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ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2014

BUSAN, KOREA

24 OCTOBER 2014

ROOM A

NINTH PLENARY SESSION

14:30

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>> CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Would you put your headset on, please. Thank you. Thank you.

The Ninth Plenary Session is called to order. I hope you enjoyed your lunch and coffee break provided by Mali, Ghana, and Kyrgyzstan. Thank you again, Mali, Ghana for your nice luncheon and Kyrgyzstan for nice coffee break. I would like to sum up what we did in the morning session that was the eighth Plenary Meeting. We conducted the third round of elections for Deputy Secretary‑General, and we heard six Policy Statements. Now I would like to submit the draft agenda of the Ninth Plenary Session to you for your approval. Are there any comments on the draft agenda?

Poland, you have the floor.

>> POLAND: Thank you, Chairman. I only would like to say something, because Magdalena is now out of the game, so speaking of behalf of the Republic of Poland, I would like to sincerely thank to our supporters who trusted us, and who kept us motivated and determined to carry on with the campaign.

I would like to especially thank Magdalena for her courage. The support we received means ‑‑

[ Applause ]

‑‑ that not only we believe that the ITU should be more open to the upcoming challenges that the organisation will be soon facing. Some days ago, we were deeply moved by the speech of a young boy from UAE for his generation. We will keep on working to change the future of the world.

We truly believe it's worth it. I wish all the best the remaining candidates. Thank you very much for your attention.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Poland. I believe I speak for all Member States sitting here, your message, how ITU can be a better organisation, has been well delivered throughout your campaign, and really, really appreciate your clean and impressive campaign once again and our best wishes to Magdalena and Poland. Thank you very much.

Any other comments regarding our first Agenda Item, approval of the agenda? I see none, so I take it that the agenda is approved.

Now we will move to our second Agenda Item, which is election of the Deputy Secretary‑General: Fourth round.

Now we'll proceed with the fourth round of elections for the Post Deputy Secretary‑General of the 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 earlier, 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.

At this moment I would like to invite once again our Chairman of Committee 2 if there would be anything he can notify to us. Chairman of Committee 2, Mr. Kim, you have the floor. Kazakhstan, you have the floor. Kazakhstan, you have the floor.

>> KAZAKHSTAN: Thank you, Chairman. The situation regarding the transfer of the rights to vote at the moment has not changed. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chairman of Committee 2, Mr. Kim.

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

The same five tellers who oversaw the third round this morning will continue in this role.

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

Region B, Mr. Pierre Smolik, Switzerland.

Region C, Mr. Andrey Zhivov, Russia.

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

Region E, Ms. Rachelle Lee, Singapore, at ballot 5.

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

At this point I would like to invite all Delegates to give a round of applause. They're doing their first the fourth time. Thank you very much. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

The Secretariat will now begin the process of  distributing green ballot papers, instructions on how to complete the ballot paper and a pen, if you do not already have one from

A previous round, 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 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 your ballot paper, 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 yellow paddle.

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 three  with the green ballot papers and their badge as they are called by the Secretariat.

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 everybody is comfortable with this?

Before starting the vote, may I ask if all delegations having the right to vote have received  their ballot paper. If not, raise their hand. Very well.

I believe all delegations having the right to vote now have their ballot papers.

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

Now I'll declare that the voting has begun and give the floor to the Secretary.

Secretary of the Plenary, 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 you may wish to 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  provided by the Secretariat.

Please note that as well as the voting procedure that you are required to mark an X on your ballot paper, and only an X, and if you do make a mistake, please raise your paddle as the Chairman indicated. You are reminded to bring to the Voting Station your badge. You have to scan your badge and deposit your ballots in the Voting Station. We would request all Delegates to kindly regain their seats once they have cast their votes.

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 those stations to hold the Ballot Boxes in the air in consecutive order from 1 to 5. The boxes are transparent so that you can see that they are empty.

Box Number 1.

Box Number 2.

Box Number 3.

Box Number 4.

And Box Number 5.

Mr. Chairman, I will now begin with block 1, and proceed to call out the first 15 countries.

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 moving to Voting Station Number 3.

United States of America.

Georgia.

Ghana.

Greece.

Grenada.

Guatemala.

Guinea.

Equatorial Guinea.

Guinea Bissau.

Guyana.

Haiti.

Hungary.

Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iraq.

Israel.

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.

Now moving to Voting Station Number 5.

Philippines.

Poland.

Qatar.

Syrian Arab Republic.

Democratic Republic of Congo.

Kyrgyzstan.

The Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea.

Slovakia.

Czech Republic.

Romania.

The United Kingdom

Rwanda.

Saint Lucia.

San Marino.

Samoa.

Coming back to Station Number 1, the next 15 countries.

Bhutan.

Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Botswana.

Brunei Darussalam.

Bulgaria.

Canada.

Central African Republic.

China.

Cyprus.

The Vatican.

The Republic of Korea.

United Arab Emirates.

Voting Station Number 2.

Côte d'Ivoire.

Croatia.

Cuba.

Denmark.

Djibouti.

Dominican Republic

Egypt.

El Salvador.

Ecuador

Eritrea.

Spain.

Estonia.

Ethiopia.

Russian Federation.

Fiji.

Voting Station Number 3.

Italy.

Jamaica.

Japan.

Lebanon.

Liechtenstein.

Lithuania.

Luxembourg.

Madagascar.

Malaysia.

Malawi.

The Maldives.

Mali.

Malta.

Morocco.

Moldova.

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.

The Seychelles.

Sierra Leone.

Singapore

Slovenia.

Somalia.

Sudan.

South Sudan.

Sri Lanka.

South Africa.

Sweden.

Switzerland.

Suriname.

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.

Chairman, that completes my first call. Thank you.

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

>> SECRETARY OF THE PLENARY: Chairman, I will now call for a second and last time.

For Voting Station Number 1, Belize.

Voting Station Number 2, Eritrea.

Voting Station Number 4, Kiribati, Libya, Myanmar, Peru.

And I will call in a moment for Voting Station Number 5 when they complete their first call. Thank you.

Chairman, I will now provide those for a second and final call for Voting Station Number 5, Syrian Arab Republic, Democratic people's Republic of Korea. Sao Tome and Principe. Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan. That completes the last call.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We will wait a minute until second called countries finish their voting. Thank you.

Thank you. I now 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.

While the Tellers are tabulating the votes, I propose  that we continue with Policy Statements, which is the Agenda Item Number 4. Now we will hear from Spain, followed by Bahamas. I would like to call upon Secretary of State for Telecommunications and Information Society of Spain. Spain, you have the floor.

>> SPAIN: Chairman, Secretary‑General, Directors of the Bureaux, Ministers, Honorable counselors and Delegates, this is the first time that the Spanish Delegation is taking the floor. We would like to congratulate the Government of the Republic of Korea and the city of Busan for the excellent welcome that we have had.

I would like to wish the Chair and his team all the best in their important function. The ITU, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary next year, and over this entire period, Spain has contributed to the work of the Union, participating in its various initiatives, in all the events. We would like to remember the Plenipotentiary Conference of 1932 in Madrid in which the term telecommunications was invented.

The next quadrennium is some of the aims or measures to facilitate broadband for all. The digitization of Spain has allowed for universal broadband access in our country and our administration would like to cooperate actively with the Development Sector in order to share our experience on a global level.

Please allow me to show my gratitude to the ITU for having granted the finalist category of the GEM Awards to the Spanish entry on gender issues. Our country has made a significant contribution to the observatory aligned with the interest. Spain has to comply with the objectives in the Strategic Plan of the Union. It is key to apply the principle of equality in the official languages of the ITU as established by the Constitution.

Spanish is an official language in 20 Member States and currently it is one of the three most used languages on the Internet. The ITU should play a key role in ensuring respect for languages as established in its fundamental text as well as dedicating the necessary resources to this end.

Spain has been part of the Council of the ITU since its creation and have the honor of Chairing its standing Committee in 2011‑2012. The Council as the main supervisory body between the PPs allows us to participate in the management of the Union and oversee the implementation of the important Resolutions of the PP and we would like to mention that we have put forward a nomination for Council once again. Spain is present at the majority of conferences, Assemblies and meetings organised by the ITU both through its administration as well as through its members in the Sector, its associates and academia, and as a show of our readiness to continue to work with the ITU, we have the honor of announcing Mr. Rubio's nomination to participate on the IRB. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Your Excellency, for your short but very strong message. And I think we all of us have the same idea that we should respect all six official ITU languages. Thank you very much.

I actually called the Bahamas, but in fact, it will be Switzerland, followed by Saint Lucia. I would like to call on Deputy Director General of the Office of Federal Communications, Switzerland. Switzerland, you have the floor.

>> SWITZERLAND: Chairman, Your Excellencies, distinguished colleagues and Delegates, at the outset, the Swiss Delegation would like to convey its deepest thanks to the Government of the Republic of Korea. It is remarkable that this Conference is being held in a country which is at the forefront of serving its people with broadband services. The affinity of the citizens of Korea for new technologies and new ICTs is well known and outstanding.

Mr. Chairman, the Swiss Government is certain that ICTs have a determining influence on the economy of a country, and on living spaces, both private and professional, of all citizens male and female. The integration of each individual into the Information Society requires the use of the ICTs. Therefore, Switzerland would wish that the ITU continue to devote its attention to bridging the digital divide so as to ensure that people from all over the world can benefit from the huge possibilities of personal fulfillment that draw from this.

Switzerland welcomes ITU's results‑based management. We are certain that this process will improve the provision of expected results, while strengthening its financial basis. Over this current Conference, the Union must strike a budgetary balance in its financial plan for the 2016‑2019 period. This balance will hinge on improving the effectiveness and efficiency of its functioning.

In this regard, the opening up to innovative methods of management which shall contribute to an ever more efficient allocation of financial resources is one of the areas which the Union must further explore. Against this back drop, this cost recovery, on certain provisions to the Union, should increase income, and it should be proceeded by a consideration of its opportunity.

At this Conference, there is a need for the ITU to look on adjustments to be made to its way of functioning. Firstly, the Swiss Delegation believes that it is crucial for the Union to strengthen its openness to interested stakeholders who are interested in the work of the ITU due to their mandate.

The multistakeholder process has become indispensable for addressing the challenges which await us as we move towards creating a knowledge and Information Society.

Secondly, Switzerland supports the initiatives aimed at promoting transparency as to the mission and activity of the Union. Transparency should be a rule. Confidentiality should be an exception.

Some issues may call for confidentiality but they should be carefully considered. Switzerland upholds the principle that women who work can play a key role in a competitive ICT Sector. Growing demand in the world for ICT skills is a unique occasion to be able to position women no matter their age in the industry, and to provide them with the necessary tools for them to succeed.

In this regard, we welcome the ITU's initiatives aimed at promoting and achieving these objectives. The Swiss Delegation also would like to note with satisfaction that the notable efforts undertaken by the Secretary‑General in order to ensure gender equality within the staff of the Union.

As a host nation, Switzerland is proud to provide the ITU with the best possible conditions for all of its activities. One of the buildings of the ITU, the Varembé building, no longer complies with construction standards. Therefore, it's necessary to address the situation. The Switzerland Delegation would like to support an approach for namely that the Member States of the ITU will be able to choose, based on an awareness of all of the options that they have, the future of this building.

We would like to congratulate Mr. Houlin Zhao on his outstanding election. We'd like to express a great recognition for the enormous amount of work undertaken by Dr. Hamadoun Touré, the Secretary‑General of the Union. On behalf of the Swiss Confederation I would like to swish you every success in this ITU Plenipotentiary Conference.

Chairman, Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Your Excellency, for your Policy Statement. I think ensuring budgetary balance is critical for ensuring the sustainable development of this institution, and I think there is a general consensus in this Conference room that transparency is very important issue, building transparency is a very important issue, and I do believe that the Secretariat itself is working very hard to enhance the transparency in the operation of ITU and all Member States sitting here is actually working hard where we can improve the transparency throughout the whole Conference. Thank you very much.

Now I would like to invite the Managing Director of the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority of Saint Lucia. Saint Lucia, you have the floor.

>> SAINT LUCIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Delegates, senior executives and members of the staff of the ITU, the staff and volunteers from the host country South Korea, I bring warm greetings from Saint Lucia. On the 2nd of May, 2015, the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Organisation will be celebrating 15th anniversary of ECTEL, the only multistate Telecoms Regulatory Authority established by five states: Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent, and the Grenadines.

For the past seven years, Saint Lucia with the other contracting states of the Treaty have benefited economically, socially and technology from the liberalized environment for Telecoms and ICT in the region. The regulation of the Sector has been independent and free of capture by any other significant groups in the market. We have seen multifold increase in the investments in the recent decade. Mobile penetration catapulted from less than 3% in 2002 and in the past eight years has been over 100%. Our model of the multistate regulator is not about the changes in the ICT indicators only. It has provided several lessons to the world.

There has been successful coordination of the scarce resources of the radio spectrum and the collective leadership of the regulatory framework which in turn has led to technological innovation and the participation of home‑grown investors in the Sector. The costs of regulation per country has remained significantly low, without any added burden to the public expenditure.

Mr. Chairman, the lessons are simple. We can achieve so much more if we work together. Working together also means accepting responsibilities, believing in collaboration, and embracing consultation as the essence of our existence. It means also sharing the collective successes. This is why we'll continue to support the work of the ITU in the Caribbean region, and work towards improving governance and operations which are fair, progressive and inclusive.

Saint Lucia instinctively promotes the collaboration of all other countries in the Caribbean in the fulfillment of our visions of ensuring the ICT Sector is a new engine of growth. In this regard, Mr. Chairman, we have embarked on several aggressive initiatives to expand broadband to the citizens of our countries. One such programme called CARCIP has been rolled out simultaneously in some of our countries. This programme is based on the policy and philosophical guidance of the final recommendations of the ITU Broadband Commission.

The CARCIP programme will extend broadband infrastructure for e‑government, commerce and governance as well as modernizing the regulatory framework for open access. Broadband has moved beyond being the buzz. Mr. Chairman, it's now action.

Besides this programme, our ECTEL countries are undertaking a major Revision of our universal service funds to ensure that these resources are more responsive to the rapidly growing technological environments, the changing demand from the providers, as well as consumers in the ICT Sector. Mr. Chairman, in closing, let me acknowledge other Delegations from the Caribbean region which have been actively engaged in the deliberations of this Conference. We extend congratulations to Dr. Hamadoun Touré, a friend of the region. He has visited us several times that we have even lost count. We also congratulate the new Secretary‑General, Mr. Houlin Zhao. We have no doubt he will continue the excellent work of Dr. Touré and come to the Caribbean even more often.

It is really a warm and beautiful part of the globe to visit. Saint Lucia looks forward to working with the new executive team at the ITU, while we celebrate our 15 years of independent Telecom communications regulation we'll also be joining one of the ITU in celebrating 150 years of its existence.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, our congratulations to you on the management of this Conference, and to the Government and people of Korea for making us feel most welcome. I thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Excellency, for your policy statement. CARCIP is very well known to global colleagues and it is a key for economy and social development and I think according to the study outcome the impact of broadband is much stronger in developing countries rather than developed countries. I hope this CARCIP will bring a lot of development and a lot of positive outcome to the development of your economy. Thank you.

While we have been listening from our colleagues, the tabulation has been completed, and we will soon receive the results. So just wait a few seconds. They will come soon.

Now I will read the results. Tellers report, election of Deputy Secretary‑General, fourth round.

Ballot papers deposited, 170.

Invalid ballot papers, 0.

Abstentions, 2.

Delegations present and voting, 168.

Required majority, 85.

Mr. Shola Taylor received 64 votes.

Mr. Malcolm Johnson received 104 votes.

[ Applause ]

As you heard, Mr. Malcolm Johnson from U.K. has obtained the required majority, and I declare Mr. Malcolm Johnson elected for the post of Deputy Secretary‑General of ITU.

[ Applause ]

Congratulations.

It seems that he's getting more popular by his colleagues after the election. But this is a very serious moment. Now I would like to give the floor to Malcolm Johnson to deliver his speech. Malcolm, you have the floor.

It seems that he's getting more popular by his colleagues after the election. But this is a very serious moment. Now I would like to give the floor to Malcolm Johnson to deliver his speech. Malcolm, you have the floor.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Chairman. Firstly, I'd like to thank the U.K. Government for its support to my candidature, especially British Ambassador Karen Pierce, and her Delegation. I thank all Member States who voted for me for their trust in me. I'd like to thank my Fellow candidates for their fair and professional campaigns.

We certainly gave you all some excitement.

Having such a qualified and diverse field of candidates is testament to our commitment to the Union and bodes well for its future. I hope we can rely upon their continuing participation in ITU and I look forward to working with them over the next four years.

I thank Secretary‑General Hamadoun Touré and the other elected officials that I've worked with over the last eight years for their continuous support and collaboration.

It's been a privilege to have been part of Hamadoun Touré's management team over these eight years.

I thank the excellent ITU staff who have always supported me and have shown their dedication to the work of the Union, and most of all, I thank my wonderful wife, Catherine, for her tireless support.

[ Applause ]

‑‑ for her tireless support, wise counsel and forbearance with the frequent absences from home on mission.

I've enjoyed an excellent relationship with Houlin Zhao over the last eight years, and I promise to give him the same level of tremendous support that he's given to Hamadoun over the last eight years.

[ Applause ]

Over the last four years, I've had the pleasure of an excellent relationship with François Rancy and Brahima Sanou, and I look forward to continuing that with them over the next four years, as well as with the TSB Director.

I'm sure we'll continue the success of the current team. Of course, we will miss our current leader, Hamadoun Touré, but I'm sure that his spirit and presence will always be with us.

Thank you all again, and I look forward to working with all of you over the next four years. Thank you, Chairman.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Malcolm, Deputy Secretary‑General‑Elect. Congratulations, again.

Now I will give the opportunity to the U.K. to deliver a few congratulatory remarks. U.K., you have the floor.

>> UNITED KINGDOM: Thank you very much, indeed, Mr. Chairman, distinguished colleagues, Secretary‑General, Secretary‑General‑Elect. I want to say at the outset, Mr. Chairman, a very great thanks I think from everyone in this hall to you, to your colleagues, to the ITU Secretariat for the exemplary way they've run this election. I'd also like to thank everyone who supported Malcolm, the U.K. candidate but I want to make the point that of course candidates are chosen as individuals, and we've been fortunate to have some outstanding candidates put themselves forward for Deputy Secretary‑General.

The ITU is well assured of the brightest possible future when the best possible candidates are willing to put themselves forward as we have found in this campaign. Fatimetou Mohamed‑Saleck, Bruce Gracie, Magdalena Gaj and Shola Taylor are outstanding individuals in their fields and I would like to pay tribute to them.

I'd like to thank Magdalena in particular for climbing the ladder and giving a helping hand to all of the women who will follow her. Obviously I'd like to pay a particular tribute to Shola Taylor and to the Government of Nigeria. He has shown himself a superb leader in ICT, a generous colleague and a true visionary. His connectivity for all will resonate throughout this Conference, and the ITU as a whole, and we salute him.

[ Applause ]

Lastly, I'd like to congratulation Malcolm and Catherine Johnson. Malcolm has done a tremendous amount to promote capacity‑building and development throughout the ITU and throughout the globe, and has acted in the best traditions of the Union. His commitment to accessibility and overcoming the global technology divide has served the membership well, and will continue to serve us all well as we go forward. I have been very struck, Mr. Chairman, by the affection for Malcolm personally that we saw in the campaign.

Frequently when I asked people to vote for the U.K. candidate, they would say no, they couldn't, they were very sorry but they were voting for Malcolm and I think that's a huge tribute to Malcolm.

Mr. Chairman, the ITU now has a new leadership in Malcolm, and the new Secretary‑General, Houlin Zhao. Once again, I salute the Secretary‑General‑Elect and the outgoing Secretary‑General, Mr. Touré, to whom we owe a huge amount in taking the Union forward.

The new Secretary‑General and Deputy Secretary‑General will together now take the ITU to an even more effective, open, liberal, and illustrious future as befits the world's oldest Agency. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, U.K., and congratulations, again. Before opening the floor, I just want to say one thing: This outcome is just recognition of the last four years of Malcolm's marvelous work. At the same time, that actually Malcolm's wonderful work actually closed the door for excellent candidates and one of them is Dr. Shola Taylor, and I just want to pay my respect to him for his dedication and his contribution to the work of ITU, and his clean and passionate campaign throughout this whole process.

And I would like to give the ‑‑ would you give a round of applause for him.

[ Applause ]

And I would like to give the floor first to Nigeria to say a few words. Nigeria, you have the floor.

>> NIGERIA: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Nigerian Delegation, I want to very warmly congratulate Mr. Malcolm Johnson on being the new Deputy Secretary‑General‑Elect of the ITU. This was indeed a very exciting, very professional election, and indeed, the best man out of a very competent and outstanding team of candidates has won this election. We are very proud of million Shola Taylor. He has done outstandingly well, and he has really done Nigeria proud in the way that he has handled himself and his position in this election.

[ Applause ]

Nigeria is committed to supporting the Secretary‑General elect Mr. Houlin Zhao and the Deputy Secretary‑General Elect Mr. Malcolm Johnson as they take over the leadership of the ITU. This is very important because at this time, ICTs have taken a much more important and strategic role in all Member States, and I wish them all the very best as they take on this new leadership. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Nigeria. Thank you, Minister. Now I would like to give the floor to Secretary‑General. Secretary‑General, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the opportunity to congratulate my good friend, Malcolm Johnson, and Catherine Johnson, on behalf of the leadership of the Union and on behalf of all the staff of ITU.

Malcolm, you did well, and we are very pleased to see you on this team. It's another testimony of your trust in the leadership of this current management team, having elected the Deputy Secretary‑General and the Secretary‑General from the current team that is really a very good measurement of your trust in the current team. And I would like to thank you all for that.

I would like to congratulate and thank all the candidates. Indeed, they have raised the bar very high in terms of the ideas that they put forward during the campaign, and I hope those ideas will not just fade away after the elections, and that the current management team will indeed take on Board all of the ideas put forward by all the candidates in order to be more innovative.

And this was a very fair, transparent, and balanced competition and each and every competitor has behaved himself or herself in a most professional manner, and I would like to thank them for that.

Last but not least, I want to say again to Malcolm, you have set a new record, in the fourth round of election in ITU. I hope that you'll keep this record for a long, long time.

And then let me again congratulate the United Kingdom Government for the support they've had for Malcolm's candidature, and for the way they've conducted the campaign till this last moment. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Secretary‑General. I already have got some requests on the floor, but what I would like to propose is we will take 20‑minute coffee break sponsored by Switzerland. Thank you, Switzerland.

And we'll come back 5 to 4:00 in this room, and we will proceed to the election on the three Directors. And ‑‑ I know that you want to deliver your congratulatory message to Malcolm. I'll give you time ‑‑ when they go to the green room for tabulating the voting, then I'll give the floor to deliver their congratulatory remarks to Malcolm.

I just want to ask, Member States, please deliver these congratulatory remarks on a regional basis because we do not have much time. So please do that on a regional basis. And actually, I am asked by Secretariat to say that we will start at 4:00.

So I will give you 25 minute coffee break and we will meet again at 4:00. Thank you.

[ Coffee break ]

>> ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen, the session will resume shortly. Please be seated and put on your headset.

Once again, the session will resume shortly. Please be seated and put on your headset. Thank you.

>> ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen, the session will resume shortly. Please be seated and put on your headset. Once again, the session will resume shortly. Please be seated and put on your headset. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, please be seated. We are going to resume our Ninth Plenary Meeting. Please put your headset on. The Ninth Plenary Meeting is resumed.

Now we will move to the Agenda Item 3, election of the Directors of the Bureaux.

Before doing that, I just want to say thanks to Switzerland for providing a nice coffee break for all of us.

I think ‑‑ yeah.

[ Applause ]

If my understanding is correct, if I read these instructions once again, I may look like a jerk, so if you allow me, let me summarize this part. I know that this is just again the tradition, but I think we need to rationalize the whole process, so I'll just summarize the instructions.

Now we'll proceed with the elections for the posts of Directors of the Bureaux. We'll follow just the same basic procedures. You already know where the boxes are.

You know that the lists are on the website and showing on the screen. But I should like to ask Chairman of Committee 2, Mr. Kim, of Kazakhstan, whether there has been any change in between times so I would like to invite Mr. Kim of Kazakhstan to report to the Plenary regarding the transfer of powers of proxies, Chairman of Committee 2, Kazakhstan, you have the floor.

>> KAZAKHSTAN: Thank you, Chairman. The situation regarding the transfer of powers and proxies has not changed. Thank you, Sir.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chairman of Committee 2. So let me remind you that we have three transfer of powers. Malta to the Netherlands, Iceland to Denmark, Guinea to Mali.

So now I'll tell you five tellers

Region B, Mr. Pierre Smolik, Switzerland.

Region C, Mr. Andrey Zhivov, Russia.

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

Region E, Ms. Rachelle Lee, Singapore, at ballot 5.

The tellers are in position.

The secretariat will now begin the process of distributing three separate ballot papers, one for each election, together with instructions on how to complete the ballot paper, and a pen, if you do not already have one from a previous round, to all Delegations having the right to vote and present in the room.

If you do not have a pen, just raise your hand. So the Secretary will give you a pen.

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

The ballot paper for the Director of Radiocommunication Bureau is pink. BR is pink.

The ballot paper for the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau is white,.

TSB is white.

And the ballot paper for the Telecommunication Development Bureau is yellow.

Each delegation is requested to complete the three ballot papers at the same time so that the three ballot papers may be put in the ballot box one after the other.

One after other.

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 begins when I announce its beginning and will end when I announce the results of the vote.

So the doors will be closed and you are not allowed to ‑‑ you are allowed to leave the room, but you will not be allowed to come back in during the voting procedure.

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

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 yellow paddle.

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

Before starting the vote, may I ask if all Delegations having the right to vote received three ballot papers, one pink, one white, and one yellow. If not, please raise your hand and identify yourself.

I see none. I believe all Delegations having the right to vote now have their ballot papers. Stewart, could you please close the doors?

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

Secretary of Plenary, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARY OF THE PLENARY: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

Chairman, if you allow that I follow your example and not reread the exact text, which I believe at this point I have memorized.

>> CHAIRMAN: Please do so.

>> SECRETARY OF THE PLENARY: Thank you. Chairman, just to mention, as you noted, there are three separate ballot papers per Member State having the right to vote. For the TSB Director it is yellow. For the BR, it's pink, and for the BDT Director, it is white. I believe everyone is clear on the five Voting Stations and I will call in blocks of 5.

Everyone I believe has their pens and it's clear that we need to mark an X and only an X. I will just, Mr. Chairman, invite my colleagues at the Voting Stations to kindly hold up the Ballot Boxes so that everyone can be clear that there's nothing in the boxes.

So can I invite the colleagues at Voting Station Number 1 to kindly hold up their box.

And Voting Station Number 2, if you could hold up your box.

Voting Station Number 3.

Voting Station Number 4.

And Voting Station Number 5.

Okay, we will now begin with 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.

Voting Station Number 3.

The United States.

Georgia.

Ghana.

Greece.

Grenada.

Guatemala.

Guinea.

Equatorial Guinea.

Guinea Bissau.

Guyana.

Haiti.

Hungary.

Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iraq.

Israel.

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.

Voting Station Number 5.

Philippines.

Poland.

Qatar.

Syrian Arab Republic.

Democratic Republic of Congo.

Kyrgyzstan.

Peoples Democratic Republic of Korea.

Slovakia.

Czech Republic.

Romania.

The United Kingdom

Rwanda.

Saint Lucia.

San Marino.

Samoa.

Coming back to Voting Station Number 2.

Bhutan.

Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Botswana.

Brunei Darussalam.

Bulgaria.

Canada.

Central African Republic.

China.

Cyprus.

The Vatican.

The Republic of Korea.

United Arab Emirates.

Voting Station Number 2.

Côte d'Ivoire.

Croatia.

Cuba.

Denmark.

Djibouti.

Dominican Republic.

Egypt.

El Salvador.

Ecuador

Eritrea.

Spain.

Estonia.

Ethiopia.

Russian Federation.

Fiji.

Voting Station Number 3.

Italy.

Jamaica.

Japan.

Lebanon.

Liechtenstein.

Lithuania.

Luxembourg.

Madagascar.

Malaysia.

Malawi.

Maldives.

Mali.

Malta.

Morocco.

Moldova.

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.

South Africa.

Sweden.

Switzerland.

Suriname.

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 my first call. Thank you.

Chairman, I will now proceed with the second and final call for Voting Station Number 1.

Belize.

For Voting Station Number 2, Burundi, Eritrea.

For Voting Station Number 3, Equatorial Guinea.

For Voting Station Number 4, Kiribati, Libya, and Myanmar.

We'll come back in a moment for Voting Station Number 5. Thank you.

Chairman, I will now read out those for a second and final call from Voting Station Number 5.

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

This completes the second and final call. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary of the Plenary, thank you. We'll give a few minutes for completing the second countries to vote who are called for the second round of voting.

Okay, 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.

While the Tellers are  counting the votes, what I would like to suggest to the Plenary is we have not heard from Bahamas last time when we had the Policy Statements, so I would like to invite Bahamas for making their Policy Statement, and then I'll give the floor as I promised to you to make congratulatory remarks to Malcolm for his election, but what I do is I will give one country per region for the floor. So strictly one country per region.

So I'll ask regional coordinators to select the country which will provide congratulatory remarks to Malcolm. If the country is listed here, if I select them, I will not give any second chance to that region.

So if you just request the floor without consultation of regional coordinators, please withdraw your request. Please do so. We do not have much time, so I will strictly give only one chance per region to provide congratulatory remarks to Malcolm.

Sorry for that, but I definitely need your cooperation and understanding on this matter.

So having said that, I would like to call upon attorney general and Minister of Legal Affairs of the Bahamas. Bahamas you have the floor.

>> BAHAMAS: On behalf of the Government and the people of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, I congratulate Secretary‑General Elect Dr. Houlin Zhao on his unanimous election and Deputy Secretary‑General Malcolm Johnson. They will build on the stellar work of the outgoing Secretary‑General Dr. Hamadoun Touré, whom we thank for his many years of tireless efforts on behalf of the ITU. The Bahamas as a developing country whose economy is heavily dependent on tourism and financial services both of which require strong ICT Foundations particularly welcomes this opportunity to participate in and contribute to the development of the overall vision, goals and targets of Connect 2020.

On behalf of our Prime Minister the Right Honorable Perry Christie, I wish to affirm the Bahamas' commitment to the development of ICTs and our interest in working closely with the ITU and Member States to achieve the Connect 2020 global goals and targets.

Our Government recently outlined critical policies for the growth and development of ICTs within the Bahamas which are closely aligned with Connect 2020 initiatives. The Commonwealth of the Bahamas is an archipelagic small island developing state. This poses unique technical and technological challenges. Nevertheless we're committed to providing world class ICT to all of our citizens and visitors. A key thrust of our domestic policy aimed at enabling fostering greater access to world class electronic communication services throughout the islands of the Bahamas based on targeted objectives which include providing ICT to all populated areas at affordable prices and free of charge to institutions of social and educational importance, ensuring the key institutions in the public and private sector have access to domestic and international telecommunications capable of withstanding natural disasters, and which support the essential governance, social, and economic institutions, ensuring the use of ICT in the delivery of health, education, and other Government services.

The Government of the Bahamas has commenced a number of bold initiatives to achieve these goals including taking steps to remove existing monopolies within the cellular mobile Sector. It is recognized that competition is the most effective method to obtain world‑class service at affordable prices. The liberalization process is ongoing, and the Government will indemnify excuse me, imminently invite interested persons or entities to apply for the appropriate licenses to operate cellular mobile networks in the Bahamas.

All markets except the cellular mobile market have been open to competition since 2009, and those markets are overseen by an independent regulator which is fully empowered consistent with international best practices to regulate our electronic communication Sector. We believe that there is room for further competition across the ICT Sector, particularly in the markets for pay TV and broadband.

The Bahamas would welcome the entry of additional players in any of our electronic communications market, and would be particularly receptive to those willing to partner with Bahamians in bringing in enhanced technologies and increased competition which will translate into educational, employment, entrepreneurial, and growth opportunities for our citizens.

We invite our partners at ITU to work with us as we look forward to working with you, to achieve the Connect 2020 ICT targets and goals. We're particularly interested in initiatives relating to enhance ICT access and capacity in developing states, with vulnerable environments, fragile economies, and limited resource bases, and also matters pertaining to the ITU's work in relation to Internet Governance and international connectivity.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I thank the ITU for affording this opportunity to address you today, and also extend thanks to the Government of the Republic of Korea for its warm welcome and for hosting this important Conference and again, its very warm welcome extended to all Delegates. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, attorney general, for your Policy Statement, and for sharing Bahamas' vision and policy with us today.

Now, as I promised, I will open the floor for congratulatory remarks to you for making your congratulatory remarks to Deputy Secretary‑General Elect.

I will give the floor to Swiss. I assume that Swiss represent ‑‑ Swiss is representing CEPT. Swiss, you have the floor.

>> SWITZERLAND: Thank you, Chairman. Yes, following your instructions and so as not to prolong this meeting Switzerland is speaking on behalf of the CEPT. We're delighted by the election of a European, and even a Welsh colleague, to the post of Deputy Secretary‑General. In light of his long‑standing experience at the ITU, firstly as a U.K. delegate and subsequently as an elected official, Malcolm Johnson has contributed to the harmonious development of the ITU.

Malcolm, we appreciate your focus on the future, and we don't doubt that you'll be able to raise the ITU's profile even further. We wish you every success in your new post.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, CEPT. On my screen, I have regions, two regions, which have two countries.

If I choose one country, the other country will not have any chance, so I just ask you, if you are not be chosen as the representative of your region, please withdraw your request on the floor.

Now I'll give the floor to Bangladesh. I do believe that Bangladesh is representing APT. Bangladesh, you have the floor.

>> BANGLADESH: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Wonki Min, for giving me the floor on behalf of Asia and Australasia. We're extremely happy to congratulate Mr. Malcolm Johnson. Mr. Malcolm Johnson brings with him a great experience in the related field but more than that, he brings continuity to the organisation.

We assure him all our support and constructive engagement on our part. I hope his ever‑smiling face will lead ITU and its members to even new heights.

I also take this opportunity to thank all other candidates from Nigeria, Canada, Poland, and Mauritania who were also very competent. I hope that the new leadership will usher in a new era for the Union, and on behalf of Bangladesh, I would like to thank them, all the members. I would like to thank all the Member States to be part of this new chapter. Lastly, I invite the new leadership of ITU and all the Member States to our reception, Bangladesh Night at Park Hyatt Busan this evening from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., thanking you once again, and see you soon at the reception. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Bangladesh. Thank you, APT. Now I give the floor to United Arab Emirates. United Arab Emirates, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Arab group, we should like to extend our congratulations to Mr. Malcolm Johnson for his election as Deputy Secretary‑General. The Arab group extends its thanks, as well, to Mr. Malcolm Johnson for his efforts as Director of the TSB. We believe that Mr. Johnson will push forward the development in ITU, together with the new Secretary‑General Elect, as well as all the team, and we wish him all success. Thank you, Sir.

[ Applause ]

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

>> ZIMBABWE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Africa group, on behalf of Zimbabwe, and on my own behalf, I would like to congratulate Mr. Malcolm Johnson for being elected Deputy Secretary‑General of the ITU. In any election Mr. Chairman, there should be one winner, and in this case it is Mr. Johnson. And we commend that because we believe that the decision by the respectable Delegates are in the best interests of this ITU body perpetuate the legacy of Dr. Touré and his entire team.

Also allow me to thank as well all those who voted for Mr. Taylor and the other candidates. We wanted to do that in the recognition of the fact that we need now to focus on what unites us as members of the ITU, and put aside what divides us because of the important responsibility that are ahead of us so that we work as a team.

Mr. Johnson, good luck. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Zimbabwe. Now I give the floor to Canada. Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am taking the floor on behalf of CITEL. First and foremost to congratulate Mr. Johnson on his election as the new Deputy Secretary‑General. I would like to also express our sincere congratulations to the other candidates, including, of course, Dr. Gracie, and we are looking forward Mr. Chairman, to working towards continuing to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the Union, and of course, to a not so long distant future where the Americas region returns to one of the management positions in the ITU. We thank all of the candidates. We congratulate them again, and we wish Mr. Johnson all success. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Canada. Now we go to Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan, you have the floor.

>> KAZAKHSTAN: Thank you, Chairman. On behalf of the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications, I would like to congratulate Mr. Malcolm Johnson and the entire administration of the United Kingdom upon his election to the post of Deputy Secretary‑General. I'd like to wish him every success in his future work. We'd also like to assure you that the RCC countries will support all of the initiatives of the ITU in every way they can. Moreover, on behalf of Kazakhstan, I would like to congratulate Mr. Zhao and the administration of China upon the election of Mr. Zhao to the post of Secretary‑General of the ITU.

I would also like to congratulate Mr. Hamadoun Touré for the enormous amount of work that he has done in the area of ICT. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Kazakhstan. I just want to thank all the Delegates for your support and your cooperation, and thank you for bearing with me.

But it is apparent that we need to wait a little bit more to get the outcome of the election, and there are a few countries which actually do not belong to any specific region, so for the interest of time, I would like to open the floor until the time we get the outcome of the election.

So I would like to give the floor to Algeria. Algeria, you have the floor.

>> ALGERIA: Thank you, Chairman, for this opportunity to speak on behalf of my country. Since this is the first time my country has addressed the Plenipotentiary Conference, I'd like firstly to express a number of thanks and congratulations.

The first goes to the Republic of Korea. I'd like to stress the warm welcome which we've received, and the warm hospitality which has been extended to us. I'd also like to applaud the authorities of the beautiful city of Busan for their commitment and their kindness.

My country's second message goes to Mr. Houlin Zhao, whose election to the post of Secretary‑General delighted us. We warmly congratulate him, and assure him of our support.

Over the course of his role as Deputy Secretary‑General, he's demonstrated his ability to be the new Captain of the ITU ship. Hamadoun Touré's efforts are also worthy of note. We, of course, echo all the tributes which have been paid to him.

It goes without saying that we're also delighted by Mr. Johnson's election. The election was epic, but nonetheless brilliant. He already knows that we can assure him of our tireless support over the course of his mandate.

We also congratulate and offer our encouragement to those candidates who haven't been elected for their remarkable campaigns, as well as their sense of fair play. In conclusion, I'd like to congratulate the Chairman of this Conference for the masterful way in which he's guided our work.

The fairness and relevance of his statements have shown this.

Finally, I'd like to recall that the date of this Conference ties in with the anniversary of our independence. This was a momentous time in the history of our country, and led to our right to join the United Nations and its specialized agencies, including the ITU, which we joined in 1963.

Since that date, we have continually offered our modest contribution to its work. I'd like, therefore, to assure all of you of my country's involvement in this organisation, and we'd like to request your support in our bid for reelection to the Council. Thank you.

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

>> INDIA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'll be very brief. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of APT, I take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Mr. Malcolm Johnson on the outstanding election as the Deputy Secretary‑General of ITU. His election to this position with so much votes is testimony to the fact that Mr. Malcolm Johnson set a very high water mark of his qualitative high level achievement in his present assignment of Director of TSB. Once again on behalf of APT, I personally myself and on behalf of our country, I would like to congratulate Mr. Malcolm Johnson, and take this opportunity to renew our commitment to work with him and continue to support him in his new endeavor to fulfill the mission and vision of ITU.

I also take this opportunity to express our best wishes to Mr. Shola Taylor, Magdalena Gaj, and Mr. Bruce Gracie for their ardent desire to serve the ITU. At the end, Mr. Chairman, I must thank you as you have ‑‑ for your excellent way you have conducted this election of multiple rounds. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

>> TURKEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Turkish Delegation, I would like to congratulate Mr. Malcolm Johnson for being elected as the Deputy Secretary‑General for the next four years. We are sure he will contribute to the ITU in a very efficient manner, and he will work in harmony with the ITU management team and ITU membership as he did in the last eight years as the Director of TSB.

We look forward to working with him as Deputy Secretary‑General. We wish Mr. Johnson great success. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Turkey. Now I'll give the floor to Guatemala. Guatemala, you have the floor.

>> GUATEMALA: Thank you, Chairman. ITU participants, good afternoon. This is the first time that Guatemala has taken the floor at this Conference, and I'd like to speak on behalf of the region of Central America. We have a single telecommunications community there, with 7 countries: El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. I'd like to extend our thanks to Korea for its warm hospitality. We feel very at home here.

I'd also like to congratulate Malcolm Johnson for his election to the post of Deputy Secretary‑General. We know that he'll be more than capable of occupying this post. I'd also like to congratulate Houlin Zhao, the new Secretary‑General. We're all aware of his abilities and of the excellent work which he'll carry out.

All of the common telco countries are actively involved in the work of the ITU and will continue to support all the work going on in the field of telecommunications. We know how important telecommunications are today, and our development has been spurred by broadband, and this has been largely due to the efforts of the ITU. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

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

>> ISRAEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor. On behalf of the State of Israel, I would like to warmly congratulate Malcolm Johnson on his new position. He's truly a professional with a long and impressive record. We wish you, Malcolm, very great success, and look forward to working with you in the future.

I would like also to express our respect to the excellent candidates for their remarkable campaigns, as well as for their contribution to the work of the Union. We look forward to working with you, Malcolm. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

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

>> LEBANON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should like to express congratulations to my dear friend and colleague, Mr. Malcolm Johnson, for his election. This election is a new commissioning by this Assembly that reflects its confidence in Mr. Johnson, as well as the hopes set in him to fulfill this new task.

The past 25 years where we have known Mr. Johnson as a big contributor to the activities of the ITU, and as a delegate from the U.K., or as a Director of the TSB, all these long years confirm that we have put the right person in the right place, and we have not made a mistake in electing him in his new post and functions.

Congratulations, Malcolm, for your success and election. We ask God to grant you all success in your task for the interest of the ITU and its membership.

Let me take this opportunity, as well, to express admiration to the remarkable results by Mr. Taylor. This is a signal to the importance of his contribution. We express congratulations as well to Nigeria and the whole African region.

In the same vein I should like to express congratulations to Ms. Magdalena Gaj and to Poland for their goodwill and for their high spirit manifested throughout the campaign. The same feelings go to Dr. Gracie from Canada.

I should like, as well, to support Dr. Fatimetou, from Mauritania, I should like to praise her efforts throughout the preparations to this Conference and to her positive spirit in withdrawing from these elections. The functions of the Deputy Secretary‑General is a good omen.

This post has always been a passage to a higher place in the ITU, and we do hope it will be the same to our friend Mr. Malcolm Johnson. At present and in the future, Lebanon stands by your side to assist you in every way possible. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Lebanon. There are still many countries who want to take the floor for delivering congratulatory remarks but I just got the message that the election is coming so I would like to give the floor to Malcolm to respond to those congratulatory remarks. Malcolm, you have the floor.

>> MALCOLM JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Chairman. I'd like to thank all those that spoke for their very kind words. I find them very touching, and I'd like to thank the regional representatives and the Member States that spoke. I think it's very appropriate that the regional representatives spoke. I've always placed a lot of importance on the work of the regional organisations in ITU, and how they can make our work more efficient, so I'm very pleased to hear that, and I promise that I'll work very closely with all the regions that we have in ITU. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. First I would like to say thanks to the tellers for their excellent work. Congratulations on your excellent work. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

I have just received the Tellers' reports. I will begin with the election results of BR.

Election of BR Director. First round, ballot papers deposited, 169. Invalid ballot papers, 0. Abstentions, 3. Delegations present and voting, 166. Required majority, 84.

Mr. François Rancy received 166 votes.

[ Applause ]

Congratulations. As you heard, Mr. François Rancy from France has obtained the required majority and I declare Mr. Rancy elected for the post of Director of Radiocommunications Bureau.

[ Applause ]

Mr. Rancy, you have the floor.

>> FRANÇOIS RANCY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, dear colleagues and friends. As you can see, I am overwhelmed by the trust you are putting in me in electing me for the second time as Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau.

I would like to express my profound gratitude to all of you and Governments you represent, in particular to the Government of France, which proposed and supported my candidacy.

Also, I would like to express my gratitude to my beloved wife, Dorothée.

[ Applause ]

It's been a privilege to serve you during these four years, a privilege and a great pleasure, and to work with all of you for achieving the goals of the ITU and the objectives of its Radiocommunication Sector.

This work has been greatly facilitated by the outstanding quality of the relationship between the five elected officials of the Union. It has been an honor to work under the inspiring leadership of Hamadoun Touré, my friend, and in very close cooperation with Houlin Zhao, Malcolm Johnson, and Brahima Sanou, who are also my friends, and to work as one team and one ITU.

During these four years, remarkable results have been achieved by the ITU Radiocommunication Sector in delivering and managing the frequency spectrum worldwide, in adopting standards and best practices, and in disseminating information and know‑how to the entire ITU membership.

A lot, however, remains to do to ensure that the management of Spectrum and Orbit resources by the ITU continues to feed the development of Radiocommunications and connectivity to all citizens of the world. I am deeply honored to benefit from your support to continue this work together with all of you for another four years to pursue this objective. You can be assured that I will devote all my strength and efforts to this mesmerizing task. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Rancy, and congratulations. Now I would like to give the floor to Delegation of France. France, you have the floor.

>> FRANCE: Thank you, Chairman. On behalf of France, I would like to congratulate Mr. François Rancy upon his election which shows remarkable work done as the head of the BR. I would like to thank all of the Delegations here present for their support. It's a very important moment for Mr. Rancy, and of course, for France, and Mr. Rancy, I had the opportunity to say this during the French reception: François Rancy is a remarkable professional. He has a remarkable track record, and he is also a gentleman.

Bravo, thank you very much, and I wish you all the best in the future. The Radiocommunication Bureau has great challenges before it and I am certain that Mr. Rancy will be able to address them and overcome them, and since I have the floor, Sir, I would like to convey my congratulations to Mr. Zhao and Mr. Johnson upon their outstanding elections, too. Thank you very much, Sir.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, France. And felicitations.

Now I will continue to announce the results for election for the Directors of TSB and BDT.

First, TSB. The order is TSB.

Okay. He has been working for ITU longer than me, so although I got kind of the script which actually asked me to announce the TSB Director results first, but SG actually provide advice to me that there is a kind of change in the order.

Okay, okay. I always respect your words, okay. No problem at all.

So it actually raises the anxiety for Director of TSB but I'll follow your guidance. So I'll announce the result of BDT first. Tellers report, election of BDT Director, first round.

Ballot papers deposited, 169. Invalid ballot papers, 0. Abstentions, 3. Delegations present and voting, 166. Required majority, 84.

Mr. Brahima Sanou received 166 votes. Congratulations.

[ Applause ]

As you heard, Mr. Brahima Sanou from Burkina Faso has obtained the required majority, and I declare Mr. Brahima Sanou elected for the post of Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau. Congratulations.

[ Applause ]

Now I'll give the floor to Mr. Sanou.

>> BRAHIMA SANOU: Thank you very much, Chairman. Distinguished Plenipotentiaries, at this very emotional moment, I would firstly like to convey to you my deepest gratitude to you, Member States of the ITU, from the five regions for the confidence that you have just once again shown in me. This is an honor for me, and an honor for my country, Burkina Faso.

Firstly, therefore, I would like to thank the President of Burkina Faso, His Excellency Blaise Compaore for his personal commitment and support he's shown to me.

I would like to thank the Prime Minister and the entire Government of Burkina Faso who are represented here by Ambassador Jean Koulidiati, Ministry of Development and digital economy and post, and the Ambassador Prosper Vokouma, permanent representative to the Burkina Faso who have always stood by my side. Ladies and gentlemen, Ambassadors, thank you.

I would also like to thank the whole team responsible for promoting my candidacy and of course, the African Union. At this solemn moment, please allow me to proudly recall the devotion and the support of my wife, Aminata, who is here in the room.

[ Applause ]

And that of my three daughters, Djamilah, Eva, and Nafissa.

[ Applause ]

To the staff of the BDT, to whom I've also sent a congratulatory e‑mail, I would like to say the following: The Member States have decided for continuity and as the acknowledgment of your work that I have the honor of directing for the past four years. My reelection is a renewal of a commitment to deliver to members and with members, but here, I am committing to this because I know that I can count on the very dynamic team in the BDT. I would like to thank all the BDT staff, and I would like to thank all the ITU staff who have also supported me.

I would like to pay tribute to all of the Directors who came before me at the head of the BDT and express my recognition to all of the retired officials of the BDT, and particularly those with whom I had the privilege of working as Director.

Dear Hamadoun, you once spoke to me about an old lady from Malaysia who was very wise who used to say to her son: What belongs to you is what you gave willingly and freely. You will leave at the end of the year very rich in what you have given freely to the ITU. You will leave holding your head high, enriched with the kindness and humility that you have shown on a personal level, and we are proud of you, and I am, too, very personally.

I would like to wish you and your marvelous family who surround you every success in your future in making human history.

Dear Malcolm and François, the years that would we have spent together have been years of professional enrichment and friendship on a personal and family level. I am gratified that the Member States have given us the opportunity to continue to work together, and I would like to congratulate you, too.

To the candidate who will be elected to the head of the TSB I'd like to express my congratulations in advance and welcome to the team. Now, turning to Mr. Houlin Zhao, I would like to convey to you my warmest congratulations upon your outstanding election to direct our Union at the highest level.

I had the opportunity to benefit from your professionalism, your kindness and your wisdom over the past four years. I would like to assure you of my unswerving support in continuing with the team work that we have begun together. Chairman of the Conference, I would like to thank you for having presided over this election, and I would like to ask you to convey my deepest gratitude to the Government of Korea and the authorities of the city of Busan, because Busan is one of the places which I have the happiest memories of in my life.

[ Applause ]

Finally, I would like to thank all of you, and I'm counting on your support in the four years to come. Thank you once again.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Sanou. Felicitations again. Of course, of course, Burkina Faso. I'll give the floor to Burkina Faso. Burkina Faso, you have the floor.

>> BURKINA FASO: Thank you, Chairman. Secretary‑General, distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, following the election which took place under the strictest conditions, you've once again renewed your confidence in Mr. Brahima Sanou by once again reelecting him to the post of Director of the Telecommunications Development Bureau, the BDT. Through doing this, you have reaffirmed your confidence in Burkina Faso and in Africa. That is why at this solemn moment I would like to convey to you on behalf of the President of Burkina Faso and the Government and people of Burkina Faso all of our deepest gratitude, and we'd like to express your deepest thanks.

His gratitude and acknowledgment also go out to the African Union whose Heads of State supported the candidature of Mr. Brahima Sanou as the African candidate, and of course, we'd like to thank all of his friends for the mobilization which came about in this result.

I would like to note the conviction of Mr. Sanou is that of Burkina Faso for the ITU. I understand that together with the elected officials of the ITU, Mr. Sanou will be able to lead the Development Sector achieving the results which you're counting on. You count on the support of Burkina Faso in this.

I would like to conclude by warmly congratulating Mr. Houlin Zhao and the other elected officials upon their brilliant elections. And I would like to say that I hope that you have the patience, the power, and the wisdom to carry out your tasks in order to ensure that you ensure that the ITU and all the countries of the world benefit from it.

Once again, ladies and gentlemen, Member States, thank you very much once again. Long live international cooperation, once again long live the International Telecommunications Union. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, and congratulations again. Sorry, sorry. Now I'll continue to read the tellers report on TSB Director. Election of TSB Director, first round. Ballot papers deposited, 169. Invalid ballot papers, 0. Abstentions, 0. Delegations present and voting, 169. Required majority, 85.

Mr. Ahmet Erdinç Çavuoglu, 32 votes. Mr. Bilel Jamoussi, 50 votes. Mr. Chaesub Lee, 87 votes.

[ Applause ]

As you heard, Mr. Chaesub Lee from Korea has obtained the required majority, and I declare Mr. Chaesub Lee elected for the post of Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau. Congratulations.

[ Applause ]

Now I would like to invite Mr. Chaesub Lee to the podium to address the Plenary. Mr. Chaesub Lee, would you come to the podium? Thank you.

Now I would like to invite new TSB elect, Mr. Chaesub Lee, to say a few words to the Plenary. Mr. Chaesub Lee, you have the floor.

>> CHAESUB LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Honorable Ministers, distinguished Delegates, dear colleagues, friends, ladies and gentlemen, from the deep inside my heart, I thank all of you electing me as the new Director of the ITU. Giving your trust and confidence to me in directing one of the most important functions in ITU, ITU‑T, for the next four years.

I sincerely thank all of you for your warm support. My deep gratitude to the Government of Korea for presenting my candidacy. My sincere thanks to Honorable Minister Dr. Yanghee Choi, Delegations and all Korean teams and friends who have supported me strongly for the election campaigns.

My sincere thanks also go to all Delegates of ITU Member States, Sector Members, and others, and very important at this moment I would like to thank my dear wife, Kim Yung‑Soo, who is here with me in this room.

[ Applause ]

Since we met in 1979, she devotes and shares her life to supporting me with the continuous praying to God, including my two children, my son and my daughter.

[ Applause ]

Taking this special opportunity, I would also like to express my gratitude to my colleagues at the ITU‑T Study Groups, especially Study Group 13, including TSB staff, for their efforts during my attendance 27 years. In addition, I would also like to thank to my friendly candidature showing high standard competition during the campaign. I am sure we will continue our friendship and work together.

Mr. Chairman, the ITU will celebrate its 150th anniversary next year, and I wish to tell you ITU‑T will have 60 years anniversary in 2016. During the last 60 years, ITU‑T previously CCITT, has remarkably contributed to building today's Information Society. In Asia, 60 years means accomplishing as one of its big cycles in one's life, and start new cycle again.

So I believe ITU‑T is at one of its most important moments for continuous development of future ICT and telecommunications. This should be part of the next cycle of ITU‑T.

As the newly elected Director, I should enhance the values of ITU‑T activities and the products, as well as efficiency and effectiveness collaborating with and outside ITU‑T. In addition, I will do my best to make the ITU deliver excellent services as the new management team collaborating with the existing management teams, also new Secretary‑General, and Deputy Secretary‑General, and the other Directors working together.

So looking forward to working with all of you, and expecting your contributions, and I thank you all very much. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Lee. Please stay with us. Please stay with us. This is a very emotional moment for him, as always all Korean people, and I would like to give the floor to the Minister of Science, ICT and Future Planning of Korea to say a few words to the Plenary. Korea, you have the floor.

>> KOREA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, distinguished Delegates. As Minister of Science, ICT and Future Planning of Korea, I would like to extend my deep gratitude to the Delegates for electing the Korean candidate Dr. Chaesub Lee to the Director of TSB. The Korean Government knows the significance of the TSB and the role of the Director. We trust that Dr. Lee with his duties of the Director, closely cooperating with the Secretary‑General, Deputy Secretary‑General and other elected officials of the ITU.

Since Korea joined the ITU in 1952, Korea has been achieving remarkable growth in the global ICT Sector. I believe such growth has been possible thanks to the all‑out support by the ITU and the international community. The Korean Government has been seeking an opportunity to give back to the international community by sharing its experience accumulated so far.

Today such an opportunity has finally come to Korea with Dr. Lee's election to the TSB Director post. The Korean Government, along with Dr. Lee, promises to contribute to the ITU and the ICT Sector worldwide. I would like to thank all of you once again. And finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all other members elected today. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Korea. Now I give the floor to the Secretary‑General. Secretary‑General, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you, Sir. Sir, on behalf of the whole team at the ITU, I would like here to offer our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Chaesub Lee and Brahima Sanou on their election to head their Bureaux, and Mr. Chaesub Lee for the TSB, as well.

Mr. Chairman, may I also congratulate their countries, France, Burkina Faso, and Korea, for having presented and supported their candidacies throughout the long campaign. Sir, I'd like to thank François Ibrahim for the very kind words he gave us on how my team and I have worked as a team. But as we say in French, you have to render unto Caesar what is Caesar's.

The excellent work that they did over the past four years and also the principles which we applied to our Union, the principles which we all share about working as a team, in mutual respect, mutual trust, confidence, and competence, these were the key notes for the work of my team, so we are very grateful for the confidence you placed in us.

And in our colleagues Zhao and Johnson. This winning team that you have reelected and which is going to be an integral part of the work given all the different Committees and groups which need to be led, I know that they will be up to the task.

And may I congratulate you for choosing this shock team. Our team was the dream team, you can't have two dream teams so this is the shock team and I have full confidence in the choices you've made.

I would just like to say, good luck, good luck to all of you. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary‑General. We do not have much time, but I'm about to open the floor for congratulatory remarks. But before doing that I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Ahmet Erdinç Çavuoglu and our friend Bilel Jamoussi. Ahmet was serving as the Chair of Council and has been working for a long time, many places in ITU, we know his capacity, and his campaign was just exemplary and Bilel is just a colleague of ITU.

I think the campaign they have done throughout the whole election process, campaign process, were just exemplary and fair and transparent. I just want to congratulate these two candidates together with you. Congratulations.

[ Applause ]

Now I'll open the floor, but another but, sorry for this, because we do not have much time so I just want to follow the previous case. So I'll give the floor one for each region.

Please accept my apology on this. So regional coordinators are asked to choose a country which will deliver their congratulatory remarks, representing their region.

So if you are not chosen as a country representing your region, please, please withdraw your request on the floor. Another but: I would like to give the floor first to Turkey. Turkey, you have the floor.

>> TURKEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, on behalf of Turkish Delegation, I would like to congratulate Mr. Lee for being elected as the Director of TSB. We are sure he will lead TSB in an excellent and efficient manner. We will render all our support to him in his work in TSB.

I wish to also express my sincere congratulations to Mr. François Rancy, Director of BR and Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director of BDT for their reelection. We look forward to working with them for the next four years, as well.

I would like to thank all the candidates for their fair and clean campaigns, as well as their commitment to the ITU. Also, I would like to thank all Member States that gave their support for their trust and confidence to our candidate, Mr. Ahmet Erdinç Çavuoglu. I wish to express my cordial thanks for his sincere commitment and dedication for the success of ITU. Turkey as being one of the founding members of ITU has always been supported ITU and its relevant activities with its capabilities in ICT Sector accumulated over the years.

I wish to reiterate my country's strong willingness and commitment to the ITU. Finally, I wish ITU management team great success of which I am certain and look forward to working with them as the Council member. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Turkey. Now I give the floor to Tunisia. Tunisia, you have the floor.

>> TUNISIA: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, Mr. President, distinguished Plenipotentiaries, may I start by congratulating Mr. Chaesub Lee and the whole Korean Delegation for this victory for the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau. May I also thank the candidates from Tunisia and Turkey for their generosity and their efforts. They are worthy of important posts in the same area.

Mr. President, may I use this opportunity today to renew the commitment of my country to thank the Council for its confidence, because Tunisia is still committed to continue being a member of the Council to forward the work of the organisation. This is a well‑known specialized Agency which is best placed to advance telecommunications throughout the world.

And in conclusion, may I congratulate Mr. Houlin Zhao, whom we have elected as Secretary‑General, and Mr. Malcolm Johnson, whom we have elected as Deputy Secretary‑General, and of course, we mustn't forget Dr. Hamadoun Touré, whom I would like to thank for everything which he has done, all the effort which he has deployed in support of the organisation.

And in conclusion, we should thank all the members of the Tunisian Delegation for participating in this Conference. I'd like to thank the Delegates of Tunisia for the campaign when campaigning for Director of the TSB. Thank you to all of you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Tunisia. Now I'll give the floor to countries to congratulate reelected Directors and newly elected TSB Director.

So Lebanon, you have the floor.

Lebanon, you have the floor.

>> LEBANON: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, this moment is a very special moment, the moment that we're living through at this time. It's a very special moment for you. It's a special moment for the Republic of Korea, and it's a special moment for Mr. Lee whom we have elected as Director of the TSB, for him, for his wife, and for the whole family. This is a very emotional moment.

And it is the crowning moment of so much effort and preparation which has been possible thanks to the support of the Korean administration and all their efforts have been crowned in victory. The Republic of Korea has always been a country known for the generosity and tact of its people, the beauty of its landscapes, the vitality of its economy, and the fact that its industry is always forward‑looking, especially its telecommunications and state of the art technology, all put to the service of humanity.

It is no surprise, therefore, that Korea should be the first country in the world to provide optical fibers for every family, every office, every village, to have telecommunications, and this has meant that the GDP has been lifted by over a percentage point since last year to be one of the highest in the world. And all this is going to be shared with us through the ITU, because we all need to share with the Korean experience.

So on behalf of the Delegation of Lebanon, may I congratulate the Korean nation, the Minister of Telecommunications of Korea, the Government of Korea, and you personally, Mr. President, and Mr. Lee and his wife and his family.

And may we use this opportunity also to congratulate my friend, Mr. Rancy, and the French Republic, and if I'm mentioning him after Mr. Lee, it's because he didn't have a very high profile electoral campaign, and may I also congratulate my other friend, Dr. Bilel Jamoussi and say, you have been working in the Standardization Bureau for so long, and if you're not Director now, we still are going to be able to use Bilel Jamoussi's great experience within the work of the Bureau, and may I also congratulate our friends from Burkina Faso. Burkina Faso, you are our brothers. You know why.

And we would like to congratulate you, too, and congratulate Brahima Sanou, who is now leading the BDT, our neighbors too in Turkey, we congratulate you. We've always been with you and we wish you all success in all your enterprises.

>> CHAIRMAN: It might be very difficult to deliver a congratulatory remark for three Directors in a short minute but I would like to ask you to deliver your congratulatory remark in brief. That would be appreciated. Now I'll give the floor to Côte d'Ivoire. Côte d'Ivoire, you have the floor.

>> CÔTE D'IVOIRE: Thank you, Mr. President. May I on behalf of Côte d'Ivoire, but also on behalf of all the countries in the African group who won't be able to speak for themselves, may I offer our warmest congratulations to Mr. Chaesub Lee for being elected on the first round. And now we have the full team for the ITU, and a very impressive team it is, and that's a good thing given all the challenges facing our organisation in the next few years.

I would like to assure you of all the support of my country and of the whole of the African group, and we wish you all success, and having this opportunity to do so publicly, could I also offer our congratulations to the others who were elected today: Malcolm Johnson, François Rancy, and our brother, Brahima Sanou, as well.

And finally, ladies and gentlemen, Delegates, Côte d'Ivoire, that welcoming and warm country, would like to invite you here to our dinner at 9:00 p.m. here in BEXCO. Please come.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Now I'll give the floor to Poland. Poland, you have the floor.

>> POLAND: Dear newly elected Directors, on behalf of CEPT I would like to congratulate all of you on your elections. It demonstrates the support and trust in the membership of the ITU management. We feel particularly moved that despite Mr. Rancy's personal struggle he's able to perform his duties in an excellent manner. I think he serves as a huge inspiration and motivation to all of us.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Sanou as the newly elected BDT Director. I personally wish him a lot of success. 60% of the world population still lacks access to Internet, to connect the unconnected is the biggest challenge ahead of us. Mr. Sanou, good luck in bridging this gap. Thirdly I would like to congratulate the only new person elected, Mr. Chaesub Lee. I wish him luck in his new journey. I am confident that he will be a very able Director and deliver outstanding results.

I am sure that the Union will benefit from the new management and will continue to bring positive change to the complex ICT environment. On behalf of Europe, I would like to promise continuous engagement in the activities of the three sectors of the ITU. Taking this opportunity I'd like to express congratulations to Mr. Malcolm Johnson. We have a saying in Polish that loosely goes that to lose to such a candidate feels like winning. I can easily say that all of us gathered here want excellent Secretary‑General. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Poland, for your gracious remarks. Now I give the floor to the U.S. U.S., you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary‑General, thank you very much. I would like to congratulate on behalf of the Americas the most recent victors of their campaigns. By that same notion and by that same token, I would like to congratulate all of the candidates for all of the campaigns. In America, when you're growing up, you're taught in sports that it's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game.

And all of the candidates over the last two years have played this game with honor, integrity and decency, and if the winners govern the way they ran, it will serve this Union well.

I would also recommend that they reach out to their fellow candidates, all of whom not only ran graciously but conceded graciously. And together, this Union will continue over the next four years in the spirit that our brother, Dr. Touré, is leaving us, and together we will be able to succeed and come together behind a vision for the future that connects all of us to each other. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, U.S. Now I'll give the floor to Pakistan. Pakistan, you have the floor.

>> PAKISTAN: Thank you very much. I would like to extend my heartiest felicitations to Mr. Lee, Mr. Rancy, Mr. Sanou, on this brilliant election, and on behalf of the Pakistan Delegation, I wish to say that the fight that we make during the election is not really a fight. It's an effort to achieve something we believe in.

All those who lose need to be congratulated equally for putting up such a brilliant election. It was a tough competition, but nevertheless, it was between the best in the field. And it is important to congratulate also this house for making the selection of professionals from such a diverse background.

And this group and the Bureau of the Union, we have lots of hopes into them, and we extend all the support from Pakistan to help them achieve and realize the initiatives of the ITU.

At this point in time, I would also like to once again congratulate Mr. Zhao and Mr. Malcolm Johnson. Now we feel that ITU, as it stands today, is expressed by the will of this house. Now ready to work in the next four years to realize the high targets that we ourselves have put forward on this Forum. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

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

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: On behalf of the telecommunications administration of the RCC, we'd like to congratulate the new Directors of the Bureaux. Mr. Chaesub Lee for the TSB, who had such a wonderful victory in the first round. The BR, François Rancy whom we know so well and respect so much, and the Director of BDT, Brahima Sanou, whom we also know very well.

We'd also like to note that these elections have been organised extremely well. We saw what excellent candidates were presented. It was a fair fight and all the candidates were well with our votes. As a result, we have an excellent, friendly and professional team which will be in charge of the ITU Secretariat, and which will be capable of tackling any of the tasks facing the Union.

May I use this opportunity on behalf of the Russian Federation to congratulate Mr. Malcolm Johnson for his victory, Deputy Secretary‑General. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Russia. Many countries are asking the floor but we do not have time, and I already told you I would give the floor on a regional basis. So please forgive me not to give the floor in this occasion.

The reason is because we have so many things to address before we close this session, so some countries are actually asking to announce their social event. Please allow me to do that on behalf of you.

Let me first ‑‑ now we'll move to the final Agenda Item, which is the other business. So today the coffee break was offered by Switzerland. Thank you. Thank you again, Switzerland.

[ Applause ]

And Mali, Switzerland and Tanzania, actually they offered gifts, so you can pick up these gifts as you did yesterday and the day before yesterday.

And there are social events this evening. Japan, Bangladesh, Uganda, Morocco and Côte d'Ivoire will provide dinner. Thank you very much for your hospitality.

And there is one more announcement. Because tomorrow, there will be a fireworks festival, so you can enjoy amazing fireworks festival tomorrow and the weather will support us. However, that will create some problems in terms of commuting from this venue to hotels. So because of these fireworks, the buses will not be able to get as close to hotel as usual. There are four hotels influenced by these fireworks. Those four hotels are the ‑‑ this is just for the evening, by the way.

These four hotels are the Westin Chosun, Park Hyatt, and Homers hotel. I'm sorry for that because there is traffic control, there will be traffic control at the time of the day, so the bus will go as far as they can go but then you should get off the bus and you should walk but I think you can enjoy the fireworks anyway.

Yes. And by the way, there will not be any Plenary Saturday and Sunday, so don't worry about that. And we'll start at 8:30 on Monday for Council and RRB.

But having said that, I would declare that the Ninth Plenary Session is adjourned.

Please, please, please, yes, the session is closed but, please, please. So I just want to congratulate again the elected Directors, Mr. Rancy, Mr. Sanou, and newly elected Mr. Lee.

But having said that, I just want to give the floor to Secretary‑General. He has something to say to you. Secretary‑General, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: I beg your pardon, can you stay seated for just five minutes? I have a small announcement. If you allow me, I'll go from the podium and do it.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wanted to recognize, take the opportunity of the Plenipotentiary Conference to recognize the work of some people who have been associated with us for some time and today I have the honor to present ITU medals and certificates to four individuals that I would like to do here. I would like to call upon Mr. Jamil Mulla from Saudi Arabia to be with us. I see Mr. Mulla is not in the room but I would like to call on Mr. Habeeb Alshankiti. I want to present medal and certificate. I want to call on Mr. Adama Konaté and Ambassador Tony Holmes. I would like to present them with a token of my appreciation. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. These individuals have contributed greatly in giving me personal advice throughout my time as Secretary‑General, and I would like to thank them again. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

[ End of Ninth Plenary Session ]

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