engineers just not give the floor up when they push buttons from now on.

So I have Thailand, Côte d'Ivoire, Comoros, Chad, and Haiti. So Thailand, you have the floor.

>> THAILAND: Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Thai Government, let me join the previous speakers to congratulate Mr. Houlin Zhao, the newly elected Secretary‑General of the ITU. Thailand strongly believes and feels very confident that under Mr. Zhao's leadership and very long experience in ITU, he will support and lead the direction of the Union for the benefit of the humankind. In the meantime, Thailand would like to express our sincere appreciation to Dr. Hamadoun Touré, our present Secretary‑General, for his contribution to the Union during the last eight years, or even 16 years in ITU.

His leadership and good charisma and very hard working is good proof of the excellent place of the Union. All the best to you, Mr. Touré. Thank you so much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Thailand. Now I'll give the floor to Côte d'Ivoire. Côte d'Ivoire, you have the floor.

>> CÔTE D'IVOIRE: Thank you, Chairman. On behalf of Côte d'Ivoire, I should like to congratulate Mr. Houlin Zhao, and congratulate him for the unanimous support he received, and he replaces a friend of Africa, Mr. Touré, and whom I also would like to congratulate for the brilliant success of his two terms.

We will, of course, support Mr. Zhao in as far as our Assembly will allow us to do so.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Côte d'Ivoire. Now I'll give the floor to Chad. Chad, you have the floor. Chad, you have the floor. Actually, I'm losing the countries from my list. If you push the button twice, actually, you are gone from my list.

So now I'm giving the floor to Chad. Chad, you have the floor.

>> CHAD: Thank you, Chairman. Since it is the first time I am speaking, I should like on behalf of the Republic of Chad, its people and my Delegation, warm congratulations for your election as Chairman, and to thank our host country, Korea, and most particularly, the beautiful city of Busan, who has offered ideal conditions for our meeting.

I should most particularly like to congratulate Mr. Houlin Zhao for his brilliant election to the position of Secretary‑General of the Union, and we wish him every success in his new mission.

Chad will continue to support him throughout his mandate. And finally, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, immediate past Secretary‑General, we would like to thank you for your dynamism and your hard work throughout your two terms.

Africa is grateful to you, and we wish you every success in your future activities.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chad. Now I'll give the floor to Haiti. This is the last country in my list. Haiti, you have the floor.

>> HAITI: Thank you, Sir. The Republic of Haiti has the honor to add its voice to those of others who have spoken to express our great enthusiasm to Mr. Houlin Zhao on his election to the Post of Secretary‑General of the ITU. Having been Deputy Secretary‑General, he's shown us what he's capable, and we would also like to congratulate the outgoing Secretary‑General, Mr. Hamadoun Touré, as well.

Not only would we like to express our gratitude to Mr. Touré for the wisdom with which he's led the ITU and all that he's done for the Information Society, but also for the constant attention, and the way that the ITU has always been given the highest profile in its work.

And we wish all success to Mr. Touré in his future endeavors and to Mr. Zhao in his leadership of the ITU. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Haiti. When I mentioned last time about when I closed the list of speakers, there was Comoros but some way somehow I lost Comoros in my list but they asked the floor so I will give the floor to Comoros. Comoros, you have the floor.

Comoros, you have the floor.

>> COMOROS: Thank you, Sir. On behalf of the Government of Comoros, and on behalf of the Delegation too, I would like to add my voice to the statements of previous speakers when they welcomed the election of Mr. Houlin Zhao to lead the ITU. We are confident that your experience will guide our organisation as you've already shown during the two terms of office of Dr. Touré.

May I also use this opportunity to render homage to His Excellency Dr. Touré for all that he's done in leading our organisation, particularly for the constant support that he has provided for developing countries, in general, and for African countries, in particular.

In conclusion, we will continue to support Mr. Zhao during his term of office, as we always supported Dr. Touré, and may I use this opportunity to repeat the invitation to Mr. Zhao to visit Comoros as soon as possible. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Comoros. Thank you, all Member States who have delivered their congratulatory remarks to newly elected Secretary‑General. And I also want to express my appreciation to countries which delivered ‑‑ which have delivered their congratulatory remarks in person to newly elected Secretary‑General Mr. Zhao.

But I ‑‑ thank you, thank you, Turkmenistan, thank you very much. So I think we should start the second round of the election.

So we will move to the second Agenda Item, which is the election of the Deputy Secretary‑General, Second Round. So we'd now proceed with the second round of elections for the Post of Deputy Secretary‑General of ITU. Before moving forward, I would like to give the floor to Mauritania. Mauritania, you have the floor.

>> MAURITANIA: Thank you, Sir. On behalf of the Government of Mauritania, may I offer my strong congratulations to Mr. Zhao on his election to Secretary‑General of the ITU, and may I also congratulate all candidates to the Post for the results which have been achieved. And I'd also like to offer all thanks to those friendly countries who supported Mauritania in the first round of the election.

But to announce the withdrawal of the candidate, Dr. Fatimetou Mohamed‑Saleck on behalf of the African group. Thank you, Sir.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mauritania. Dr. Fatimetou Mohamed‑Saleck has contributed so much to ICT development in Mauritania, Africa, and the global community. Dr. Mohamed‑Saleck I would like to express our sincere appreciation to you in the name of ITU.

Before moving forward, I would like to give the floor again to the Secretary‑General. Secretary‑General, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Just to present my apologies to the Delegation of the Democratic Republic of Congo. They were wrongly informed this morning that they didn't have the right to vote, and so they were not in the room when we voted this morning, but they are here now. I have presented my apologies to the Minister personally, and he has accepted my apologies, and they're here to continue the ballot process. They have the right to vote, as every other member. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary‑General. I just want to echo what Mr. Secretary‑General just mentioned. We would like to express our sincere apology to the Democratic Republic of Congo what happened in this morning.

Now we will proceed on the second round of elections for the Post of Deputy Secretary‑General of ITU.

We will follow the same basic procedure as this morning: the room has been divided into 5 blocks having a voting station in each.

The stations are identified by numbers from 1 to 5 and are placed conveniently within each block:

Document 102(Rev.1), listing all Member States having the right to vote within each block, has been published on the website.

A floor plan indicating the location of voting stations is available on the screens to facilitate the voting process.

Additionally, you are requested to bring your badge to the voting station and present it to the staff and tellers for verification.

As the Chairman of Committee 2 informed us this morning, three transfer of powers have been noted: Malta to the Netherlands, from Iceland to Denmark, and from Guinea to Mali.

I refer you all to documents 99, 100, and 105 of our Conference.

I will now ask Mr. Kim, the Chairman of Committee 2, if there are any other additional transfers of powers or proxies to announce. Chairman of Committee 2, you have the floor. Kazakhstan, you have the floor.

>> KAZAKHSTAN: Thank you, Sir. At the present time, we don't have any further transfer of powers or proxies. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chairman of Committee 2. So we have three transfers of power as we had in the morning.

Those Member States who have a transfer of powers and who will therefore be casting two ballots are invited to cast each ballot at the voting station of the respective Member State, according to the roll call that will be read by the Secretary.

The same 5 tellers who oversaw the first round this morning will continue in this role:

Region A: Ms. Meredith Leter, Suriname, at ballot box 1.

Region B: Mr. Raza Qureshi, Denmark, at ballot 2.

Region C: Mr. Dmitry Tarasov, Russian Federation, at ballot 3.

Region D: Mr. Sylvestre Noubissie, Cameroon, at ballot 4.

Region E: Mr. Jackson Kariko, Papua New Guinea, at ballot 5

The tellers are already in position, one at each of the voting stations.

The Secretariat will now begin the process of distributing green ballot papers, instructions on how to complete the ballot paper, and a pen to all Delegations having the right to vote and present in the room.

Delegations having received a transfer of powers or a proxy from another delegation will  receive two ballot papers.

I would like to remind you that, in accordance with No. 131 of the General Rules, once the voting has begun, it cannot be interrupted, unless a point of order has been raised in connection with the way in which the vote is being taken.

The voting will begin as soon as I announce its beginning and will end when I announce the results of the vote.

In accordance with constant ITU practice, the doors of this meeting room will therefore remain closed throughout the voting procedure, and will be opened again once the casting of ballots has been completed and the ballot boxes are moved to the green room for counting.

You may leave the room but you will not be allowed to come back in.

Before completing the ballot papers, I strongly recommend that you carefully read the instructions in order not to have your vote declared invalid.

The ballot papers carry a computer‑generated identification box in the lower right hand corner which permits the papers to be identified as being used in a specific round for a specific election.

The box is identical on all ballot papers in the specific round.

It is not possible to use the box to identify who has completed any specific ballot paper.

One final remark about the process, in the event that a delegate makes a mistake when completing a ballot paper once the vote has started, the delegate should raise the point of order paddle, this one.

The Secretariat will collect and destroy the ballot paper in question and provide a fresh one.

When the voting starts, the Secretary of the meeting will call out the French short names of the Member States having the right to vote in the French alphabetical order within each block by groups of 15 at a time.

One representative of each Member State with the right to vote is invited to go to their voting station with the green ballot paper and their badge as they are called by the Secretary.

At the end of the voting, when all Member States having the right to vote have been called, the Secretary will then call on those, hopefully few, who have not cast their vote and give them a second and last chance to do so.

Following this last call, I will declare the vote closed. Is everyone comfortable with this? Are there any questions? I see none.

Before starting the vote, may I ask if all delegations having the right to vote have received a green ballot paper.

If not, could you don't identify yourself, please?

I believe everybody received the green ballot paper.

Security, could you please close the doors to the Plenary room?

I now declare that the voting has begun and give the floor to the Secretary.

Secretary, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARY OF THE PLENARY: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. As indicated by the Chairman, I shall now call out the list of Member States having the right to vote in French alphabetical order within each voting block by groups of 15.

In addition to the ballot papers, please refer to the document containing the designation of Member States by voting station, and that is Document 102/Rev 1. Please also carefully look at the instructions that have been provided. Let me remind Delegates to please use the pens that were supplied to them this morning, and please keep those pens for the elections that we will have tomorrow.

Please also note that the voting procedure requires Delegates to put an X in the box. If you make a mistake, kindly raise your hand, and your ballot will be destroyed, and we will provide you with another one.

As the Chairman mentioned, the doors of the Plenary hall will remain closed during the voting. So the Delegations can see where the five Voting Stations are located, I will ask the staff at each Voting Station to please stand and raise their Ballot Box in consecutive order from 1 to 5. You will note that those Ballot Boxes are transparent and there's nothing in them. We'll start with Ballot Box number 1, please.

Ballot Box number 2.

Ballot Box number 3.

Ballot Box number 4.

And Ballot Box number 5, which is in the back of the room.

When you arrive at the Voting Station, your badge will be scanned, and you will be invited to deposit your ballots in the Ballot Box.

I will now begin, Mr. Chairman, calling the first 15 countries for Voting Station Number 1.

Afghanistan.

Albania.

Algeria.

Germany.

Andorra.

Angola.

Saudi Arabia.

Australia.

Bahrain.

Bangladesh.

Barbados.

Belarus.

Belgium.

Belize.

Benin.

Now moving to Voting Station Number 2.

Argentina

Armenia.

Austria.

Azerbaijan.

Bahamas.

Brazil.

Burkina Faso.

Burundi.

Cabo Verde.

Cambodia.

Cameroon.

Chile.

Colombia.

Comoros.

Costa Rica.

Now proceeding to Voting Station Number 3.

United States.

Georgia.

Ghana.

Greece.

Grenada.

Guatemala.

Guinea.

Equatorial Guinea.

Guinea‑Bissau.

Guyana.

Haiti.

Hungary.

Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iraq.

Israel.

Now moving to Voting Station Number 4.

France.

Gabon.

India.

Indonesia.

Ireland.

Iceland.

Jordan.

Kazakhstan.

Kenya.

Kiribati.

Kuwait.

Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Lesotho.

Latvia.

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Number 5 ‑‑

Philippines.

Poland.

Qatar.

Syrian Arab Republic.

Democratic Republic of Congo.

Kyrgyzstan

Korea.

Slovakia.

Czech Republic.

Romania.

United Kingdom

Rwanda.

Saint Lucia.

San Marino.

Samoa.

I will now move back to Voting Station Number the 1, and list the next group of countries.

Bhutan.

Bolivia.

Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Botswana.

Brunei Darussalam.

Bulgaria.

Canada.

Central African Republic.

China.

Cyprus.

Vatican.

Republic of Korea.

United Arab Emirates.

Now moving to Voting Station Number 2.

Côte d'Ivoire.

Croatia.

Cuba.

Denmark.

Djibouti.

Dominican Republic

Egypt.

El Salvador.

Ecuador

Eritrea.

Spain.

Estonia.

Ethiopia.

Russian Federation.

Fiji.

Now moving to Voting Station Number 3.

Italy.

Jamaica.

Japan.

Lebanon.

Liechtenstein.

Lithuania.

Luxembourg.

Madagascar.

Malaysia.

Malawi.

Maldives.

Mali.

Malta.

Morocco.

Moldova.

Now moving to Voting Station Number 4.

Libya.

Mauritius.

Mauritania.

Mexico.

Mongolia.

Montenegro.

Myanmar.

Oman.

Uganda.

Pakistan.

Panama.

Papua New Guinea.

Paraguay.

Netherlands.

Peru.

Voting Station Number 5.

Sao Tome and Principe.

Senegal.

Serbia.

Seychelles.

Sierra Leone.

Singapore

Slovenia.

Somalia.

Sudan.

South Sudan.

Sri Lanka.

Republic of South Africa.

Sweden.

Switzerland.

Suriname.

Now moving to Voting Station Number 2.

Finland.

Voting Station Number 3.

Monaco.

Mozambique

Namibia

Republic of Nepal.

Nicaragua.

Niger.

Nigeria.

Norway.

New Zealand.

Uzbekistan.

Voting Station Number 4.

Portugal.

Voting Station Number 5.

Swaziland.

Tajikistan

Tanzania.

Chad.

Thailand.

Timor‑Leste.

Togo.

Tonga.

Trinidad and Tobago.

Tunisia

Turkmenistan.

Turkey.

Ukraine.

Uruguay.

Vanuatu.

Venezuela.

Vietnam.

Yemen.

Zambia.

Zimbabwe.

And, Chairman, that completes the list for the first call. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary of the Plenary.

>> SECRETARY OF THE PLENARY: Mr. Chairman, I will now call those countries that have not yet come up to vote to give them a second and last opportunity.

From Voting Station Number 1: Belize.

From Voting Station Number 2: Eritrea.

From Voting Station Number 3, all countries voted. From Voting Station Number 4, Kiribati and Libya.

From Voting Station Number 5.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary of the Plenary.

We are waiting for confirmation from tellers, and we are still in the election procedures, so you are not allowed to leave the room.

If you go out of the room, you cannot be allowed to enter into the room, so please remind that.

And as soon as we get the confirmation from the tellers we will move forward. Thank you.

>> SECRETARY OF THE PLENARY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have four countries that have not yet voted at Voting Station Number 5, so this is their second and last opportunity.

Syrian Arab Republic, the Democratic Republic of Korea. Sao Tome and Principe, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Thank you. Now we get the confirmation, so now I declare that the casting of ballots is closed.

I will ask the Tellers and ITU staff to please proceed to the Green Room with the ballot boxes.

Under the supervision of the tellers, in the Green Room, the ballot boxes will now be opened and the ballot papers counted.

The results will be announced as soon as they are available.

According to the established practice, while the tellers are tabulating the votes, I propose that we continue with Policy Statements which is actually the Agenda Item Number 3.

So we will hear from Senegal, followed by Pakistan. So I would like to call upon Minister of Postal and telecommunications of Senegal. Senegal, you have the floor.

>> SENEGAL: Chairman, Secretary‑General, Delegates and distinguished guests, I should like first to express on behalf of the President of the Republic of Senegal, the Government and people of Senegal. Thanks to the Government and people of Korea, for their warm welcome to the beautiful city of Busan, which we will never forget. I should also like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the ITU through its Secretary‑General, Mr. Hamadoun Touré, for the remarkable job done over recent years for the preparation and organisation of this major event.

Africa is proud of you, Dr. Touré. Ladies and gentlemen, today's societies have now become programmed, indeed smart societies, governed by the spectacular development of ICTs which have invaded all sectors of activity, and which affect the way in which we live, think, and feel. This is why it would be no exaggeration to say today that the future of the world is in ICTs or ICTs are the future of the world as expressed in Connect 2020's vision.

And you have stressed the importance of the creative economy, and planned the future with ICTs. If ICTs are our future, they should not serve to increase social differences, but rather serve as a motor to combat poverty, underdevelopment and serve to unite the peoples to create a better world where all peoples, whatever their ethnic background or faith, or social position can unite to build a better world.

I will call upon the international community and members of the ITU to continue to combat the digital divide, and show greater solidarity with the developing world, which places a great deal of confidence in ICTs for their own development.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, Senegal subscribes to the mission of the ITU, is committed to its strategy for development through ICTs and Digital Development, particularly through the digital for all by the year 2020. We also want to benefit from the experiences and best practice from across the world.

We should like to rejoin the Council of the ITU, and hope to have your support. We're delighted to be at the Plenipotentiary 2014, and thank you for your attention.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your strong and concise Policy Statement.

Now we will hear from Pakistan, followed by Cambodia.

I would like to call upon Minister of State for Information Technology of Pakistan. Pakistan, you have the floor.

>> PAKISTAN: Thank you very much, Honorable Chairman, Secretary‑General, Deputy Secretary‑General, Directors of the IT Bureaux, Excellencies, professionals, ladies and gentlemen, a very good afternoon. While extending my felicitations to Mr. Chairman as the Chair for this Plenipotentiary Conference PP‑14 I'm honored to be making this Policy Statement on behalf of the Government of Pakistan at this highest telecommunication policy setting forum of the ITU. I would also like to congratulate His Excellency Secretary‑General Hamadoun Touré for his dedicated outstanding achievements and committed work over these past eight years.

We extend heartfelt felicitations to Secretary‑General Elect Mr. Houlin Zhao for his brilliant unanimous election, showing confidence in his ability by all the countries. We wish him success with his new endeavors as Secretary‑General of ITU.

I would also like to thank the Government of Korea for hospitality and continued commitment to supporting development of innovative technologies, and for getting the ICT thought leaders under one roof, and getting them all to work together on this critically important project of setting the agenda of the Union for the next four years.

The gathering of world leaders, dignitaries and professionals represents the commitment the global has always getting to connect the unconnected of the world and is renewing to take us to the next level of economic growth and empowerment of all human beings.

As we all work together here in this wonderful sit of to achieve a common outcome and set a common vision for ICT Sector from now through the year 2020, I have full confidence we will exceed the targets. The proposed ITU framework Connect 2020 comprising of four pillars ‑‑ growth, inclusiveness, sustainability, and innovation and partnership ‑‑ captures complete ecosystem of ICTs from the development of applications and services, to the provision of access and delivery for the services and applications to all.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Government of Pakistan is fully appreciative of the development in the field of Information and Communication Technologies, and opportunities embedded therein for the people. As the role of the ICTs has evolved as an enabler of growth, our policy focus is to provide universal, affordable and equitable access to the people so they can reap the maximum benefits from the wide ranging available opportunities worldwide.

We believe that proliferation of broadband is a modus operandi to achieve these goals, as we're currently engaged in the process of receiving ICT Policy and reviewing it at this point in time let me share with you that our vision for the policy is very much aligned with Connect 2020 themes of ITU. In fact, we have already started practical implementation of some of our plans that are entirely aligned with this joint vision.

As we embark on the next stage of our ICT journey, the vision of our Government is Accelerated Digitization Ecosystem, with special emphasis on Bridging Broadband Divide to enable socioeconomic development across the length and breadth of the country, expanding the knowledge based economy and to spur economic growth.

The Government has accorded its highest priority to the development of ICT structure and applications for the provision of quality service, education, employment opportunities and women empowerment. We recently granted next generation mobile broadband licenses to operators after a transparent spectrum auction, and have adopted policy focus on transparent optimal availability of spectrum for the future.

We're expecting to achieve faster development of mobile broadband infrastructure through the rollout of 3G and 4G services on access side, and deployment has already started as of last month. The Government is fully aware that continued availability of appropriate spectrum is critically important to further ICT development, and therefore as a policy priority, the emphasis is on further spectrum availability while facilitating mobile broadband preparation.

We've always contributed to ICT's work on harmonization of this important resource, and will continue to do so. To facilitate the backhaul connectivity which is equally important component of the broadband value chain, Universal Service Fund, USF, is being used to complement deployment of extensive network of optical fiber cable across the country. Building innovation and entrepreneurial capacity in our massively talented youth is another digital integral component of our value chain which requires a special focus to run the ICT ecosystem effectively.

We appreciate that innovation is directly linked with the quality and skills of the HR. The Telecom industry funded Research and Development Fund of the Government is setting up scaled up programme to nurture innovative ideas and to incubate entrepreneurial attitude and viable business around these ideas. The R&D Fund is encouraging the ICT industry to bring our proposals that will facilitate e‑Agriculture, e‑Health, e‑Learning, e‑Security, e‑Connectivity and e‑Commerce.

Being one of the few women Ministers around this august house my statement would not be complete without a reference to my country's commitment to development of the opportunities of women empowerment that ICTs have enabled. It is encouraging that the ITU is coming out in a big way to institutionalize work in this arena as a core part of strategy.

It is a proven fact that the greater involvement of women can deliver better growth, more competitiveness and greater human development in our economies. I believe policymakers, business and institutions should focus on the best methods for achieving women participation and we should move forward from "why" to "how." Very few things indeed are really impossible and everything can be accomplished particularly if we act in a unison together.

Carrying forward our previous commitment to the cause, Pakistan renews its focus to make ICTs a major source of empowerment and development for women in coming five years. We will continue to actively participate in Union's activities in this space.

Ladies and gentlemen, since, 1947 Pakistan has a long history of significant contribution to the work of ITU and to promote the mandate of the specialized organisation of the United Nations.

Pakistan feels that we have more in common than our differences and a spirit of collaboration which can help bring us together for the welfare of humanity.

This, Mr. Chairman, is a spirit with which Pakistan wants to play its role in ITU processes. I would like to conclude my statement by congratulating the outgoing Secretary‑General, Dr. Touré and his team at the ITU for building a network of cooperation among member countries which this Plenipotentiary Conference optimized. I wish everyone a successful Conference and the will and energy to take the future of the world forward together under the spirit that's the hallmark of the ITU. I thank you, ladies and gentlemen, very much. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your Policy Statement and thank you for sharing Pakistan's policy development with all of us. We do believe that women empowerment in the field of ICTs is one of the most important policy issues, and actually, ITU is working diligently on that issue, and we believe that Your Excellency, you are the model example of how women can contribute to the development of ICT and Development of the whole global community. Thank you very much.

Now we will hear from Cambodia, followed by Grenada. I would like to invite Secretary of State, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications of Cambodia. Cambodia, you have the floor.

>> CAMBODIA: Thank you, Chair. Chair, Dr. Touré, Dr. Zhao, Ministers, Vice‑Ministers, distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen. First of all I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Zhao for new election in the role of the ITU.

It is my great honor and privilege to be with you this afternoon to share Cambodian policy at this historical event of humanity which is held in the beautiful city of Busan.

First of all, on behalf of the Cambodian Delegation, of the Government of Cambodia, I wish to congratulate Mr. Min for his appointment as Chairman of the PP‑14. Let me also take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the Government of the Republic of Korea and Busan Authority for hosting this unforgettable moment and for your generous hospitality.

Chair, please, allow me to congratulate Dr. Touré in French.

Dr. Touré, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, it is with greatest satisfaction that I take this solemn opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to you for your remarkable career and your support of the Royal Government of Cambodia throughout your term.

No man is great unless he has rendered service to humankind, and you are one of them. Dr. Zhao, I would be delighted to speak to you in Chinese. I will do so at some time during your term.

Let me take this opportunity to share a few points. Firstly, given that there is a need to strengthen and coordinate institutional mechanisms and to ensure consistency in competency sharing amongst the Governmental Institutions, the ICT Sector was transferred to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications since October 2013. New management team has therefore been in place.

Secondly, to address incomprehensive policy and strategy in ICT Sector, the Cambodian ICT Master Plan 2020 and the National Master Plan of Science and Technology 2014‑2020 were officially announced in August and October, respectively. We have been taking a step forward while ASEAN is currently formulating the ASEAN ICT Masterplan Post‑2015.

Five priority projects have been identified in the Cambodian ICT Master Plan such as e‑Government framework developed since 2004, cybersecurity, e‑Education, e‑Commerce and e‑Tourism. However, our priorities are beyond these papers. ICT development policy is actually being developed and will be finished by early next year and the Cyber‑Security Policy shortly.

With this regard, we would like to express our deep to the Republic of Korea for their kind support to these two Master Plans.

Thirdly, to regulate and oversee the technical aspects of Telecommunications Sector, the Telecom regulator of Cambodia has been established in 2012. In this regard, let me share several indicators. The number of mobile subscriptions increased to around 20 million in 2013, covering about 95% of urban areas. The mobile penetration is almost 140%. The number of internet users reached 4 million in 2013. The 4G/LTE technology has been launched. Nevertheless, we still need to strengthen the competence of Cambodia's mobile cellular and Internet service compared to the neighboring countries. Consequently, the new telecom draft law is being prepared and will be submitted to the Parliament by the end of this year. Moreover, the Telecom regulation policy is further developed.

Fourthly, the network and service coverage of optical cable were gradually expanded with more than 25,000 kilometers by connecting Phnom Penh to all districts and communes across the country. The submarine cable investment has been also encouraged, and two licenses have been actively executed since 2008. Therefore, to enhance efficiency of backbone infrastructure and to enable Cambodian population to access the benefits of digital inclusion, the Broadband Policy is being drafted. It will be in line with the priorities developed in the Dubai Action Plan.

Fifthly, Cambodia needs to promote human resource development to respond to the fast moving global technology and enhance public literacy level in ICT.

We need to aim at more efficient use and deriving maximum benefit from ICTs by strengthening all levels of education curricula, training of Government officials and encouraging the private sector to participate in enhancing public literacy of the ICTs. Before concluding, let me make two proposals to seek your kind participation.

Firstly, we all need to support Dr. Touré's initiative in using ICT to fight against the current crisis, Ebola. Secondly, the digital divide remains a big challenge that needs to be addressed by all of us.

Moreover, allow me to ensure you since its membership to the ITU in 1952, Cambodia will remain strongly committed to the Connect 2020 strategy and to support newly elected Secretary‑General.

Finally, let me wish the PP‑14 all the best success and good luck to all candidates. Thank you for your kind attention.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Your Excellency, for your excellent Policy Statement. I think there is wide support on your proposal using ICT fighting against Ebola, and putting efforts to narrow the gap of the digital divide and I'm really, really impressed by the comprehensiveness of your ICT Master Plan 2020. Thank you very much for sharing your policy with us.

Now I invite Grenada. I would like to call upon Minister of Information, Communication Technology of Grenada. Grenada, you have the floor.

>> GRENADA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Wonki Min, Secretary‑General Dr. Touré, Secretary‑General Elect, Mr. Houlin Zhao, Excellencies, Ministers, Ambassadors, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

I represent the Caribbean island nation of Grenada, a small country of about 110,000 people and an economy of $1.5 billion per year. Our size has been no impediment to the development of telecommunications and Internet in our society. Our island have six networks, four of which are already IPv6 enabled. Three mobile networks, one 3G, two 4G LTE.

We have built an Internet exchange point, which although it is only now entering its fourth year of operation is already producing 70 megabits of bandwidth, or more than 600 bits per capita, approximately double the per capita production of leading countries in the region like Argentina and Colombia, which have had the IXPs for much longer.

This puts Grenada on the path to Internet bandwidth self‑sufficiency and protects the privacy of Grenadian citizen's traffic from foreign interception. Grenada also hosts three root nameservers on‑island, as well as our dot‑GD Country Code nameservers, anycasts dot‑GD from nearly 100 locations around the world and is well on its way to protecting its Domain Names with DNSSEC cryptographic signatures.

While achieving each of these milestones requires work, the financial outlay has been minuscule, and has been recouped many times over. 90% of Internet exchange points cost between $4,000 and $40,000 to build, and 90% of Internet exchange points repay their investments between three to three weeks.

Grenada's IXP demonstrated the truth of those statistics, costing less than $5,000 to build, and repaying that investment in its first month of operation. Our success is neither unique nor even a statistical outlier. Grenada's experience has sparked a wave of Internet development within the Caribbean region, and many of these same milestones have now been achieved in neighboring countries, large and small.

If Grenada and the other countries of the Caribbean can do this, so too can any nation. All that's required is a commitment to the open governance mechanisms of the Internet, and a willingness to welcome competition and cooperation in the private sector.

Mr. Chairman, let me take this opportunity to thank the outgoing SG, Dr. Touré, for a job well done. He was the first Secretary‑General to visit our region. I wish him the very best in all his future undertakings.

To the incoming Secretary‑General, Mr. Houlin Zhao, I congratulate you on your victory, and wish you a successful term in office, and welcome you to visit the Caribbean region, also. Thanks to the Government and people of South Korea for their warm hospitality, kamsahamnida. Thanks to everyone and I wish you a productive Plenipotentiary. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your Policy Statement. You said that you are not the outlier, but your network development is so amazing, it's so impressive and I believe that this is because of your commitment to open governance and promoting competition. Thank you very much.

Now we will hear from Bolivia, followed by United States of America. I would like to invite Vice‑Minister of public works services and housing of Bolivia. Bolivia, you have the floor.

>> BOLIVIA: Good afternoon to all Delegates at this Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU. Greetings to the authorities, to the Chairman of the Conference, Mr. Kim, Secretary‑General, Dr. Touré, and the Secretary‑General Elect, Mr. Houlin Zhao, whom I congratulate on behalf of the Government of Bolivia. And, of course, I greet all Delegates.

As has been reiterated in the course of this meeting, ICTs and telecommunications cross all sectors, all activities, of the life of humankind. ICTs are a part of our daily life, and become a vehicle for inclusion, productive development, economic development, social and cultural development for people.

In Bolivia, we believe that the development of ICTs is very important, and we have made some important steps. The political Constitution of the Plurinational State of Bolivia states that all persons have right to just and access to household gas, Post, telecommunications, water, education and health. This means that access to telecommunications and ICTs are considered a human right under our Constitution. Policies are principally oriented towards universal access to ICTs and telecommunications. That is to aim to reach 100% of our population with these services.

Recognizing that ICTs improve the quality of life and the well‑being of our people. Some of the achievements over the last 9 years in our country can only be explained by a number of major milestones. In 2008, we nationalized the Telecoms operator which had been privatized in 1995. Our new Constitution in 2009, the establishment of social inclusion in telecommunications strategy, which uses the funds of the telecommunications field in order to provide communications to the rural areas and areas of social interest.

This year, we have used our own Tupac Katari telecommunications satellite. At the beginning of the year 2006, in Bolivia, there were 2.4 ‑‑ mobile telephony, 2.4 million. Today there are more than 10 million uses of mobile telephony, with 100% penetration.

Internet penetration was less than 1%, and has now reached 35%. Principally thanks to mobile telephony. The challenges of the year 2020 are that in Bolivia, 100% of the towns with more than 50 inhabitants must have access to telephony, to Internet, and community satellite television.

We are on our way to achieving that goal with some of the projects which are under way through the establishing of telecenters, using the Tupac Katari satellite. This is some of the achievements of the policies implemented in Bolivia, with a view to establishing universal access to communication, to ICTs, for the benefit of the people, and to improve their quality of life. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Your Excellency, for your Policy Statement. I think most of us in this room agree with the fact that the access to telecommunications and ICT is a part of the human right. Thank you very much.

Now we will move to United States of America. Ambassador of United States of America. United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished colleagues and Delegates, thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to address the 2014 international telecommunications Union Plenipotentiary Conference on behalf of the United States of America. I especially want to thank our Korean host for their gracious hospitality.

We very much appreciate the opportunity to hear the views of our colleagues, including those with whom we sometimes disagree. We believe these debates are vitally important to the future of global telecommunications. Through frank conversation and deliberations, we should commit ourselves to finding agreement where we can. We believe in the ITU. We believe it plays a critical role in enabling Member States to build bridges between nations and we are committed to ensuring the work we do contributes to the advancement of all our people.

In that spirit, we propose that the ITU move forward together on the Bea sis of consensus ensuring this Union continues to perform its vital work for years and generations to come. Here in the amazing city of Busan we can further the fruitful collaboration over the last four years that many other speakers, the Chairman of the Conference and the Secretary‑General have already noted. Together with other stakeholders and institutions, this Union can and will make a contribution to the fulfillment of a fully inclusive Information Society.

To do so, it must stay focused and true to its mission. The active participation of our Sector Members and other stakeholders in the preparation and execution of the 2013 World Telecommunications policy Forum and the WSIS+10 high level event made those events successful. The inclusion of a much wider range of the global community than simply Governments made it possible to develop highly relevant and expert outputs that benefit not only ITU members, but people worldwide.

I commend the Secretary‑General and this Union for recognizing that increased inclusion is working, and for taking the additional step forward by agreeing to make all input and output documents of this meeting freely and publicly available. We should continue to move forward toward the full engagement and inclusion of all non‑governmental stakeholders in all of the activities and work of the ITU over the next four years.

We have nothing to fear from doing so, and we have much to gain. This specialized Agency of the United Nations exists to encourage and enable the deployment of telecommunications over air and wire, and to ensure that those networks are interoperable and secure. We're not here to dictate or control how people use that connectivity to express themselves, organise, or create and operate the services that are enriching the lives of the 2.7 billion people connected to the Internet today.

We recognize that the rise of that kind of connectivity comes with challenges, as well as benefits, and the Internet's multistakeholder community is working hard to ensure that existing Internet Governance institutions are fully open and inclusive. Through these multistakeholder processes of cooperation and consensus, we can work together to most effectively address the legitimate threats that some of our colleagues have highlighted in their Policy Statements. The multistakeholder process of cooperation and consensus is the best way to ensure that the greatest possible expertise is brought to bear on these important issues.

Further, our sister organisations within the United Nations system at the UNODC, the Human Rights counsel, UNESCO and the General Assembly and at the multistakeholder Internet Governance Forum are airing and exchanging views on ways to address the challenges of a hyperconnected world that are within their specific purview and expertise. We should embrace that work rather than trying to recreate, supplant or undermine it.

Give it a chance to work, engage it. We have come a long way over the last four years as a Union. Our leadership is strong, our discussions are honest, direct and increasingly transparent. These three weeks will test our ability to work together. We must pass that test not for ourselves, but for our people.

I thank our host nation and look forward to building a stronger, united ITU. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ambassador for your Policy Statement and I think there is a consensus that we should work on the basis of consensus, and there is no doubt about that. And while we are listening from the U.S., I have received results from the tellers. Before I announce the results I would like to thank the tellers for their hard work. I would like to ask you to give a round of applause to our tellers.

[ Applause ]

Now I will read the tellers report. Election of Deputy Secretary‑General, second round.

Ballot papers deposited, 172. Invalid ballot papers, 0. Abstentions, 1.

Delegations present and voting, 171. Required majority, 86.

Mr. Bruce Gracie, 22 votes. Ms. Magdalena Gaj, 42 votes. Mr. Shola Taylor, 49 votes. Mr. Malcolm Johnson, 58 votes.

As you heard, no candidate has obtained the majority required for election in the second round. We will, therefore, proceed to a third round of voting tomorrow morning, Friday, 24th October, at 8:30, 8:30.

If a Member State wishes to withdraw a candidature, the Head of Delegation must inform me in writing of this decision no later than 24:00 midnight this evening.

This is a request for the floor from Bahrain, so Bahrain, you have the floor. Bahrain, you have the floor.

>> BAHRAIN: Sir, thank you. On behalf of the Delegation of the Kingdom of Bahrain, I would like to congratulate Mr. Zhao on his election as Secretary‑General of the ITU. We wish him every success. We are convinced that he will contribute to strengthening the ITU. On that note, we would like to thank the current Secretary‑General, Mr. Hamadoun Touré, for his great efforts over the past eight years for his achievements and his leadership with which he has conducted the work of the ITU. And we'd also like to thank everyone and invite all Delegations to the reception that we are hosting immediately after this meeting at 6:00 p.m. Thank you, Sir.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Bahrain. Thank you, Bahrain.

[ Applause ]

Ladies and gentlemen, I need your support here, because we have two countries which have to make their Policy Statements today. So I know that you are all excited about this very neck to neck competition on the DSG position, and you have many things to discuss, but let's show our respect to our colleagues.

So I really need your cooperation, so we will hear from Suriname and Sri Lanka and then I will end today's Policy Statement. Now I would like to call upon Deputy Director of communications from Suriname. You have the floor.

>> SURINAME: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary‑General, Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for this opportunity to share with the meeting the vision of the Government of the Republic of Suriname. At the last Plenipotentiary in Mexico, we committed ourselves to connect the unconnected. A quick scan on how this intention has materialized in Suriname learns that progress was achieved but that still a lot needs to be done.

The next hurdle or challenge to overcome is to broaden the access to broadband and providing sustainable and affordable broadband. In this regard, we must admit developments are strained. The Government of Suriname has taken the following measures to facilitate the use of broadband which should result in positive effects for the National economy, the well‑being of the citizens, and in a transparent Government. In this we would like to share the following plans: The digitalization of the Government administration, a National data center is being constructed. This data center will facilitate the interaction between Government entities and the citizen.

Crucial is therefore the modernization of the Government administration which must result in more transparency, efficiency of services, and ultimately in minimizing the gap between the consumer and the Government. For a number of years, there were plans to introduce distance education. This element is crucial in the long‑term vision of ICT development in Suriname. This given our topography and the fact that we want to include people living in the hinter land in the National development strategy. It is imperative that we focus on educating not only people living in the coastal areas but ensure that the whole country is covered and that access is nationwide.

In this regard, we like to mention the assistance that was received through the ITU for the pilot project National school connectivity. The Ministry of Education together with other National entities created in more than half of the schools at secondary level computer labs, where next to donating devices, free Internet was provided to the schools. This will lead to more than 29,000 students having access to modern and high‑speed Internet and ICT services.

Suriname has also started a process of switchover from analog to digital television. The Government of Suriname underscoring the importance of this process made a decision to launch this process in the interior instead of the capital. So the communities in the interior got the advantage to is overcome the lack in access to advantages of ICTs. It is our intention to finalize the switchover in June 2015.

Suriname supports the ITU's initiatives and partnerships with regard to a safer Internet. Whereas development of this Sector leads to tremendous benefits, the negative aspects should also receive equal attention. That's why the development of a National cybercrime strategy and having the necessary measures in place has our undivided attention. We will make sure that the use of the Internet and development of ICT stays positive.

The establishment of a Computer Emergency Response team, CERT, in Suriname and this is crucial. Although stakeholders agreed on the establishment of the CERT, financial commitment was a key issue. We like to make use of this opportunity to say a special word of thanks to the Secretary‑General of the ITU, Dr. Hamadoun Touré. He played a pivotal role in the development of the Sector in the Caribbean region and in Suriname. We have fond memories of his interactions and visits to Suriname and the region. We wish him all the success in his new endeavors and are convinced that he will continue to play a role in the development of the global ICT Sector.

We would also join all countries in congratulating the Secretary elect Mr. Houlin Zhao, and we wish him all the best. Suriname continues to count on the support of the ITU in developing the ICT Sector to higher levels, both nationally but also regionally so that ultimately it leads to a more balanced world.

In closing, we would like to thank the Government and people of Korea for hosting this Conference and for extending the excellent hospitality. We look forward to fruitful discussions the coming days, and hope that by the end of this Plenipotentiary meeting, we will have worked out a sound and effective development strategy for the next four years.

I thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Your Excellency, for sharing Suriname's ICT Policy with all of us, and my apologies for giving you this slot just after the announcement of the election results. My sincere apology.

And I just ‑‑ I would like to ask your cooperation. And we need respect to our colleagues. Can we open this mic? So people in the back room can sit down or leave the room?

Thank you, thank you very much. I just urge all Delegates to take your seat, please. We are still undergoing Policy Statements, and we need to show our respect to our colleagues. This is very important matter. We want to get respect. In order to do so, we should provide our respect to our colleagues.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Now I will give the floor to Sri Lanka and I would like to invite the member of the telecommunications regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka, you have the floor.

>> SRI LANKA: Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is an island in the Indian Ocean with a 21 million population maintaining over 7.7% annual GDP growth rate for over 5 years. Sri Lanka has been a member of the UN for a very long time and a member of the ITU since the very inception. We are committed to the principles of the UN and also cherish and uphold the principles of the ITU.

We have made considerable strides in the IT Sector for the last decade, and as a matter of fact, the world renowned space fiction writer and the distinguished scientist the late Arthur C. Clarke, who predicted the geo stationary satellite, was a citizen of Sri Lanka, lived and died in Sri Lanka, and we cherish his memories.

Sri Lanka is one of the first countries in the region to liberalize the Telecommunications Sector and has been able to achieve approximately 117% penetration of mobile and fixed telephones. We are the first country in South Asia to offer 3G and 4G services. According to the ITU report on Measuring the Information Society 2012, Sri Lanka has achieved a milestone in broadband charges, where we have been placed as number one in the world for the lowest level entry fixed broadband charges.

We have been able to successfully allocate radio spectrum to operators to roll out LTE services in the country. One of the major stumbling blocks for low penetration of broadband services has been devices. Under the Government strategy, unstoppable Sri Lanka 2020 we hope to achieve broadband for all.

We have also engaged in a very aggressive IPv6 network broadband for all networks, and have adopted a next generation network, regulatory and policy framework which is currently being implemented.

The Government has recognized ICT and broadband as a driver and catalyst for economic growth, and has taken many initiatives to boost ICT to fuel the local industry. Another major objective of the Government is to elevate Sri Lanka to the level of a knowledge hub in the Asian region, the foundation of which is ICT and broadband connectivity. Our achievements are further witnessed by the positions that we are sustaining in international arenas.

According to the UN e‑Government index 2014, we have secured the 74th place of 193 countries in the world, which is a leap of 41 positions within the last two years. Furthermore, we are ranked number one in the South Asian region under the same index. Sri Lanka has been able to record positive growth in key areas of ICT over recent years.

During this period, the country's IT literacy rate has grown steadily, stimulating the development of ICT. This upward trend in ICT development in Sri Lanka is a clear indicator of affirming the success of the plans and strategies adopted by the Government of Sri Lanka.

Recently, of 110 countries our Rural Nenasala telecenter manager was awarded access to learning international award by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, for taking the ICT to rural communities through common knowledge centers.

Sri Lanka hosted a very successful GSR in the year 2012 and actively participated in ITU activities. We hope to continue this trend by involving ourselves in the Council during the 150‑year celebrations, and we urge the member countries to consider our candidature to the Council favorably. I would like to thank the host country, Republic of South Korea for hosting this event and for the excellent facilities and also to congratulate Honorable Minister Wonki Min, Chairman PP‑14.

I would also express our deep gratitude to our dear friend Dr. Hamadoun Touré, the outgoing Secretary‑General, for the support extended during his tenure. We also congratulate the new Secretary‑General elect, Mr. Zhao, who is a friend of Sri Lanka.

We thank the ITU membership for their continued support and we thank every one of you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Your Excellency, for your Policy Statement, and congratulations on your achievement in the field of ICT.

That ends our Agenda Item Number 3, general Policy Statements. Before moving to the last item, I would like to ask the interpreters to please stay with us for 10 more minutes. Would that be possible.

>> Interpreter: Yes, certainly, it is not a problem.

>> CHAIRMAN: Now we move on to the last item, which is other business. Now, if any countries wish to take the floor, this is the chance but I would like to ask you not to take the floor for congratulatory remarks at this time of the hour. So if you have any kind of announcement, please, this is your chance to take the floor.

I see none. So today, after this Seventh Plenary Session, we will have a Steering Committee meeting immediately after this meeting in Room C. There will be social events organised by Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Russian Federation and Kuwait and gifts are offered by South Africa, Tanzania and Iran.

Thank you very much for your invitation, and kindly offered gift. Canada asked for the floor. Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you very much, Chair. I wanted to inform colleagues in a timely fashion of our decision. Canada has decided to withdraw the candidacy of Bruce Gracie. I would like to really appreciate ‑‑

[ Applause ]

I would like to extend our sincere thanks to those who supported our candidacy, and also to underline that we see great possibilities ahead in the election and the remaining candidates, and we'll provide our decision to you in writing this evening. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Canada. I would like to express our appreciation for your admirable campaign, and at the same time, I also wanted to express our sincere thanks to Mr. Dr. Bruce Gracie for his work for the ITU for a long time and we are looking forward to working together with him for a long time again.

And that will end the Seventh Plenary Session. The meeting is adjourned.

[ Applause ]

[ End of Seventh Plenary Session ]

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