FINISHED TRANSCRIPT

FIFTH WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT POLICY FORUM

PLENARY

14 MAY 2013

0930 ‑ 1238 CET

Services provided by:

Caption First, Inc.

P.O. Box 3066

Monument, CO 80132

1‑877‑825‑5234

+001‑719‑481‑9835

\* \* \* \* \*

This is being provided in a rough‑draft format. Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is provided in Order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings.

\* \* \* \* \*

>> Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, please take your seats. The Fifth World Telecommunication ICT Policy Forum will start in a few minutes. Thank you.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning. On behalf of the International Telecommunication Union, I'm very pleased to welcome you today to the opening ceremony of the World Telecommunications ICT Policy Forum 2013.

I believe I'm waiting for a short presentation.

[Video.]

[Music.]

And would hopefully now I'd like to present a short video produced here at ITU from crowd‑sourced video clips received from young people around the world on what the future of the Internet means to them. Roll the video, please.

[Captioned video.]

[Music.]

[Applause.]

>> I would now like to give the floor to Dr. Hamadoun Touré, ITU Secretary General, for his remarks. Dr. Touré, please.

[Applause.]

>> DR. HAMADOUN TOURÉ: Excellencies, Ministers, delegates, distinguished friends, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is a tremendous honour and a real pleasure to welcome you here today to the Fifth World Telecommunication and ICT Policy Forum here in Geneva. We are joined here for this Opening Ceremony by Her Excellency Doris Leuthard, the Swiss Minister for the Envirnoment, Transport, Energy and Communications, by Mr. Fadi Chehadé, the CEO of ICANN, and Dr. Robert Kahn, one of the founders of the Internet. We are grateful for your support and I look forward to hearing from each of you in a moment, and welcome.

It is a tremendous pleasure to see so many familiar faces as well as so many newcomers in this room. And I would like to give a special welcome to delegates here on site as well as to the many people who are following remotely this conference from around the world.

Our delegates demonstrate the truly multistakeholder nature of this Forum and include representatives from civil society alongside our Member States and Sector Members. I would like to thank the Member States that have broadened their delegations to include civil society and industry representatives, as they usually do in ITU. And I would like all the Member States to follow their excellent example in making their delegations as inclusive and multistakeholder as possible.

Indeed, I think we all agree that continued progress in bringing the world online can only be guaranteed by continuing to practice a multistakeholder approach. Only together can we create a shared vision. And only together we can transform that shared vision into effective action.

Let me also take this opportunity to remind delegates, both present here and remote, that we are fortunate that at WTPF 13 we are pleased ‑‑ this conference is being able ‑‑ will be able to work in all six languages, official six languages of the Union, but also will be also webcast in the six languages. We are very happy to have the funding necessary to match our ambition to deliver maximum openness, inclusivity and transparency, and we are grateful to those who have made this possible.

Ladies and Gentlemen, many of you here today closely follow the proceedings of WCIT at the end of last year in Dubai. In the run‑up to that conference and during the conference itself, there was a great deal of concern that ITU and the United Nations was trying to take control of the Internet. Let me announce you today ‑‑

[Laughter.]

It is my pleasure to announce today ‑‑

[Applause.]

‑‑ that we are not taking over the Internet.

[Laughter]

The UN peacekeepers and their blue helmets are not coming to take over the world IXPs. The UN peacekeepers are not coming to take over the Internet critical resources, including the root servers and the DNS, and my good friend Fadi Chehadé can continue to do the good work he's doing at ICANN.

[Applause.]

Seriously, dear friends, we never intended to take over the Internet, you know that. The Internet is just doing fine. But, Ladies and Gentlemen, let's go back to WTPF now.

The WTPF does give us a unique opportunity to come together to pose, to reflect and to debate the emerging issues in telecoms and ICT issues and their significance for us all. Most importantly, it allows us to look at how we can connect the unconnected, which is the heart of what ITU does. And it's fully consistent with the significant role we have played in enabling the Internet through standards, spectrum, fiberoptic networks, satellites and much more.

The timing of this WTPF with its focus on international Internet‑related public policy matters is particularly appropriate as we stand at a tipping point today between the Internet as a vital enabler of social and economic progress in the industrialized world and the Internet as a valuable global resource and basic commodity of human life everywhere. By the end of this year, there will be almost as many active, mobile cellular phones as there are people on this planet, 7 billion. And some 2.7 billion people with mobile broadband subscriptions. I mean 2.7 billion with Internet connection. 2.1 billion of them with mobile subscriptions.

But at the end of this year, almost ‑‑ this means 70 percent of the people of the world, in the developing world, still are offline. They have no access to the world's greatest library, greatest knowledge, greatest marketplace and the world's greatest social gathering. This is something we must all work hard to change.

It is also clearly a matter of economic justice and fairness. It is also a fact, as several commentators, including Julius Genachowski, former FCC Chairman, have pointed out recently, that all Internet users lose something when some countries are cut off from the World Wide Web. It is therefore vital to recognize the value of the Internet as a global resource, basic commodity and valuable international platform for exchange and learning.

We must defer in wording, but we should all recognize the concept. That is why international Forums like this for debate and exchange, such as the WTPF, one of ITU's most free thinking, free‑ranging events, are essential to ensure we maximize the value of this global resource for everyone.

At WCIT, it's clearly demonstrated on a whole range of issues that there is no single world view, but several. In a global village, we need to ensure that all voices are heard; in whatever possible, that all views are respected and accommodated.

So let me encourage you, Ladies and Gentlemen, to lead by example and to put any past differences aside. Let me urge you to look ahead and to engage in discussion and dialogue and to seek compromises when consensus cannot be achieved.

Let me encourage you to seek a shared vision. That's how we're going to lead the world. Our leaders have to dream, and dream big. Sharing that dream that becomes a vision. And with us together, we have a shared vision and we will put that into action. That's going to be something big.

At ITU, our role is to act as a facilitator and a neutral platform, a neutral Forum so that bridges can be built between members and compromises brokered where necessary. This is what we have done over the course of over 150 years. And I'm proud to say that we have been very successful in this regard so far. And this will continue. And I fully intend that ITU should maintain and strengthen its bridge building role and leverage our unique position as the place where Member States and Sector Members can come together in a neutral setting to discuss the most important issues of the day.

Right now, some of the hottest issues under discussion concern the Internet, and in particular how or even if it should be governed. It is a very interesting and indeed very thorny subject that it is. But we need to see past the turns if we were to deliver our bouquet of flowers, fresh smelling roses for the future.

I believe that the future can indeed be rosy, and I indeed look forward very much to your discussions and deliberations over the coming days.

Should we be really encouraging an anonymous free‑for‑all in the online world when we expect completely different standards in the real world, particularly when it comes to those who commit crimes or abuses, abuse their privileges, and especially against our children? Do we really want the free circulation of horrific images on social networks openly visible to children when we would never allow the same images to be broadcast on daytime television? And how do we manage the innermost and growing power of individual companies that now have greater control than many nation states over our private data, over what we are exposed to and over what we are sold?

Ladies and Gentlemen, back in 2003 and 2005, ITU organized and hosted the first global summit on Information Society issues, the World Summit on Information Society, organized by Switzerland and later, thank you very much, was great summit in 2003, and 2005 in Tunis. It was original idea of Tunisian delegations at the Plenipotentiary Conference in 1998 in Minneapolis back then.

At the time, there were many who questioned the need for or the importance for such a summit. And, yet, it turns out that we are way ahead of our time because although WSIS did not invent the term "Internet Governance," it certainly offered us the first internationally negotiated working definition of it.

WSIS was also the first truly multistakeholder summit with participation from the bottom‑up, from grass root civil society to private companies, to governments from around the world. There were no demonstrations outside of the conference centre. Why would you demonstrate outside if you can come inside and talk? That was a truly multistakeholder model. It was the first in the time in the UN system, and it was a great success.

Internet Governance is of course significantly broader than just the management of so‑called critical Internet resources. Fadi will agree with me on that. It includes a broad range of other significant issues, including how best to ensure our online society is respectful and observant of the views of others. These are principles we all accept in the real world. So we need to discuss how they can be reflected in our online lives, as well.

In keeping with the long established traditions of ITU, I urge you to take on board all of these concerns and to consider them carefully. And this, of course, is why we are hosting WTPF 13, to continue grow world conversation on vital issues of the importance today to all of us, to build bridges between different worlds. Indeed, building bridges is what this conference is about. Between different views, to create a shared vision again, just as the original International Telecommunication Regulations, the ITRs of 1988. It's paved the way for the global growth of the telecom industry by offering first global agreement and framework for interconnection and the exchange of international telecoms traffic at the time in 1988. And the messages ‑‑ the telecom traffic emerging from WTPF would be a next step.

It will be important that we take that tradition and culture for the next step during the WTPF in helping to get people online worldwide by encouraging greater investment in broadband, for example.

Distinguished Delegates, the six Draft Opinions here for consideration that were carefully discussed during the preparatory process should act as a stepping stone toward fostering and enabling environment for the greater growth and development of broadband connectivity. Broadband, that's what we're really talking about here. Promoting Internet Exchange Points, IXPs, as a long‑term solution to advance connectivity, supporting multistakeholder and Internet Governance, supporting operationalizing the enhanced cooperation process and supporting capacity building for the deployment of IPv6. Those are some of the key elements, supporting also the transition from IPv6 to the adoption and tradition before to IPv6. If we can do that, and I firmly believe we can. Sometimes when I say I can ‑‑ ICANN, say I can, we can, yes, we can do that.

Then, if we do that firmly, we will be very much closer to our mission to connect the world, and we will be one step close to transforming this information society to the knowledge society that we are dreaming of. And, yes, we can do that.

And we'll be able to access ‑‑ every citizen of this planet will be able to access information, use information, create information and share information. Those are the four pillars of the knowledge society. And they should do that in an affordable and secure manner. This is most certainly a future worth aiming for, a future worth dreaming for. And so let's get to work, dear friends. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

I hope you like my blue helmet.

[Laughter]

>> Thank you, Dr. Touré, and I'm sure we're all very happy to know we are not about to lose you to the UN peacekeeping unit. There is a lot of work to be done.

Now, it is a great pleasure for me to invite Madame Doris Leuthard, member of the Swiss Federal Council, to address the Forum. Madam Leuthard.

>> DORIS LEUTHARD: Ladies and Gentlemen, Ministers, Mr. Secretary General of the ITU, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Federal Council of Switzerland, allow me to wish you the warmest welcome to Geneva. For Switzerland, it is a great honor to host you and the World Telecommunications and ICT Policy Forum.

I'm very pleased to see you all here today. And I would like to underscore the importance of this event for the world and of course also for Switzerland.

Internet‑related issues deeply affect our society on a daily basis. Citizens, business, domestic and external trade, government, schools, universities, education, the police, the authorities, these are just a few examples. The situation differs from country to country and so we need to listen to the needs and the situations that we find at the political level that we need to resolve.

Addressing interlateral‑related issues therefore means involving every component of society. Of course we are talking about civil, economic and industrial players, but also every involved in culture and education as well as government.

I would like to sincerely congratulate ITU and its Secretary‑General for organizing this forum with a multistakeholder approach, which allows us to bring together all the interested parties and sectors in a spirit of cooperation and dialogue.

The diverse range of opinions put forward at this event will guarantee that ITU is substantially enriched in continuing its work.

Allow me to make a few comments which seem to me to be fundamental and which ITU will have to consider when developing its strategy. The Internet offers unlimited perspectives and opportunities. Everybody agrees on that. These prospects and opportunities are unlimited for our societies, and sometimes they are also opportunities we don't immediately see.

Regarding ITU's Internet‑related mandates, here I would like to encourage ITU to continue to work hand‑in‑hand with all the organizations and entities that are involved in Internet‑related public policies, including ICANN.

It is nevertheless important to recall the responsibility of governments and their role in the protection of the rights of citizens and consumers. Enhanced cooperation, as described in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society in 2005, must be taken seriously. It is important that governments can play their role and provide the necessary impetus.

Secretary General, I cannot conclude my contribution without saying a word or two about another forum equally as important which the ITU is organizing in parallel with this one. I'm speaking, of course, about the WSIS Forum.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the ITU, with the support of UNESCO in particular, organized this event in Geneva to review the implementation of the WSIS action lines.

Speaking of the ITU and UNESCO and the work of the broadband commission, Switzerland appreciates this effective collaboration between these two UN organizations. We share the vision of the Commission which seeks to ensure affordable access for the populations of the entire world because without affordable access, there will be no development and a lot of differences in the world.

In this context, I'm also pleased to learn of the holding yesterday of a high‑level strategic dialogue on the role of broadband. Indeed, this infrastructure is essential to a modern global economy. The benefits it brings promotes the acceleration of the economic, social and cultural development of our societies.

Last but not least, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to emphasize the ITU's concern to give women a major role in the creation of the Information Society. The initiatives of the ITU, in particular Girls in ICTs, are to be welcomed. Our policy, in fact, continues to give even greater importance to women in this sphere.

I would like to thank you and wish you good luck to the Fifth World Telecommunications ITC Policy Forum and the 2013 WSIS Forum. We wish you a pleasant stay here in Geneva and Switzerland and hope you will have many fruitful conversations and results. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

>> Thank you, Madame Leuthard. I would now like to give the floor to our very good friend Mr. Fadi Chehadé, President and CEO of ICANN. Mr. Chehadé.

[Applause.]

>> FADI CHEHADÉ: Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary General of the ITU, Your Excellency, Mrs. Doris Leuthard, your Excellencies, Ministers, Heads of Delegations, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, bonjour. (French). In this beautiful city of Geneva, we are very pleased to be here, so thank you very much. It's a very special place to be. Geneva brings us all together. It has and continues to.

I'm deeply honored to be here today. It's a special thing that's happening. Some of you may see it. Some of you may be new to it. But Dr. Hamadoun Touré, ICANN, my Chairman, Dr. Steve Crocker, sitting here with me, we have decided to start a new season. And it was a small decision in Baku. But it has now become everyone's benefit. And I thank you for that. I want to personally thank you for that on behalf of myself, of our community, for opening your world and bringing our world along with yours. Thank you.

[Applause.]

You're a very, very gracious Secretary‑General, and we will remember that. Your staff, as well, all of them, every one of them. Thank you for welcoming us.

It takes mutual respect. It takes reciprocity, but it also takes grace and personal courage. And these four ingredients have brought the Internet Governance community together. We're all together. And we will continue to work together because there's much work to do.

I want to first start by saying that along with other organizations ‑‑ and many people who have talked to me in the last few days ‑‑ ICANN has found the preparatory process for the WTPF to be very inclusive and open to all stakeholders. And that is a remarkable thing. And we thank you for that again.

I would like to extend my deep appreciation for that to the Secretary‑General, but the group of experts that led to creating these six resulting opinions have come together and have shown that we more than ever must work together. We are complementary in our focus, in our capabilities, but we are one in our goal. Thank you for that.

[Applause.]

Our Tunisian friends started it, as you said, Mr. Secretary-General, back in 2005 at the WSIS. And by the way, to our Tunisian friends, thanks for continuing to be such a beacon of embracing the new world in that part of the world. I'm personally and many of us are very proud of what Tunis has been doing to actually embrace the Internet and to make it a real part of the transformation of their society.

But you've started it in 2005 with the WSIS. And the WSIS brought us to a clear set of principles on the importance of the multistakeholder Internet Governance model.

The multistakeholder approach works. We have used it. And it's produced many good fruits. Let's start with the International Domain Names. That was a product of multistakeholder work. It is now allowing us to take the DNS, the Domain Name System, and make it the world system so people can have domain names in Cyrillic characters, in Chinese characters, in Arabic characters, not just in Latin characters.

It is also the multistakeholder model that produced the DNS SEC, standard for security. That is a good standard. And it will help make the DNS safer.

The new protocol of IPv6 and how it's enabling the Internet of Things and the growth of the Internet for all of us is also a product of the multistakeholder model.

And of course the talk of the town now is the new gTLD programme, the programme that enables people to get new generic top‑level domains. So we don't have a few people or a few TLDs in charge of most of the domain names of the world. Now, everyone can participate and everyone can have a top‑level domain to express their community, to express their language, to express their new ideas. This is the world we are all enabling through the multistakeholder model.

Therefore, we would hope that any further reforms ‑‑ and I think we all agree on this ‑‑ should only be triggered and originated from a community‑led multistakeholder approach. It works. We all know it does. And we're one in that commitment.

Now, with many of my ICANN friends, I have to sometimes remind everybody that when we say "multistakeholder," that does include governments. Governments are part of the multistakeholder model. In fact, without them, the multistakeholder model loses its legitimacy. So governments, businesses, civil society, everyone must be welcome. And I am committed to that. And ICANN has shown its commitment to that.

Let's look at the Governmental Advisory Committee. ICANN's GAC, as it's known, today has 124 governments and 28 observer organizations. Of these, by the way, 70 governments are from developing countries.

However, numbers don't say it all. What is more important is to see how effective has this body been in influencing the multistakeholder process? And I must only point you to what they just did in Beijing, for example, at our recent meeting. The Government Advisory Committee is engaged, it is working, it is adding value, and the advice they give us is definitely influencing how ICANN evolves.

Governments represent their people, and therefore they are very much part of our trajectory forward to insure that the multistakeholder model is successful. Their contribution to the policy development for Internet naming and addressing is central and will remain so, you have my assurance of that.

Of course, I need to remind everyone, as the Secretary‑General did, Internet Governance is much more than just names and addresses. That's the part ICANN coordinates. But there is a lot more to it. Even within the Internet Governance ecosystem that exists today, we have other organizations with whom we work very closely. And they're equally dedicated and they're equally committed to the multistakeholder model. I name ISOC, the Internet Society; the Internet Engineering Task Force, or the IETF; the Worldwide Web Consortium, W3C, that has many contributions that affect our work and our lives today; and the five regional Internet registries: In Africa, AFRINIC; in AP, APNIC; in Americas, in North America, ARIN; and Latin America, LATNIC; and certainly in Europe and the Middle East, RIPE NCC. They work very hard along our side to make sure we together ‑‑ together ‑‑ in a multistakeholder way, join organizations and governments and the ITU in ensuring that we continue managing the Internet as we have been entrusted to do.

Also, it's very important that we have directed a lot of the regional activities and the global activities of ICANN to work closely with the IGF. The IGF is an important international governance forum for the Internet that is multistakeholder and brings us together. All of my regional activities in the last few months have been done with the IGF regional organizations.

So our recent meeting in Dubai, following the WCIT, we went back to Dubai, working with the United Arab Emirates and the Middle Eastern region to actually bring together society, government, business and civil society and discuss how we can improve the governance of the Internet in the Middle East.

We did the same in Addis. And I want to thank again the ITU and the Secretary‑General for working with us on a very successful, multistakeholder meeting in Addis. More than 200 representatives of governments, businesses, civil society, academics, youth organizations came together to discuss how we can improve multistakeholder Internet Governance in Africa. We worked with the IGF, with the African Union, and will continue to do so because these regional organizations know the territory. They know their people. And we work with them to reach their people. So we thank them for that.

On this note, I want to conclude this part of my talk to say it is very clear to me seven months into this role that no one organization, no one country, no one person can manage the Internet. No one. We must do this together. This is extremely important. And it's our unity that will make this a very strong Internet that is secure and stable for everybody. When we get divided is when the Internet loses and our people lose. So it's our unity that manages the Internet.

ICANN and many of our activities for years have been open and transparent and available to all. But by the same token, I'll be the first to say that we have not reached the world. A lot of the things we do have remained very focused and centric in the areas we started, in the U.S. But in reality, nothing, nothing stopped what we do from being global.

I was brought by the Board of Directors of ICANN with one mission: To accelerate ICANN's going to the planet. And I emphasize this is important. This is not about the world coming to ICANN anymore. Now we are going to the world. Outreach and engagement to the world is central to our mission right now. I will tell you that if we continue to be perceived as a fortress in the U.S., we all lose. We must be an oasis to the world. And we must have activities that start at the edges of the planet and come back to the heart of the community.

And, therefore, we are moving all of our efforts and all of our activities to actually embrace the world and the planet. And you will see from ICANN an important posture change in the days, months and years to come, a posture that understands that unless we are one with the world, we are isolated. We must embrace all of you, and that's a commitment that we will do.

Now, it's important to remind all of us that names and numbers, as the Secretary‑General says, while critical, are only a small part of the overall governance picture. We still have many issues as a community that we must manage: Internet security, privacy, access, affordability, multilingualism and on and on are things we must grapple with.

I have two children in their 20s. I want them one day to say I and you, all of us, every one of us, all of our children should say: We had a moment where we could take this great enterprise that was created by the very, very humble contributions of people in this room. I note Bob Kahn sitting at the edge of this table. I know Dr. Steve Crocker sitting across from me. He said the youth, who in the 70s created this thing, we are all grappling with and learning from today. And we thank them for that.

[Applause.]

And they along, with Vint Cerf and many others, gave us this utility. And it's incumbent upon us to continue with this utility forward and to make it strong and stable and secure and available to everyone.

Remember this thing. By 2015 ‑‑ this is very soon ‑‑ there will be more people, more Chinese people on the Internet than English speakers. In two years.

I was in Beijing recently. 564 million users in China. And in two years, they will exceed the number of English users. This is the new world.

And the next billion users of the Internet will certainly not come from Omaha or from Brussels. They will come from the emerging economies of the world. And we must embrace them. We must go to them. We must work with them. And that commitment means more focus on development, more focus on outreach, more focus on training. Not just talk, but doing. So measure us by this. And the world is measuring us by this, how much we do for the rest of the world.

So this WTPF, in conclusion, is just another step forward in our common journey to govern this global resource. Our responsibility is to listen to each other. Listen. The first rule of engagement. Listen to each other. And to work together so that we can conclude with one stable, secure, affordable Internet for everyone. And I believe we can all agree on this. Thank you.

[Applause.]

>> Thank you, Mr. Chehadé, for your inspiring words.

Our final speaker today is Dr. Robert E. Kahn, President of CRNI and cofounder of the Internet, Dr. Kahn.

[Applause.]

>> ROBERT E. KAHN: Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished guests, Mr. Touré, I'm very delighted to have this opportunity to speak with you today. I want to express some of my views on the evolution of the Internet. Nothing really is more important than how we manage its evolution. And thank you very much, Fadi, for those kind remarks about our contributions, Steve's, and all those others who have contributed to the Internet over the years.

What I'd like to do today, this morning, is give you a personal view of sort of one important technological future for the Internet that I think is going to be extremely fundamental. I'm sure there will be many others, but I want to focus on one that I happen to be very interested in personally.

It's been a very long time since the early days of the Internet when we had almost 20 years of working with the research community and very few impediments to our experimentation.

The last 20 years have been nothing like the first.

It's been almost 10 years now since the first WSIS began here in Geneva. I was fortunate to be able to attend and see the uptake from virtually every representative from around the world. And it's now only a few months beyond the WCIT meeting in Dubai.

So I think this is a particularly good time to take stock of what's happened, where we are at this time, what the challenges and opportunities are for the future, and to figure out figure out what is our strategy for dealing with that future at this point in time. Things are not the same as they were even 10 years ago, and I think we have opportunities to really pick a good path to the future.

Yet, despite all of the concerns that have been expressed about things like spam and viruses, security and the like, I think it's fair to say the Internet is working well and is still a very effective means of interaction throughout the world.

The primary institutions that were created along the way continue to function extremely well, despite the challenges that they've had to deal with.

The formal and the de facto standards that have been used in the Internet come from many different quarters, including the IETF, which was mentioned, the W3C, IEEE, ETSI, 3GPP and, yes, the ITU itself.

And then the nature of the Internet, after all these years, is now much better understood, both around the world and in quarters that never really had to address it before. And it continues to evolve.

So I'd like to focus my remarks and the rest of the talk on what I think will be an increasingly important area for all of us; and that is, namely, managing information in the Internet and achieving interoperability between different kinds of information systems. These will all change as time goes on.

What I'm describing is not an alternative for the Internet; but, rather, it's a set of capabilities that can be integrated with it, makes use of it in many different ways. Just like the Internet, it's an open architecture. It's really defined by its interfaces and the protocols and the information structures that pass across them.

Originally, the Internet achieved interoperability of computer networks and the machines that were connected to them for the purpose of communicating information. Packets were the basic entities, basic communication entities. And each packet had a unique address, which is known now as an IP address or an Internet Protocol address. And while I fully expect packet communications and the use of IP addresses to be with us and an essential part of the Internet in the future, I see a new kind of entity, the digital object, becoming an essential element to be managed. It's really what we're mostly interested in is the information itself. The handle that we give to a digital object is called the digital object identifier. And this identifier, therefore, becomes a primary means by which we can access information, now or in the future.

Digital objects also have certain information associated with them, known as metadata, which can be used to characterize the objects and to allow us to search for them. If we are to trust information into the Internet for long periods of time, we need simple ways to access stored information without necessarily remembering all of the identifiers. This was part of the reason why the Domain Name System was created, so we didn't have to remember IP addresses. There's a similar parallel here. So this metadata allows for effective searching to be achieved.

Many of you are undoubtedly familiar with recent developments in cloud computing and the Internet of Things. And what I'm describing is fully compatible with both of them. If you know the identifier of a digital object, you can access it by its identifier regardless of where or in how many places in the Internet it may be stored, or even if it's mobile.

If you don't know the identifier, you will be able to use a set of federated metadata registries run by many different parties to determine the identifiers, and this will be mainly handled by software on your behalf.

Existing and new identifier systems can be used, and such systems can be made interoperable, in effect by adding a unique prefix to each identifier to distinguish it from all the others.

As an open architecture, this approach can be maintained independent of the underlying technology that is used to implement it. In that sense, it parallels quite closely the approach that was used in developing today's Internet.

What are the components of such an open architecture? They are, one, the repositories from which digital objects can be accessed and where they are stored. And it provides a uniform interface by identifiers to the storage technology that's used. This can be local. It can be over the Internet. But it's presumably going to be something that changes significantly in the future as commercial technology evolves.

The metadata registries can all be federated. And that's going to be important because it's not one party that's going to be able to run them, but they need to work together.

And then, finally, the resolution system, that maps these identifiers into relevant information about the associated digital objects such as authentication information, public keys, or how to access the information in the first place.

Each of these components is already available. Many groups in the research community and commercial industry are using them at present, including government, I would point out. And that almost surely, as was the case with the Internet, more advanced versions of these technologies will be developed by industry.

Today, thousands of organizations are providing resolution services for such identifiers, and many of the most significant publications in our field, such as the IEEE publication, the ACM publications, many medical journals and the like use identifiers, digital object identifiers, to identify their materials.

In principle, imagine a future in which every user of the Internet has their own personal repository and personal registry for their personal information. But many will undoubtedly rely on commercial services and commercial capabilities, instead.

I haven't said much about security. Many people think this is something little attention was paid to early on. Nothing could be further from the truth. It's a very difficult issue to deal with, and it's one that I think we will be dealing with in the future for as long as we care about the Internet and its information and the users that are on it.

But the components I actually just described actually can provide a deployed, integrated public key information, so-called PKI capability, by making use of public keys that are stored in the resolution system. This is an important operational aspect of the system which can be invoked in conjunction with other trusted means to assign identifiers to individuals and to other Internet resources.

The original root of the resolution system that I've been describing has been run by CNRI, my organization, since its inception in the early 1990s. So it's been in existence now for approximately 20 years.

But we've been asked on occasion by others to work with them on an approach that would allow for distributed administration of that system. This is an interesting development, I think, both technically and on a social level.

The current root of the system now supports multiple administration. And I expect a few other organizations will join with us in the coming months to help administer the system.

And ultimately with sufficient experience I would expect many more administrators to become part of the process, as well. And I also hope we can find a way to liaise this or even integrate it more closely with what ICANN is doing.

I do expect to see multiple information systems emerge. And a primary goal should be to ensure interoperability of those systems with full security so that they continue to function effectively together with the existing ones over their lifetimes.

Interoperable health information systems are just one example where the ability to share information, with security, will benefit all individuals, both at home and while on travel around the globe.

It's my hope that I can keep you informed on progress in this area in the future, that we can work with other groups and organizations that have interest in this particular area. And I would suggest that now in particular is a very good time for us to take a deep breath, take stock of where we are, how far we have come in our deliberations on the Internet and now find ways to work together more effectively to evolve the Internet, to provide new and improved capabilities and services for all mankind. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

>> And thank you, Dr. Kahn.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are now coming to a close of the World Telecommunications and ICT Policy Forum Opening Ceremony.

I'd like to thank her excellency, Mrs. Doris Leuthard, for having been kind enough to come and attend this morning. I'm afraid she has to leave immediately now, so I'd like to ask everyone to remain seated while she leaves the room. Thank you, Mrs. Leuthard.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please stay seated. We will start the plenary very shortly. Thank you very much.

>> Excellencies, can I have a microphone? Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, please regain your seats. We are about to start the plenary meeting. Thank you.

>> Okay. Let's start, Ladies and Gentlemen.

[Gavel.]

>> Ladies and Gentlemen, we are going to start the first plenary of the Fifth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum. We had an informal heads of delegations meeting yesterday, and I would like to start by going to the issue of the election of the Chairman and Vice Chairs.

I would like to inform you that after consultation with the different regional groups, I have the pleasure to propose as Chairman of the Fifth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum the ‑‑ His Excellency Minister Ivo Ivanovski, Minister of Information Society, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. I would like to propose to you for you approval.

[Applause.]

Thank you, this approval by acclamation. And I would like to invite His Excellency, Ivo Ivanovski, to come and join us here at the podium.

I was telling Your Excellency, Mr. Ivanovski, that myself, as Secretary General, the Ministry General, the Directors of BR, BDT, and TSB, and the whole ITU Secretariat at your disposal for this conference. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Mr. Secretary, Dr. Touré, Ladies and Gentlemen, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, it is a great honour to be elected as a Chairman to this Forum, and I would like to thank every one of you for the support. This is tremendous occasion on the behalf of my country, the Republic of Macedonia. I thank you for the responsibility you have invested in me as a Chair for this Fifth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum.

In Macedonia, we have been quick to recognize the vital importance of the Internet access for all and in particular broadband access, and we are proud that our country can boast some of the best and the most affordable broadband in the world. And this comes from a small country, not very wealthy nation in southern Europe. We are in the last stretch of the mile to release the digital dividend effective June 1, 2013, where we'll do the analog-to-TV switchoff. And in parallel, it's in progress, the request for purchase, for the 800 megahertz spectrum for 4G technology.

The WTPF is unique among ITU events in providing an open and informal cross‑sector Forum for government, industry and civil society to get together to forge a common vision around the issues that affect all stakeholders. We have the opportunity over the next three days to engage in a free and open discussions. And because the outcomes are not binding and because the terms of reference of the Forum exclude the possibility of voting, I think we can look forward to some very fruitful exchanges. Indeed, it will be my goal as a Chair to see this Forum laying down important foundation for the future investment in information communication technology and broadband infrastructure which will be needed if we are to bring the remaining two‑thirds of the world's people online.

This is tremendous opportunity and a tremendous responsibility. The Internet is rapidly becoming one of the commodities of daily life for those in the developed world, and we must work to ensure that it is not just us but all the people of the world who benefit from affordable and equitable access to this uniquely empowering resource.

As Dr. Touré said earlier, this is an opportunity to build bridges and to forge alliances for the future. And the structure of this Forum allows us to go further than we were perhaps able to do at formal conferences such as WCIT12 at the end of last year.

ITU provides us with a unique, neutral and impartial debating platform that will allow us to forge consensus and make further steps towards bridging the digital divide. So let's work together in the true spirit of multistakeholderism and let's build a better world. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

Should we proceed? Dr. Touré? Thank you very much.

I'd like to say a few words over the organization of the Forum. Will you announce the Vice Chairmans first? Okay, please.

>> DR. HAMADOUN TOURÉ: I would like now to an announce the consultation for the Vice Chairs of the conference. After consultation, I have the honour to present to you the following: Ms. Magdalena Gaj, Poland, from Europe; Mr. Ismailov Rashid from Russian Federation for the CIS; Mr. Rowland Espinosa Howell, Costa Rica for the Americas; Mr. Majed M. Almazyed, Saudi Arabia, for Arab States. We are still having a name for consultation from Africa, and that will be coming soon. And Mr. Jha from India for the Asia Pacific region. So those are the proposals we have so far. Mr. Chairman, I would like to propose it for approval by the conference.

>> CHAIR: Congratulations to all the Vice Chairpeople.

I would like to say a few words around the organization of the Forum. The WTPF was established by the 1994 Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference. Its purpose is to provide a venue for exchanging views and information and thereby create a shared vision among policymakers worldwide on the issues arising from the emergence of new telecommunication services and technologies and to consider any other policy issues in telecommunications which would benefit from a global exchange of views. It is a unique event in ITU.

In accordance with previous decision by the Council, the Secretary-General convened an open, informal expert group to assist in the preparation process. The group was led by Mr. Petko Kantchev. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mr. Petko Kantchev for all the efforts and all the people that were included/involved in the IEGs.

The report of the Secretary-General is main input for our discussions. It includes six opinions which were agreed unanimously by the IEG.

Please keep in mind that the report of the Secretary‑General is intended to be an input document, not an output of the Forum. Therefore, it is not intended to revise or edit the report.

What is important is that the output of your work here, which will be captured in my report as a Chairman, and which will be presented to you on Thursday afternoon for approval.

Before we move to the next agenda item on the strategic dialogue, I would like to give the floor to the Secretary of plenary, Mrs. Bogdan‑Martin to say a few words on the organization arrangement. Mrs. Bogdan‑Martin, please.

>> MRS. BOGDAN‑MARTIN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The working hours of the Forum will be 9:30 to 1230 and 1430 to 1730. All Plenary and Working Group sessions will be interpreted in the six languages of the Union. We will also have captioning in English. In addition, the Forum proceedings will be webcast over the Internet. We have also developed a website which is optimized for mobile devices, and it features offline access to documents, and it has been developed especially for WTPF. It can be easily accessed with the QR code which is found on the rollups around the CICG.

Also, Mr. Chairman, in line with ITU's commitment to reduce its carbon footprint, the Forum will be conducted as far as possible in a paperless manner. If you do require paper, please see the Secretariat; we do have a limited number of documents available.

Also, Mr. Chairman, all the documents are available on the Forum website. We do have a special app. It's a sync application that you can check each morning and download the documents onto your laptops.

Further practical information for participants may be found in the Document ADM/4. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Ms. Bogdan‑Martin. I suggest we take a 15‑minute break over here.

Oh, please? You have the name?

>> HAMADOUN TOURÉ: Mr. Chairman, thank you for giving me the floor. I have some good news. I have the name for the Vice Chair of the African Region. His name is Mr. Blaze Nwembe, the Minister for Digital Economy Communication and the purst of Gabon. Thank you.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. I would suggest we move now on the Strategic Dialogue on Building a Broadband Future. So, Mrs. Bogdan‑Martin, if you can please inform us of the Strategic Dialogue?

>> MRS. BOGDAN‑MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We will have our coffee break as soon as we finish the item on the Strategic Dialogue. We would like to share with you the outcome of the debates yesterday. And we have a short video that captures some of the key messages. So if we could please display the video.

[Video.]

[Music.]

>> RAFFAELE BARBERIO: Broadband is one of the solutions to make the world unique.

>> HAMADOUN TOURÉ: Our ultimate goal a knowledge society. That's a society where everybody have access to information and can use information in any way regardless of the person's literate or not, regardless of the language and culture, that everyone can create information ‑‑ any citizen of this planet is a source of information. And what a wonderful world if we all can come together and contribute to it.

>> LYNN ST. AMOUR: The power of creativity and the freedom of choice is placed in the hands of users.

>> MR. AMR BADAWI: I think that being digitally connected will absolutely improve people's lives with the job, at home, socially and will also join with people with disabilities.

The citizens themselves have come up with applications that serve their needs.

>> MOEZ CHAKCHOUK: Today, everyone needs to understand what is Internet Governance deals with.

>> FRANCO BERNABÈ: There is obviously no limit about what Internet and what broadband can do.

[Music.]

>> MR. YUNG KIM: Broadband made more parents to give a better chance to their children. And from that, the Internet and broadband has helped Korean competitiveness throughout this industry.

>> H.E. MS. OMBOLA JOHNSON: We're actually using broadband to train 10,000 frontline workers that will basically be connected to women in rural areas that are pregnant.

>> MR. ROBERT PEPPER: Broadband is also being used in connectivity to address AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

>> H.E. MS. MAGDALENA GAJ: People today have the same right to the Internet access as they have to water or electricity.

>> H.E. MR. DIEGO MOLANO VEGA: The market as far as possible, the state as far as needed.

>> MR. MATTHIAS KURTH: We need better regulation. And what is better regulation? Better regulation is a targeted regulation which initiates investment and infrastructure rollout.

>> MR. ULF PEHRSSON: There is room for optimism. Realistic optimism here.

>> MS. KATHRYN BROWN: I think, Dr. Touré, there's no stopping us now.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: I would ask Mr. Ulf Pehrsson, Vice‑President for Government and Industry Relations, Ericsson, to approach the podium and report on Session 1 of the WPTF Strategic Dialogue on Building our Broadband.

>> MR. ULF PEHRSSON: So thank you, Mr. Chairman. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. As Ivo just said, I had the honour to be assigned the role of scribe for the first session of the WTPF Strategic Dialogue yesterday afternoon. And the theme was Building out Broadband. And the panel was made up of five distinguished members. You saw all of them there, I think, in the short video: Mr. Moez Chakchouk, CEO of Tunisian Internet Agency; Mr. Matthias Kurth, Executive Chairman and Member of the Executive Committee of Cable Europe; Ms. Lynn St. Amour, President and CEO of the Internet Society, ISOC; His Excellency, Mr. Diego Molano Vega, Minister of Communications of Columbia; and last but not least Her Excellency, Ms. Magdalena Gaj, President, Office of the Electronics Communications from Poland. And of course the panel was very skillfully moderated by Mr. Raffaele Barberio.

The questions the panel were addressing were: First, the nature of broadband Internet is the basic need, is the public utility a fundamental right or privilege?

And the second overall question was: What are the right conditions for stimulating buildout of broadband and the Internet services?

Well, on the nature of broadband being a right or a privilege, let me just, from my point of view, tell you that the founder of Ericsson, Mr. Lars Magnus Ericsson, engineer and entrepreneur, over in the late 20th Century said that in his view, communication is a basic human need. And in listening to the distinguished panelists, there seemed to be a more or less common view that access to Internet and access to broadband is indeed a basic human need or, as some would put it, a fundamental right.

The question ‑‑ questions, then, are: What does this mean? First regarding our level of ambition and, secondly, what does it mean regarding the tools, the policies to achieve this?

So, for example, if we should say that access to broadband Internet should be on par with the right of access to water or electricity, it could be seen as maybe not ambitious enough because a quick glance at the numbers shows that probably only 80 percent of the world's population have access to electricity; and between 40 and 80 percent, depending upon the definitions, actually have access to water. So as Matthias Kurth said, that stating the right by itself will not change anything.

Also, I think that there is an agreement that we should be more ambitious than that when it comes to broadband Internet access.

There is room for optimism, realistic optimism, based on the rapid expansion and buildout of broadband infrastructure over the past two years.

According to Ericsson data, from our mobility report published twice a year, in the next five years, up to 2018, fixed broadband will grow to reach close to 1 billion subscriptions. However, mobile broadband will grow from today's 1‑1/2 billion to reach 6‑1/2 billion, five years from now, by 2018, registering an annual growth of some 30 percent. So mobile broadband, 3G/4G looks set to be "the" technology that will connect the majority of the world's citizens with a rapid uptic of increasingly accessible smartphones playing an important role here. As Minister Molano said, the world seems to be solving this.

So regarding the ambition level, we should set our ambitions high. It's realistic that all people on this planet can get broadband Internet access in the near future. But, then, regarding the means, what are the best tools, the best policies to reach this objective? We need to look at a supply side. And we, of course, also have to look at the demand side on the content side. So, looking at supply side, from our panelists, we heard quite a range of advice when it comes to building out networks.

On regulation itself, we heard from Magdalena Gaj that regulation should be balanced, should be predictable and not too strict. And we heard from Matthias Kurth that we need to foster a competitive environment. And we, of course, as many of the panelists stressed, we need to allocate spectrum. We need to work from a technology neutrality point of view.

It was strongly emphasized by Matthias Kurth, by Minister Molano and others that we need to promote private investments, and not necessarily through universal service obligations. Investment happens when there are returns.

Also, from Matthias Kurth, it was emphasized the importance of sharing best practice. Something surprising that some countries are very successful here and there's a lot to be learned from them.

Also, as Magdalena Gaj emphasized, it is extremely important to stimulate cooperation, as she highlighted from Poland, they're working with local governments and local entrepreneurs to create that competition that will spur investments.

So moving on to the demand side and on the Internet and content side, on the Internet itself, I think what we heard from Lynn St. Amour, CEO of ISOC, is that we need to distinguish between Internet and broadband. They are different. Broadband being the pipe and Internet being sort of the content flowing through that pipe. So, the broadband is necessary, but not sufficient.

She also highlighted the importance of safeguarding the multistakeholder model and keeping the Internet open.

And on that subject, of course we heard from Moez Chakchouk of the Tunisian Internet Agency a very fascinating story where he told the challenges of transitioning from an agency that he described as a censorship machine to an agency that is promoting the open Internet. And of course Mr. Chakchouk also referred to the high level of ambition of the Tunisian governments when it comes to stressing importance of Human Rights on the Internet in international fora. He also highlighted the importance of content and developing partnerships.

So, finally, then, on content ‑‑ and we heard here from Minister Molano that it's extremely important to develop local content. That is what really the citizens are asking for. And developing the local ecosystems that will provide that. But, of course, governments themselves also will play a very important role when it comes to delivering content, not least through e‑government services.

So to sum up, I think it was very interesting panel. There were some very clear and crisp messages from the panelists.

And as the Secretary‑General said in his opening speech yesterday, broadband will change the world and broadband will affect everything we do.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

It's wonderful to hear that some countries are thinking about broadband being the better utility than the basic utility services.

Now I would like to invite Ms. Kathryn Brown, Senior Vice President, Corporate Citizenship, International Relations from Verizon, to come to the podium and report on the Session 2 of the Strategic Dialogue in Broadband Driving Development. Ms. Brown, you have the floor.

>> MS. KATHRYN BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. The second panel was entitled Driving Broadband Development. And it, too, had a very distinguished group of people offering their views on this. Ombola Johnson, who is the Minister of Communication and Technology from Nigeria; Dr. Amr Badawi, Executive President of Egypt's National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority; Mr. Yung Kim, who is the Chief Strategy Officer at Korea Telecom; Mr. Franco Bernabè, the CEO of Telcom Italia; Mr. Robert Pepper, the Vice President of Global Policy at Cisco; and our own Dr. Touré.

The session considered the benefits of broadband for accelerating economic and social development, and the conversation on this panel was both far reaching and urgent.

What struck me as I listened to the conversation was the maturing of the conversation. This Forum has moved from that sense of early wonder about these new technologies and about what the Internet can do to a more sober system's approach. What infrastructure is needed to support the worldwide deployment in adoption of the Internet? Who will build it? How will we pay for it? If we build it, will they come? What is the nature of the ecosystem that has grown up around the Internet? How does it work and for whom? And how can it work to solve some our most basic societal needs?

In her talk, Minister Johnson struck the themes that served as a framework for the conversation. She talked about relevance. She talked about the evolution of the infrastructure and of the applications and solutions that derive from that infrastructure, and she talked about risk.

Relevance to whom? Communication technologies are now integrated into most sectors of our economies, and they are highly relevant to growth, to productivity and to our individual and collective aspirations.

All participants agreed that if access to the Internet is not available, growth is stymied, people and communities and countries are left behind. But they also agree that one size does not fit all.

Indeed, the nature of the open Internet platform in connected technologies is that they provide opportunities for individualized innovation and for the development of solutions that fit regional needs.

So, Minister Johnson described Nigeria, that folks are using simple technologies like wireless SMS to monitor the health of pregnant women, the simple intervention resulting in a reduction of the death rate of expectant mothers. But they also use more advanced Internet applications to provide health education to healthcare workers in the most rural areas of her country, as you saw on the clip just now.

Robert Pepper mentioned and reviewed how the deployment of broadband is tied to the Millennium Development Goals and that broadband is crucial to meeting those goals: The alleviation of poverty, improving education, achieving gender equality and improving healthcare around the globe.

Dr. Badawi spoke movingly about how the youth of Egypt were empowered by mobile technology during the revolution and how Egypt is transforming how it educates its children with cloud solutions.

The conclusion: Relevance is personal. It is communal. And it is regional.

With respect to evolution, I found it fascinating that our conversation has moved in this Forum from fixed wire line technologies to mobile technologies and mobile broadband technologies in what feels like the blink of an eye.

We are, as the first panel described, living in a mobile world. We have moved from a 2G world to a 3G world and now on to a 4G world. We are now mobile, connected to each other and connected to the world through the Internet.

Mr. Kim of Korea Telecom described how LTE technologies change everything one more time. LTE uses IP technology, heralding another phase of innovation. LTE technology allows mobile speeds not experienced before, reduces latency and for the first time allows for realtime video streaming over your mobile device. It can transform healthcare, for example, by allowing not only for allowing monitoring but actual virtual treatment.

And as Mr. Kim pointed out, the price of hand‑held devices are falling year over year. He reported that the first smartphone costing as little as $55 is now on the market in his country. Larger smart pads are coming down in price, as well. Between the increased computing power of these devices, together with the innovative apps and cloud capacity, the knowledge society will be in the hands of everyone everywhere in very short time.

The evolution of these networks at this point in time creates enormous opportunities for new relevance and for new applications. And where there are opportunities, there are risks.

The third theme.

Mr. Bernabè reviewed the risks of the systemic changes resulting from the widespread integration of the Internet in our society. There are security risks. There are privacy risks. There are risks around how we use the technology to hurt each other instead of to help each other. He urged that this discussion of these risks be part of our conversation.

The other risk we discussed was the challenge of finding successful business models to achieve sustainable growth. There was some debate on the right business model for achieving universal deployment of advanced technologies.

Is it a consortium? Is it competitive infrastructure? Is it resale?

Mr. Lee proposed a consortium model using public/private partnerships and resale arrangements.

Dr. Badawi expressed interest in spectrum sharing.

Robert Pepper thought that these proposals created a disconnect with the sentiment expressed on the earlier panel for infrastructure competition and urged careful consideration of any single carrier model.

The risk is that we get into old battles, that we slow investment by looking at a single way to go forward. Capital will flow where there is demand, and it is likely that different models will compete and consumers will decide what works best for their needs.

Indeed, throughout the two panels yesterday, we have heard that it is the consumer who is in charge. The consumer is demanding that connectivity be faster, that the content be richer, that it be relevant, and that it be affordable.

Investors across the Internet ecosystem have high incentive to meet these demands as millions of new customers come online and create new markets.

Dr. Touré reminded us, as the last speaker on the panel, that we have only just begun. He was as optimistic as always that we can achieve great things, solve big problems if we do it together.

Mr. Chairman, I turn it back to you. Thank you.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Now I would like to close this agenda item, and I would like to invite you all for a 15‑minute coffee break sponsored by the Confederation of Switzerland. It is going to be outside here. It's 11:30. Let's start 11:45, please. Thank you very much.

(15‑minute coffee break held.)

[Music.]

>> CHAIR: Ladies and Gentlemen, please take your seats. We are about to start.

We are running a little behind, so we hope in the second half of today's Forum, we will catch up with the planned schedule.

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome back. Please take your seats. I am pleased to continue the plenary and invite Mrs. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, head of the strategic planning and membership in ITU to present the report. Doreen, you have the floor.

>> DOREEN BOGDAN-MARTIN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my privilege to present the report of the Secretary‑General, which has been prepared collaboratively with inputs from some 180 experts from around the globe to scope out the discussions here at the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum 2013.

The Secretary‑General issued an open invitation to join the informal group of experts in the spring of 2012. The group was tasked with discussing and elaborating the Secretary General's report and to focus and refine the debates here at the Forum over the next three days.

The IEG was open to all stakeholders, including those who are not members of the ITU, and it benefited from a broadbased membership. There was very good involvement interest. And I should like to thank the 180 members of the IEG for their active participation, with many experts having given up time to attend the IEG's three meetings, either in person or remotely.

In particular, we owe a special debt of thanks to our Chair, Mr. Petko Kantchev, who chaired the meetings in a very constructive way, resulting in sometimes lively but always respectful spirit of debate.

With regards to the report itself, this report was prepared over one year through five drafts based on more than 75 written contributions, comments, inputs and the active involvement of the Informal Experts' Group.

The report covers a lot of ground. It aims to reflect the different views currently held on different topics. The report does not offer any hard or fast answers; rather, it sought to scope the discussions here at the Forum.

For those of you reading the report for the first time, this slide sets out the key sections of the report, although I know many of you here are intimately familiar with the report and have assisted in its preparation.

The report begins with Section 1, which is the preamble, and provides background for the convening of this Forum.

Section 2 covers the various themes, which I will go through briefly.

Section 3 contains the conclusions.

And, finally, the Annex, which contains the six Draft Opinions.

The preamble traces back the origins of the WTPF originally established by the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in 1994 in Kyoto. It was established as a Forum where ITU membership can discuss and exchange views and information on emerging ICT issues.

The Forum does not produce prescriptive regulatory outcomes, but it adopts nonbinding opinions by consensus. The WTPF is held in accordance with Resolution 2 and it covers all issues laid out in the Plenipotentiary Resolution's 101, 102 and 133.

This is, in fact, the fifth WTPF. All of the previous Forums have been both timely and forward‑looking. The first WTPF was focused on global mobile personal communications by satellite, GMCPS. The second on trade in telecommunications. The third on IP telephony. And the fourth on several issues, including convergence NGNs.

The second section of the report covers five main topics. The first topic covered in the second section is the development and diffusion of ICTs globally. The section highlights how the Internet has evolved far beyond its initial concept to become a global resource or a basic commodity of life and a key driver of socioeconomic growth and development and maybe even a basic service.

The Internet is growing fast. The latest ITU statistics indicate 2.5 billion Internet users and 1.6 billion mobile broadband subscriptions worldwide. And that was by the end of 2012.

Our forecast indicates that by the end of 2013, there will be 2.7 billion Internet users and 2.1 billion mobile broadband subscriptions.

The Internet demographics are changing rapidly. And we heard this morning from Mr. Fadi Chehadé that predictions indicate that Internet users accessing in Chinese may overtake Internet users accessing in English by 2015. This demonstrates how multicultural and multilingual the Internet has become.

But with two‑thirds of the world's population still not connected, how can we promote equitable growth?

The next topic covered in the report is the multistakeholder model. In 2005, the World Summit on the Information Society adopted the Tunis Agenda. While the summit did not invent the phrase "Internet Governance," it did develop a working definition for it. The WSIS Tunis Agenda also offered a vision of a multistakeholder model as "the" global model for Internet Governance and developed a set of framework principles for the multistakeholder model. The Tunis Agenda outlined the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder, and it went on to elaborate those responsibilities and the interrelationships of the stakeholders. Through its plenipotentiary resolutions, this model is recognized by ITU membership as "the" framework for global Internet Governance.

The issues under the three ITU Plenipotentiary Resolutions 101, 102 and 133, which this Forum will discuss, reflect the delicate interplay between the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders in the management of the Internet.

As the Secretary General notes, there is some divergence of opinions on the implementation of the multistakeholder model in the current Internet Governance ecosystem.

Internet Protocol, IP‑based networks are the third topic covered in the report.

IP‑based networks are growing as countries prepare for the future, and the report notes that there are a number of challenges that persist in some countries. High cost for international Internet connectivity in least developed countries as well as challenges relating to quality of service. There is also a potential mismatch between the rates of growth in traffic and investment and how best to update regulatory frameworks.

The report also highlights the vital role that research and standardization can play in insuring interoperability of IP‑based networks.

On Internet naming and addressing, the report covers allocation policies and the migration from IPv4 to IPv6.

The report also calls for greater capacity building efforts to build capacity, raise awareness and enhance the understanding of these issues.

International public policy issues and the management of Internet resources are the fourth topic covered. There are a number of evolving transit issues in relation to the Domain Name System with which many of you are familiar.

The report covers generic top‑level domains and the expansion of the gTLD space as well as country code top‑level domains and also security of DNS.

The final topic covered in the second section is internationalized multilingual domain names. The commitment to multilingualism was recognized in the WSIS Tunis Agenda. The need for and importance of the multilingual Internet is universally accepted. Divergent views on progress to multilingualism have been expressed, but the good news is that developing standards, technologies and best practices can help support interoperable IDNs.

Before moving to the conclusion, I would like to highlight the six draft opinions that were produced by the IEG and are contained in the report of the Secretary General. These six draft opinions are offered for the Forum's consideration.

Opinion 1 is on promoting IXPs as a long term solution to advanced connectivity.

Opinion 2, fostering and enabling environment for the greater growth and development of broadband connectivity.

Opinion 3, supporting capacity building for the deployment of IPv6.

Opinion 4, in support of IPv6 adoption and transition from IPv4.

Opinion 5, supporting multistakeholderism in Internet Governance.

And, finally, Opinion 6, on supporting operationalizing the enhanced cooperation process.

As the Internet grows and expands, new issues are constantly emerging and evolving in relation to how we achieve affordable and equitable access to the Internet for all. On a range of issues, the Secretary General's report acknowledges that there is no one single world view but several. In ITU's tradition, all views should be respected and accommodated through consensus.

In conclusion, this report serves as the primary input working document to focus the key issues, and it aims to provide a basis for discussions here at the Policy Forum. I thank you very much for your attention.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Ms. Bogdan Martin. Before we move on, I would like to invite Mr. Petko Kantchev, Chairman of the preparatory to share a few words on the work of the IEG. Mr. Kantchev, you have three minutes.

>> Mr. Kantchev: Good morning, Chairman, esteemed officials, honorable delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. We had one year to debate hot, controversial and sometimes difficult issues, but having inputs and the possibility to express position, opinion and share knowledge from all the sources in a very transparent and open manner, which is perhaps one of the precedents for the ITU's practice, we were able to achieve a lot. So in addition to the report, which in our own view is perhaps good document to use for the university scholars from now on, we have adopted six opinions. They are already presented to this Forum for further consideration. But because of time constraints, we were not yet able to agree on the role the governments in the multistakeholder environment. Most probably that's why we are having contributions from Russia, from Brazil, towards this end. How this is going to be handled we have to see further. But one thing is for sure: The Internet is becoming a basic commodity of life. And this is to be said today. But nobody is having the imagination and fantasy to find out what the Internet would bring into developments tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. So whatever we do, whatever we discuss, we have to keep up the future perspective of having this Internet developed further, enhanced further to the greater service of the world community and to the end user.

And in our own group, we had industry. We had consumers, we had Internet Society, we had a lot of RIRs and all this. So we had a lot from many angles and this was a really enriching experience. We've got a good document, calling it appetizer for this Forum, the report of the Secretary General, but I think Ms. Bogdan did already indicate that we have to focus on the outcome of the opinions.

So at the end, I would like to thank wholeheartedly every expert and its work and the ITU Secretariat for helping us do our own work and do our duty in a due and professional manner. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Kantchev. Now I would like to open the floor for brief statements of Ministers, CEOs and heads of delegations on the report of the Secretary General. Here I would like to bring to your attention that some of the delegations have provided specific comments on the Secretary General's report which again just a reminder. It's only input document to the Forum. This is document WTPF 13-4 from the Russian Federation and WTPF 13-10 from Mexico. I would urge the delegations to present your contribution as part of your three‑minute statement. Again, please let's be concise and speak for three minutes so we can have enough time for all the participants that would like to have a say in this plenary Forum. I would first like to ask minister of telecom and mass communication of Russian Federation, His Excellency, Mr. Nikolay Nikiforov, you have three minutes.

>> MR. NIKOLAY NIKIFOROV: Distinguished Secretary-General, distinguished ministers, distinguished participants of the forum, the Russian Federation applauds the efforts of the Secretary-General in preparing for the fifth World Forum. The theme is timely and relevant, taking into account the ubiquitous possibilities of modern telecommunications and information technologies, many applications which we use over the internet. This ITU organized forum allows us to openly and constructively discuss opinions on a wide range of issues related to internet governance under the existing model. The Russian Federation welcomes the content of the report as an expression of the general, consolidated opinion of the member states. And we also would like to individually thank the Secretary-General for his professionalism and his efforts to form a holistic and cohesive report given the varying issues of member states on a number of issues that are related to this theme. We would like to underscore that for the Russian Federation of particular importance in the report of the concept of information and communication infrastructure as applies to the internet. We believe that the definition of the scope of this, including the internet, will allow us to create a platform to discuss the very important and thorny issue and in turn to form a balanced opinion on this matter, avoiding the spread of the concept of the Internet to every sphere of activity of society. At the same time the Russian Federation continues to draw attention to issues of upholding human rights on the Internet, strengthening the role of member states in the multilateral internet governance model, and increasing the effectiveness and transparency of procedures for distributing IPv6 addresses in accordance with the requirements of member states. At the same time, as government representatives, we recognize the responsibility of states in ensuring the safe and reliable operation of the Internet, taking into account its international and open nature. In this regard we believe that he World Forum is an excellent opportunity for member states to underline the need to strengthen cooperation both between member states and with other stakeholders, and this, with a view to facilitating the further development of the Internet and the possibilities that it represents. The administration of the Russian Federation has presented annexes to the report of the Secretary-General including on the draft opinion 5, supporting multistakeholderism in Internet governance. Moreover, the Russian administration supports and allies itself with the draft opinion on the role of government in the multistakeholder framework of Internet governance which has been prepared by the administration of the Republic of Brazil. We would also like to support the role of ITU with its mandate in creating an enabling environment to discuss issues of Internet governance, and also in coordinating issues of international interrelated public policy which is incumbent upon the ITU in accordance with Resolution 102 of the plenipotentiary conference. We will be able to discuss all of these matters in more detail during the work of the forum, and I’m confident that we will be able to reach an agreed decision. I would like to wish everybody every success in their work and constructive deliberations. Thank you for your attention.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, thank you, excellency and thank you for being prompt. I would now like to ask the representative from the United States of America, U.S. Coordinator and Deputy Assistant Secretary of U.S. Department of State Mr. Daniel Sepúlveda. You have three minutes.

>> MR. DANIEL SEPULVEDA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The United States appreciates the energy and effort that you have put into chairing this Forum. And we very much appreciate your welcome. I am honored to address the fifth world telecommunications Policy Forum and I would also like to thank Secretary General of the ITU, Dr. Touré, for the invitation and for the warm welcome that he has given me and to the ITU family. We would also like to thank all of the Member States and Ministers that have met with us in the short time that we have been here.

I’d like to express my particular thanks to the countries of Latin America for the time they spent for this. Thank you very much for that.

The United States of America appreciates the opportunity to engage with all participants in a good faith exchange on the views of the issues raised in the ITU Secretary General's reports and the opinions. The opinions attached to the Secretary General's report were prepared with input from a broad range of stakeholders because the IEG was open to all those who wish to participate. As a result, these consensus products were developed with valuable contributions from individuals from the technical community, industry and civil society.

The United States believes in the multistakeholder approach to Internet policymaking and governance. We continue to support the existing multistakeholder organizations, including the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, the internet registries, the Internet taskforce, the Internet Society and the World Wide Web Consortium. We support these organizations because they have proven effective, flexible and inclusive. And in the process they have helped enable the growth and development of the Internet as one of the most dynamic platforms for innovation and communication that the world has ever seen. During the next three days, we will consider draft opinions forwarded by the IEG by consensus to the WTPF 13 for further discussion. We believe that those discussions should focus on advancing the important issues before us, the buildout and development of broadband and ensuring that the Internet is a robust, open platform for innovation, investment, economic growth, entrepreneurship and democratic discourse throughout the world.

In that regard, the United States is prepared to endorse the consensus achieved by the IEG and adopt the six nonbinding opinions as presented in the Annex to the Secretary General's report. We take this approach based upon our desire for a successful Forum, despite some concerns with respect to the opinions on multistakeholderism and enhanced cooperation. But we recognize that the perfect cannot be the enemy of the good. And as we hope all participants do, that to attempt to renegotiate the text or introduce new topics or opinions during this meeting would cause significant difficulties and upset the consensus already achieved in the informal experts' group.

By endorsing the work of the IEG and the carefully crafted opinions before us, we believe that all participants will leave this Forum enriched by the discussions and better equipped to achieve our shared goal of an Internet that flourishes and providing economic growth and social welfare all around the world because everyone deserves it. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Sepulveda, and thank you for the endorsement from the United States of America and thank you for your involvement before the whole process of IEG.

Next I would like to invite His Excellency, Abdullah Aziz Al-Darrab, Governor, Communication and Information Technology Communication of Saudi Arabia. You have the floor. Three minutes, please.

>> MR. ABDULLAH AZIZ AL-DARRAB: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I have the pleasure on behalf of Saudi Arabia of participating in this World Telecommunication and ICT Policy Forum which will consider important matters such as international public policy issues and Internet access links to Resolutions 101, 102 and 132 of the Guadalajara Conference in 2011.

We have so far had the pleasure of participating in the preparations for this World Forum. We contributed to three of the opinions presented in the report.

It is true that international public policy and Internet access cover many important issues; however, given the time is limited, I will only speak about some of the matters dealt with in the opinions.

First of all, the IPv6 protocol and migration from IPv4 to IPv6. These two protocols will sometimes be used concurrently up until a currently undetermined point. At present, there is a market for the distribution of IPv6 addresses and what we call legacy addresses. And this form of distribution must be controlled to avoid any negative repercussions regarding the IPv6 protocol.

For this reason, I call on the Member States and the Sector Members, the private sector in particular, to make every possible effort to accelerate the adoption of IPv6, which would represent the best solution in order to put an end to the dual use of the two protocols.

I also urge the World Forum to support public policies which encourage local users to adopt homogeneous policies and coordinated policies.

Secondly, it is necessary to support a mechanism, the multistakeholder approach which is proposed in which everybody would be able to participate according to their competencies. It is also necessary to establish a participatory process which would allow us to resolve all of the issues relating to Internet resource governance and management.

Saudi Arabia, in this context, would like to indicate that the role of Member States is very important in terms of international-related policy. There is a need to establish alliances and agreements in respect to Internet-related issues, and we have already discussed this matter. We did so during the WCIT conference. And we offered many important issues at WCIT, including what is mentioned in Paragraph 49, the outcomes of the Geneva Declaration.

This notes that Internet-related public policy represents a matter of national sovereignty and must respect the rights of all countries, all Member States, in respect of Internet-related public policy matters.

I would also like to refer to Paragraph 35 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society which stresses the same matter as well as Paragraph 69 of the Tunis Agenda which deals with future efforts to build the capacities of Member States so that they can be up to the task demanded of them in respect of international Internet-related public policy, not in daily administrative matters which have no impact on policy at the international level.

Lastly, Saudi Arabia hopes that we will have successful deliberations, and we hope that we will have productive consultations in the coming days. We hope that the results will reflect the positions of everybody. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Excellency. I assure you there will be a lot of constructive comments during the Working Groups.

We move on to the next, the representative from Japan, His Excellency, Mr. Eiichi Tanaka, Vice Minister for Policy Coordination of International Affairs. Mr. Tanaka.

>> MR. EIICHI TANAKA: Thank you, Chairman.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is a great honour and a privilege for me to be here in Geneva with you today as a participant in the Fifth WTPF.

First I would like to express my sincere gratitude to ITU Secretary-General Dr. Touré and the members of the ITU Secretariat for the preparation of the WTPF.

This WTPF will discuss a very important theme, that is international Internet‑related public policy issues. The Informal Expert Group formulated six draft opinions prior to the WTPF. And I would like to express my respect for the efforts of the Chairperson and the participants. I believe that the outcome of the WTPF will be fruitful for all the stakeholders.

On the other hand, the World Conference on International Telecommunications last year discussed the revision of the International Telecommunication Regulations. At the time of discussing the revision of the ITR, which is legally binding for every country, the challenges regard relating to the Internet were also discussed. Although Japan made a great effort so that every country would reach agreement in the WCIT, it was regrettable that the consensus on Internet‑related issues were not formed.

The Internet has become a critical information infrastructure indispensable to the development of social life and economic activities. However, the current state of disagreement to extract further development of the ITU as well as the worldwide growth of the Internet and thus global efforts are made.

In order to overcome the difficulties we found with WCIT, we think that fundamental efforts are necessary to form a consensus on international Internet‑related public policy by dedicating sufficient time to this task.

In this regard, we think that we should have meaningful dialogue on international Internet‑related public policy by attaching the importance to the following three concepts so that we can obtain fruitful results.

The first concept is that we foster relationships of trust with deepened mutual understanding in the wide variety of Internet‑related fields, including technologies and the development.

The second concept is that we consider agreed solution for maintaining good communications and listen to a variety of different views without feeding compared to make a conclusion hasty.

The third concept is that we hold not only intergovernmental discussions but that we also exchange the views of stakeholders, of all the stakeholders, including private companies and civil society be connected with the Internet.

In defense of fostering consensus, this WTPF can be a suitable place, and we think that there are also many other suitable places. We think it important to continue dialogue in various places, such as the Internet Governance Forum, WSIS+10 and related meetings, ICANN and the Conference on Cyberspace. We would like to make efforts so that as many stakeholders as possible can reach a consensus on various issues surrounding the Internet in those conferences.

In closing, we appreciate the opportunity to share these brief remarks with you and we look forward to very fruitful and informative discussions over the next few days. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Your Excellency.

[Applause.]

Ladies and Gentlemen, before we move to the next speaker, I would like to thank a group of people who have been working very hard this morning session and they have not had a break yet. Those are our interpreters and translators. I would like to ask them to stick around for a few more minutes because we have a couple more speakers that we will need your support. And we very much thank you for the work that you have done this morning.

Thank you very much.

Next will be the Minister of communication information technology of Egypt, His Excellency, Atef Helmy. Please?

>> MR. ATEF HELMY: Thank you very much. I would like to thank the Secretary General, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. I have the pleasure of participating today in this important event to which we attach great importance in Egypt. First of all, I would like to thank Dr. Hamadoun Touré, the ITU Secretary-General and all of the elected officials as well as the entire team that have made tireless efforts in preparation for this Forum. This has allowed for the participation of all stakeholders, and this Forum concerns the future of telecommunication and information communication technologies as well as the Internet.

Ladies and Gentlemen, today the Internet represents a great opportunity and has a positive impact on ICT and telecommunications. So far, it has allowed us to achieve a higher level of transparency and connectivity among all citizens and between them and their governments to establish a genuine dialogue on these vital issues.

The Internet -- rather, over recent months, we have made tireless efforts to establish and draft these opinions which reflect important ICT and telecommunication-related issues and the national administration in Egypt considers that any change must be properly studied so that we avoid any negative impact on the stability and security of the network.

We are convinced that it is necessary to conserve international legitimacy in respect of Internet Governance and the management of these resources.

Nevertheless, we think that this concept should be based on the participation of all stakeholders so as to insure the necessary vigor and flexibility. We consider that the principle of the multistakeholder approach represents an important principle which we need in any structure, not only the Internet. Above all because it reflects the results of the Tunis Agenda.

We believe it also necessary to promote this trend which aims to strengthen cooperation. We find it necessary, on the other hand, to promote the progress that we have already achieved in order to establish a participatory mechanism which will guarantee transparency and democracy that we have acquired.

I should also like to highlight the importance of ITU's role in particular regarding the migration from IPv6 to IPv6 and the need to ensure the necessary assistance to help Member States make a success of this change.

In this context, I would like to share with you the importance of the creation of the Broadband Commission for Development which has been created which will allow us to protect the rights of all to access these services.

Lastly, Ladies and Gentlemen, we have the pleasure of inviting you to participate in the World Telecommunications Development Conference in 2014 which will take place in Sharm el-Sheikh as well as the follow-up conference on the results of the World Summit on Information Society, and I once again like to thank you for giving us this great responsibility in Egypt. We will see you there in 2014. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Excellency. Thank you for the kind invitation.

Next I would like to invite the representative from Thailand, Permanent Secretary, Ministry Information Communication Technology, His Excellency, Chaiyan Peungkiatpairote.

>> MR. CHAIYAN PEUNGKIATPAIROTE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On behalf of Thai HOD, Thailand appreciate the ITU and the members who contributed many months of hard work to the development of the report and draft opinions reflecting today's view on telecommunication and ITT policies.

As a small nation in Southeast Asia, we have monitored with keen interest the technological advances and changes in public policies over the years. We thank the ITU for organizing this global forum and giving all ITU members the opportunity to voice the opinions concerning the current state of telecommunication and ICT policies.

Thailand has put forward a three years action plan to promote and achieve the successful implementation of IPv6 in Thailand by 2015 with the end that all Thai government agencies will be required to deploy IPv6.

Regarding the development of the Internet Exchange Points, Thailand also attached importance to the establishment of national Internet Exchange Points as they can potentially reduce operating costs, improve the quality of service and result in more affordable Internet service to users.

In Thailand, after the Telecommunication Business Act 2001 entered into force and telecommunication services were liberalized, the Office of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission announced the rules for governing telecommunication business licensings and procedures for granting licenses. So far, a significant number of licenses have been issued to ISP in the country, making local Internet exchange more efficient and creating greater price competition in the market.

Finally, Thailand would like to express our support of the multistakeholder Internet governance model, we applaud initiation to encourage greater participation from developing countries in the discussion of Internet Governance and ICT policies. The forementioned approaches will allow Internet Governance to become more productive, multifocused and democratic. Subsequent cooperation among all stakeholders will encourage them to obtain international fora to jointly develop policy initiatives framed within the context of their country's benefits and interests.

However, decision-making in multistakeholder governance should take into account different worldwide cultures, traditions and local community practices. This consideration, among others, contribute to unique, long-term and desirable solutions. Thank you.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Excellency and the last speaker before we all go to lunch, His Excellency Ignacio Peralta, the Under-Secretary of Communications of Mexico. You have the floor, sir.

>> MR. IGNACIO PERALTA Mr. Chairman, I will read it in Spanish.

Thank you, Chairman.

The Mexican Administration very much supports what has been included in the report presented by the ITU Secretary-General to this Forum. For our country, we attach particular strategic and priority importance to the issue of developing and spreading ICT around the world while taking into account, of course, the specific questions related to the optimal possible use of Internet resources.

We believe that information infrastructure is a fundamental resource for nations and an engine of growth, and that is why the Mexican Administration would like to announce with great satisfaction that the Congress of the Union of the United Mexican States has sent for approval in our state Congresses a series of reforms to the Mexican Constitution. These will establish as an obligation for the government to guarantee the right of access to information technologies and communications technologies and to broadcasting and telecommunication services, the latter including broadband and Internet.

The reforms makes telecommunications and broadcasting as a public service of general interest and enshrines it as such in the highest legal document in Mexico. This ensures that the services will be provided in conditions of competitiveness, plurality, universal coverage, interconnectivity, convergence, free access and continuity.

As part of our strategy to consolidate and build on these efforts, we have set up a Federal Telecommunications Institute. This will be an autonomous body within the Constitution, and it will also serve as the authority for economic competition between the various sectors I've mentioned. Furthermore, it will strengthen the state's ability to implement public policy in this sector.

In order to attract greater investment and improve connectivity nationally to ensure a higher level of telecommunication services' penetration, we have included in our reform opening up to foreign investment. We can now have up to 100 percent foreign investment in telecommunications and satellite communications and 49 percent in broadcasting, subject to conditions of reciprocity.

At the same time, we are building a robust, shared broadband public telecommunications network which will cover the whole country.

Furthermore, we should be promoting greater competition on grounds of equality to plug the coverage gaps in what we believe to be an essential piece of infrastructure for Mexico to the benefit of the poorer people in Mexico who live in remote areas.

Another very innovative thing that we're working on is to recognize that technological convergence which will have to be guaranteed if concessionaires are going to be allowed to provide all types of telecommunication services.

Our goals for digital inclusion are very ambitious. We hope to bring broadband to 70 percent of Mexican households very soon.

Our government is taking the lead in ensuring that we meet the goals set by this Forum because we are convinced that transforming telecommunications and broadcasting will help to move Mexico on to better levels of social well‑being, bring greater prosperity and more competitive and greater digital inclusion.

Last, but not least, let me say that Document 10 submitted to this Forum contains additional points on the other issues within the Secretary-General's report. The document is online and can be consulted by anyone who wants to read it. Thank you.

[Applause.]

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Excellency. I now suggest we take a break and we come back at 2:30 promptly, please. Thank you. Doreen?

>> DOREEN BOGDAN-MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, just two quick points. For those of you that will be making statements, it would be appreciated if you could please provide your statements in writing to the Secretariat as we will be posting those statements on the Internet.

And for the members of the press in the room, I believe the press conference will be starting in a few minutes, and the press conference is in Room 5. Thank you.

\* \* \* \* \*

This is being provided in a rough‑draft format. Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is provided in Order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings.

\* \* \* \* \*