FINAL TRANSCRIPT

FIFTH WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT POLICY FORUM

TWO PANEL DISCUSSIONS

13 MAY 2013

1230 ‑ 1600 CET

SESSION 1

Services provided by:

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>> Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.  It is my very great pleasure to welcome you all to the world telecommunication Policy Forum strategic dialogue.

Before we start the dialogue, we're going to watch a short video to remind us what this is truly all about, the power of broadband to transform lives for the better.  Thank you.

(video).

[Music.]

[Applause.]

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is as always my very great pleasure to invite our Secretary General, Dr. Hamadoun Touré to give his opening remarks.  Dr. Touré, please.

[Applause.]

>> DR. HAMADOUN TOURÉ:  Excellencies, Ministers, Mesdames and Messieurs.  Greetings and welcome to all of you.  Bonjour et Bienvenu, hola and bien venidos.  Wah eeng, marhaban.  Excellence, Mesdames and Messieurs.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is an immense pleasure for me to welcome you this afternoon to the strategic dialogue that comes right before the opening of the fifth telecommunication Policy Forum tomorrow morning.

This is a first-rate opportunity to engage in discussions and deliberations on a subject which is very close to my heart and which I know is very close to the hearts of all of you because that's why you're here, building a broadband future.

All of us know that in the 21st Century, broadband will affect everything we do.  Broadband will affect all socioeconomic sectors everywhere on the planet.  Broadband will change the world.  And I am confident that it will change the world for the better.

Our two sessions this afternoon feature a very exciting lineup of top industry CEO#s# and policy pioneers.  The excitement, I think, is guaranteed by the quality of both our speakers and our moderator.  Our speakers, as I say, are here today to share their rich insights into how we can bring the benefits of broadband to all the world's people wherever they live and whatever their economic or financial circumstances.  They will also help us to focus on how we address the key issues of connectivity and affordability.

Let me, therefore, welcome you, our audience, and let me encourage your very active participation in the dialogue this afternoon.  Without you and without you actively challenging our speakers, this will not be a real dialogue nor there there be a genuine exchange of opinion.  So please speak up and please speak out.  We value your important role in helping us to fulfill ITU's mission to connect the world with broadband.  Thank you.

[Applause.]

>> Thank you.  Dr. Touré.  And to kick off our strategic dialogue today, I would like to introduce you to Raffaele Barberio, our moderator from Key4Biz from Italy.  Raffaele, the floor is yours.

>> RAFFAELE BARBERIO:  Thank you, Patricia.  We had a beautiful video, and in that video, we had been reminded that the world is not so flat as a very successful book tell us in 2006.  There are a lot of differences.  And broadband is one of the solutions to make the world unique, united and open to worthy future.

And we will have two sessions today.  The first session will be dedicated to the building out of broadband, and the profile of the strategic dialogue is that these two elements must be, in my opinion, interpreted as they are, strategic, because we will have extraordinary panelists here which will offer important point of view, some solution, some best practice some questions, of course.  And the dialogue, because we will have the opportunity to interact with the audience.  And we will have 20 minutes, 25 minutes in which the audience may interact with the panelists and we will exchange all the challenging topics we will manage in this afternoon.

So I invite you to take care of your observation because they will be some pulse in the work of our afternoon today.

I want to give the floor immediately to our first speaker, which is Moez Chakchouk.  Moez is a very, very brilliant guy.  He come from -- he was appointed as an adviser to the Minister of Communication Technology March 2010.  And a few weeks after the Tunisian revolution he was appointed Chairman and CEO of the Tunisian Internet Agency.  Moez Chakchouk is engaged in the best way to promote Internet in his country.  So I am very happy, Moez, to give you the floor and to have from you your point of view and explanation how Tunisian society is looking for the future for broadband.  Thank you.

>> MOEZ CHAKCHOUK:  Thank you very much.  Thank you very much, Chairman. Thank you very much, for this kind introduction.  And I would like first to thank the ITU for inviting me to participate this strategic dialogue session, held the day, as mentioned on the fifth telecommunication Forum.

As usual, it is my pleasure to share my own ideas and vision regarding building broadband in Tunisia and I will be much more pleased if I get later your feedbacks, including your critiques.

First of all, I would like to highlight the fact that Tunisia was the first African country with South Africa to connect to Internet in 1991.  And Tunisia is still very well ranked when it considers IT infrastructure development.  But when we deal with content, when we deal with Internet applications, I think things are different.

We are today, unfortunately, behind many African countries, and I'm quite sure that this is going to change soon.  And this is not because of policymakers, including me, but regarding -- or maybe regulators, but because of the community, as Tunisian young generation Internet users that have been suffered long time for censorship and for a lot of constraints regarding development of content feel now free to develop.  They are really concerned by the development of Internet.  And they feel that how -- that they are willing to innovate and willing to work with the ecosystem.

So, I feel that when I'm working for an agency like ITI, the Tunisian Internet Agency that played an important role for sure for development of Internet in my country, but at the same time this was an agency that was established the censorship machine and all the surveyians system in my country for years.  So they maintained these machines for years and they kept this working for years for the regime.  So after the revolution is something that we were supposed to be abolished soon.  But this was somehow challenging for us because we feel like that's if we abolish the ITI, that means that the only Internet exchange point in my country, yes, the only Internet exchange point that was established in 1996 will be abolished by that.

So our concern in that day after the revolution is to say:  Okay.  Let's explain our role.  What is the ITI?  So this was unclear for the community.  This was unclear for the civil society.  And of course we had a lot of pressure for that because you can understand that the government and also the private sector weren't really helpful for that because somehow linked to the regime, somehow linked today the past of Tunisia.  But technically it was an Internet exchange point.  And when we say an Internet exchange point, you can immediately know how the benefit, how important are the benefits of Internet exchange point in the country.  And this has been raised.  We tried to explain this to the civil society, to the community.  And at the end, I think we tried also to advocate the open Internet because if we work for the Internet and we try to make to evolve and to move forward and to protect this good infrastructure for the Internet exchange point, that means that we need to clarify our role and we need to discuss.  So the debate started, has started after the revolution.  And we convince at the end the civil society that the Internet exchange point, ITI need to be established, the Internet exchange point and need to change.

So we fostered the change.  And then we look forward.  And we found that there is a lot of very good opportunities.  Because when we advocated freedom, when you advocated open Internet, there is a lot of entities, a lot of actors wanted to build with us a new kind of partnerships.  I can mention ICANN.  I can mention Google.  I can mention many others, including recently the measurement lab who established with us a measurement infrastructure, an open measurement infrastructure that will be established in ITI, that is established actually in ITI.  But at the same time, we opened the doors.  Because when we establish all those partnerships and you don't open the doors to the civil society to intro duct with you, to interact with the ITI, that means that you keep the same system as before.

Now we need to act with the community.  We acted with the community.  We opened the door.  And we established a new laboratory, an open invasion laboratory in ITI.  So the company that used to be the black box, the company that used to be the enemy of Internet in Tunisia actually is working for the benefits of the Internet and is advocating the open Internet and Internet freedom.  So for this I will mention few words because it doesn't come by this because you know that the government also is working very, very hard to -- and I can mention that we had the resolution last July.  And you can know that Tunisia advocated also and put the resolution in the United Nations Human Rights Council to say about, to promote the freedom online and also Tunisia, as you know, in the WCIT, I was among the delegation at the time, and we had pushed to have a Human Rights in the preamble to protect any kind -- to protect the online world if it is mentioned in some of the articles.

So, for us it's very important to advocate all this and to promote freedom because we cannot really protect and you cannot develop Internet, we cannot develop e-content without being -- without preserving the freedom online and the Human Rights.

And at the end, I will finish my intervention by saying that also we are actually member of the Coalition of Online Freedom Coalition and we are organising a conference in June to deal with this.  So it's very important for us.  And I think that will be a success if all -- if Tunisian civil society could involve in this conference and could make with us a success of this conference.  Thank you.

>> RAFFAELE BARBERIO:  Thank you very much.  Moez, let me ask you.  Your country went to democracy recently.  And European is more relevant the use, the role of Internet as an instrument for freedom of expression or is much more important if role of broadband and the Internet in the process of growth of the economy and growth for the population.

>> MOEZ CHAKCHOUK:  As I mentioned, Raffaele, that we had -- we are a country with a long history for Internet.  So we know that we cannot really foster the development.  We cannot really foster the development of e-applications and e-content.  And so we cannot develop broadband at the end, because if you just continue to be the infrastructure without content, without application, without innovation, if you don't involve the civil society in this ecosystem, and if you don't open the doors to a lot of dialogues with all multistakeholders, you cannot really be effective on building the new era of broadband and for Tunisia.

So today I think this is a story.  But at the same time it's a very good lesson for all of us.  Because today we cannot really achieve the development of broadband without evolving all multistakeholders' approach.  It's not just a debate; we need to act.  And this is very possible.  Because this is a society of -- if people he people don't feel that you're acting and you're  just talking, that means that you're failing somehow.

>> RAFFAELE BARBERIO:  Thank you very much, Moez.

From Tunisia to Matthias Kurth, Executive Chairman, Member of the Executive Committee of Cable Europe, Matthias.  Let me introduce shortly our guest.  Matthias joined Cable Europe in October 2012 as Executive Chairman and sits on Cable Europe's Executive Committee.  His background is, generally speaking, as legal, regulatory ground.  But your point of view has analystic approach to broadband.  So please give your point of view.

>> MATTHIAS KURTH:  Yes, thank you.  Maybe having this regulatory background and now working for one segment of the industry, I have two insights in this topic.  And like it was said before, nowadays it's out of doubt that broadband and broadband development has an impact on every economy worldwide.  And the better the broadband development is, the better also the growth and other things in countries are.

So I think we have not to debate this.  Hundreds of studies about that.  And I think nobody is really questioning this argument.

What we should talk about in this strategic dialogue is:  Why is broadband development in some countries of the world better, more advanced and in others behind?  And what did we do?  What can policymakers, what can the private sector do to enhance this development?

So my first advice would be to look on the best examples.  You know, what we did in ITU always is to say okay, what is best practice?  Why are the front runners in the front and why those who are back in the back?  And it's sometimes quite puzzling, you know.  It's not only, in my view, linked to the economic success of a society.  It's also maybe better regulatory tools, better spectrum policy, better encouragement of the private sector.  So we have to look on these examples.

And I would think, having both experiences, from cable industry and from regulatory side, one thing is if you have a competitive environment for infrastructure rollout, it enhances the deployment of broadband.  And we have seen this in Europe, also in Poland and in other Member States where we have cable operators.

There was an enormous upgrade of cable by docks us 3 technology for in the capacity for more than 100 megabytes, you know.  Some countries in Europe already have 100 percent coverage of excess 100-megabyte.  And that forced, also, other players in the market to upgrade their network by introducing fiber, vectoring, other technologies, LTE.

So I would say if there is a second choice or a third choice, it's always good for broadband rollout.  And in countries where you have less infrastructure competition, you also have a very poor uptake.  So this is one of the lessons we can learn.

Therefore it's very important, also, on the spectrum side.  And we here in the ITU, we discussed for years not only about digital divide, you know, we also discussed about the so-called digital dividend.  And how you know the ITU was one of the front runners to bring out valuable spectrum for broadband.

And when I was in Germany, we had already four years ago we issued the LTE spectrum for broadband use.  And now the rural sectors are covered more than 90 percent broadband LTE access.  But some countries have not even issued that yet.  So the spectrum is available, but it's not everywhere used and rolled out in the same speed.  So we could do something on the policy side, on the regulatory side.

And also I think there is connecting the world.  I just heard there is also a satellite project, a 3-B project who has the aim to connect the world also over a satellite in a broadband technology, which is also done by the ITU, because ITU is giving out the positions for these satellites.

So, technology neutrality, competition is one thing.  And I think an open environment is another thing.  My view is -- and the cable industry has proven that -- that worldwide, there is a lot of money for broadband rollout and for building up infrastructure.  There is a willingness to invest.  So we need not use taxpayers' money, which is anyhow not everywhere available, although we have now a financial crisis not only in Europe, you know, and people tried to cut back spending, you know, because they need to limit their debt, you know.  We have skyrocketing debt.

So I think the Telco sector is an example that you could do good things for broadband rollout without using taxpayers' money.  A big success story for that is the mobile industry.  Because somebody asked me:  Will it help if we have a right for broadband?  Or if we have universal service obligations with somebody else?

Do you know that the whole rollout of mobile phones, which is a big success story worldwide, also in all developing countries, is done without any universal service obligation?  It's done out in most of the countries without any taxpayers' money.  Why?  Because the private sector invested and because it was a demand.

You know, I do this for more than 15 years.  In the beginning, when mobile technology 20 years ago came up, everybody thought "oh, this mobile technology will be only for the rich.  There will be people left behind." Mobile phone was expensive, you know. It cost $5,000 or more in the beginning. So that it never will people have mobile phones. Now everyone has it. We have cheap mobile phones. We have an enormous penetration, enormous uptake.

Now is a similar story that a lot of foreign companies are willing to invest when they see also perspective for their return. Yesterday we were talking about do we need less or more regulation, we need not less regulation, more regulation, we need better regulation and what is better regulation? Better regulation is targeted regulation which initiates investment and infrastructure rollout. And the bad regulation is where no private money is going into the sector. I think this is the key issue. And also we need less regulation indeed if infrastructure competition is there because when you have three or four mobile operators, which is the case in many countries, you don't need to regulate the pricing. There is no longer price regulation for end consumer prices if you have a competitive environment, so our story was always correct.

So summing up, I think we should learn from the best examples. And we should use these best examples as a guideline for those countries who are still behind. And I think everybody has a chance to catch up. And that's about our policy dialogue here. How can we catch up? Because when we all think that broadband is so essential for freedom, for liberty, for economic success, we should take up on these best examples.

And last word, I'm a lawyer, will a right for broadband in the constitution help? Maybe, you know. But it's not the only essential thing because we have also rights for labour in some constitutions. We have rights for health. That doesn't mean that everybody, even in Europe, has a job. We have now high unemployment in the south of Europe. Young people are unemployed. But sometimes you have a right in the constitution. But who is responsible to fulfill this right? You know. The right itself doesn't change anything. We need investment. We need encouragement. And we need the private sector to do that. Thanks for your attention.

>> RAFFAELE BARBERIO: Matthias, you spoke about technology, competition, and regulation and the question of if we need more or less regulation, you underline it the best regulation. But let me ask if your opinion there is a difference on regulation between advanced countries and developing countries. Probably the request is on the opposite side, probably emerging countries are asking for more regulation to be guaranteed in the competition do you think or not?

>> MATTHIAS KURTH: I think even in developing countries but also in Europe, you have a vast variation of examples, you know. I just have a slide from the European Union about coverage of broadband next generation access coverage over 30 megabytes. And it's quite interesting. The front runners are Netherland, Belgium, Luxembourg. But you also have Bulgaria, which is a latecomer in the European Union, was a new acsession state who already has more than 70 percent broadband coverage over 30 megabytes. And there are some countries, unfortunately even in Europe, like Greece, Italy, who have less than 10 percent broadband over 30 megabytes. So it doesn't ‑‑ it's not always a question is this ‑‑ it might be also sometimes the concept somebody initiates. Because Bulgaria joined at the same time as Romania, and Romania has much less success on that, you know. So that's something I can't go in details. But what we should do is to compare that. Why is one country, which is economically also struggling, and a lot of these countries are struggling, Portugal is also one of the front runners in broadband and Portugal is a country that has a lot of economic problems in the south of Europe but is a front runner in broadband. So let's look why it is like that. And let's not generalize policy concepts. My advice would be look closely why some had success and others not. And let's take up the success there concepts for the future.

>> RAFFAELE BARBERIO: Thank you very much, Matthias.

Next will be Lynn St. Amour, President and CEO of the Internet Society. And she had important past experiences between ‑‑ with private companies in Europe, in Middle East and Africa and so on. And, Lynn, Internet Society's a very important organisation for Internet. Very important for the past, the present and the future. And this is probably the right home to speak about this. And this is a good occasion to hear from your point of view of the future of Internet, the future of broadband and the way your organisation is engaged in all these things. Thank you very much, Lynn.

>> LYNN ST. AMOUR: Thank you. And of course there are many right homes to discuss the Internet. We say the Internet is user‑centric, which means everybody has the right to access it for their own needs, their own desires and certainly to express their own creativity.

So I'm very happy to be here today. And if you permit me, I'd like a quick introduction to the Internet Society because we are not a government nor a large private sector company.

We are a global cause‑based organisation with more than 90 chapters, more than 145 organizational members and 60,000 individual members. We're dedicated to stability, the continuity and advancement of the global Internet, not just for the sake of the Internet itself, for the benefits that it brings to all people. Our mission is to support, promote and advocate for policies at national and international levels that support the Internet as a platform for innovation, creativity and economic opportunity.

With the organizational home for the Internet Engineering Task Force of the IETF, the premier open standards for the development of the Internet protocols that all of us use and rely on every day for all of our online activities.

In addition for full transparency, public interest registry, the organisation that's responsible for the dot org domain name is a supporting organisation of the Internet Society.

So with all that said, we approach Internet‑related issues obviously with a deep commitment to the technology and to the open standards that has enabled the Internet. It's enabled it to evolve and grow and meet the needs and aspirations of users today. We certainly expect it will in the future, assuming we protect a lot of its core principles.

So we support the multi-stakeholder model of Internet Governance because this model is what has given us the robust scalable Internet that we all enjoy today.

But turning to the topic of broadband access, it's important to note that the Internet and broadband are not the same thing. There is a tendency by many to use these terms interchangeably. But we define broadband, which is usually understood to be "always on" access to the Internet or other IP‑based services at a rate above some minimum level. And that minimum level can actually vary significantly country to country.

If we use a water and pipe analogy, broadband is the pipe through which desired product, in this case the Internet, or water in our analogy flows. The pipe is necessary but not sufficient. And the composition and technology of a pipe will change over time. Hamadoun spoke earlier about access for the future and the video talked about two‑thirds of the world to come still online. Broadband is certainly important to that but it's not sufficient. We need activities in building out infrastructure. We need activities in building out infrastructure, competition policy, regulatory policy, we need broad stakeholder engagement us to give us the environment that's actually going to bring those remaining two‑thirds online which is a central port of what ISOC cares about and what our mission is.

Quickly there are several core attributes that distinguish the Internet from transmissions technologies like broadband. First the Internet is open, freely accessible, globally interoperable technology standards. That is what allowed the Internet to scale. Second, an inclusive, transparent, multi-stakeholder governance model that allows all stakeholders to have a voice. And third globally distributed and participatory processes that drive the Internet's technical and administrative functions. And, finally, the Internet architecture facilitates permissionless innovation, where the power of creativity and the freedom of choice is placed in the hands of users.

To show that these are not just theoretical concepts, I'd like to give an example from Kenya and Ushede in 2008 a croudsourcing application called Ushede was launched by a team of innovators in Kenya to map reports of violence after the election there. They established a collaborative platform that enabled users to share and map information. In recent years, the platform was a central tool for communities in Haiti and Japan to distribute critical information following earthquakes in those countries. Building on their initial local success, the founders joined with entrepreneurs to open a community space to support local, young policy innovators in Kenya. From a good idea amongst a small group of innovators came tremendous economic opportunity and global collaboration. Their dream, to show the world class software company can arise from Africa, has come true. And now that community space is referred to as the unofficial headquarters of Kenya's technology movement.

This story is particular dear to ISOC because it shows the true power of the Internet and why these sites keep it open and global because it allows creativity and allows us to impact the lives of people far and wide.

We think about that in the example, that example in light of the principles. The developers of Ushede did not have to ask permission to launch that platform. They did not have to pay a toll based on the popularity or global reach of their service. Their vision for a truly open platform has enabled the localisation platform that has been to everyone's benefit.

So without the global reach of the Internet, the victims of the Haiti earthquake or the Japanese tsunami would not have benefited from the innovative spirit of this small team in Kenya.

So for this discussion today about building broadband, we have to be mindful that access technologies like broadband are not an end in and of themselves. At its most simplistic level, broadband is an access technology, albeit very important technology. In 2012 the Internet Society conducted its second annual global Internet users survey asking more than 10,000 people in 20 countries about their attitudes toward the Internet. And we found that 89 percent agreed that Internet access allows freedom of expression on all subjects. 86 percent agreed that freedom of expression should be guaranteed. At least 75 percent of users strongly agreed that access to the Internet allows them to seek any information that interests them. And coming specifically to the point, 80 percent agreed that access to the Internet is a basic human right. For us, this is revealing as to how much the Internet has permeated people's everyday lives and shows how much they care about access because they need it to share information, to access educational materials, to keep in contact with loved ones across the world.

So in our view, fundamental Human Rights are about the ability to speak and be heard, rights that are enabled by technology but are not the technology itself. Rather than binding Human Rights technologies that will certainly evolve, we should focus our efforts on insuring that the fundamental Human Rights to receive and impart information are never constrained and not lose sight of what's important, that the Internet an open global Internet gives voice to individuals and communities like Ushede who can change the course of the future. Policies, business practices, standards and the implementation of access technologies like broadband should all aim to support an open Internet platform that enables the future rather than constraining it. Thank you.

>> RAFFAELE BARBERIO: Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Lynn. We are late, a minute late. So I want to shift some question later within the session which we will be conditioned to exchange some opinion. And I want to move with a focus on particular country, Columbia. We have here the Minister Diego Molano Vega, Director of Information Technologies. You promoted your country an important national plan called Viva Digital. This is an important experience. And your country is one of the most active country in South America. So your point of view is important, your experience is very important and we are here to hear you. Thank you.

>> DIEGO MOLANO VEGA: Thank you, Raffaele. Really, to be honest, Lynn said what I was planning to say. Let me just get the example of the pipe and the water and elaborate a little bit on what you said.

In this Forum, we have been for years talking about the pipes. We have for years as Matthias said, how we should build those pipes with competition, with a spectrum. Well, you know, I think thanks to these discussions of the ITU and many policy discussions, the world is solving those problems. The world is solving the pipe problem.

But do you know what? We are not solving the water problem. The pipes are empty. There is no water for those people in the base of the pyramid. Why? Because there is no applications. There is no content for those people.

Let me give you one example. The most common small company in Latin America is the mom-and-pop shop. Those little shops in different neighborhoods and poor neighborhoods. When you all try to sell Internet to them, they say, "Why? What is the value of Internet for me?"

You know, at the beginning I thought that it was because they didn't know what Internet was. No, they are right. There is no value on the net for those small businesses. And in a country like Columbia in most countries, more than 96 percent of the number of companies in the country are those small companies. And in Latin America, less than 7 percent of those companies are connected to the Internet. And is there any infrastructure problem for them? No. They all have Internet coverage in their areas. Can they afford it? Yes. They can afford it. But there is no applications for them. There is no value for them. For them, Internet is useless. Why? Because there is no applications that help them make more money in a daily basis.

The same thing happens to a farmer in a rural area of Columbia. The farmer now is covered with Internet access. Is it cheap for him? Paying $10 or $20 a month for broadband? Perhaps it is not. But if that farmer saves a trip to the capital that takes two, three days, then it is going to be cheap. But what are those applications that help that farmer save the trip to the capital? Those applications do not exist. The real bottleneck to achieve the goals that we have been talking about for years is the lack of applications.

And then when he talks about it, about that water, about that example in Kenya, that's an anecdote. And the question I have is: How we make sure that anecdote is multiplied everywhere, in every single village in the base of the pyramid of the world.

What we should do in terms of policy to encourage the creation of those ecosystems that develop applications for the base of a pyramid, because I said this morning, Google is not going to do that or Facebook or may of the new players of this ecosystem. We have to develop those applications by ourselves.

So, what we have to think is how we encourage to create again those ecosystems, those local ecosystems that are going to drive the creations of applications and the creations of solutions of our own problems. That's basically what we're doing in Columbia, encouraging the development of applications.

>> RAFFAELE BARBERIO: And could you say something about your plan, Viva Digital? How you are convincing people about the content of broadband, the opportunity of broadband for daily activities? Which are the experiences you already set up with access, probably? If they are on the way, I don't know. But how do you convince all the population that broadband must be part of the future and present life?

>> DIEGO MOLANO VEGA: There are different, quite interesting successes that we've had so far. The first one, this is to policymakers. We have to leverage. We have to multiply what we do as ICT policymakers. The first success we've had so far is that now ICT produces vote. You know, that was my dream. Like, look it, we cannot do anything if politicians don't see the value of ICT. And we have to convince them. We have to convince members of the parliament, governors, mayors that investing in ICT produces votes. They are going to be reelected. And we've done that.

And the role of the government here is critical, as some minister said this morning. The driving force, one of the driving forces to develop those applications is the government, which is the major consumer of ICT. We play a very important role in demanding applications, e‑government applications, e‑health, e‑justice, that's critical. But also we need to encourage the industry to produce that. We have to develop programmes to encourage the software industry also to devlop those applications for the local market. And you have to take into account the whole ecosystem, the new ecosystem and define policies to encourage the growth of the whole ecosystem.

>> RAFFAELE BARBERIO: Thank you very much. Thank you. Diego Molano Vega, Minister of Information and Communication in Columbia.

Now we have the following panelist Magdalena Gaj, president of UKE. And she was appointed by the Polish Parliament as President of the Office of Electronic Communications and Magdalena was already in 2011 became Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Administration and Digitization.

Magdelena, your point of view is the point of view of an authority in a big country like Poland. And so we are here to hear you. Thank you.

>> MAGDALENA GAJ: Yes, thank you very much. I understand that today we are looking for the answer about what broadband is, what is for us and for our citizens especially for me. What role regulators can play in this area.

I hope that we all can agree that today people need access to information. Often public good essential to all forms of economic activity.

Internet access assures the right of information and therefore in my opinion, people today have the same right to the Internet access as they have to water or electricity. Just note the importance of the emergency help line system which saves human life or the mobile application for smart phones that make our life easier or the intelligence system which helps us to use energy efficiently. These are only a few of hundreds of examples which shows that the Internet access is a basic need of huge public importance. It is worth to emphasize that in July 2012, the UN passed the resolution declaring Internet access a human right. Also recently the federal Court of Justice in Germany recognized the Internet as an essential part of life.

Some countries went even further. Guaranteed access to the Internet is embedded in the constitution of Finland and Greece. The Internet is also recognized basic civil right in France and in Estonia. On the EU scale, this issue is addressed in the digital agenda for Europe. These documents state that every citizen of EU should have access to the Internet with the minimum speed of 30 megabytes per second by 2020. So this fact means that the Internet access could be guaranteed to everyone as a basic need.

In this context, we need to discuss the scope of universal service obligation. In other words, should broadband be included? In my opinion yes. Once more, the right of Internet should be constitutional right in my opinion. Telecommunication networks are the bloodstream of the world's economy. None of us can imagine today work and daily life without the telephone computer and smartphone ‑‑ becomes smart phones. Everyone know that one third of the world's population is connected to the Internet. It means that nearly a few billion people's life is offline and still do not enjoy the benefits of the access to the Internet. If everyone has a chance to access the net, the benefits for a global economy would be incredible.

Today broadband Internet service is definitely not elixir. It is a fundamental civic right and basic need for sustainable economic growth of whole world. The newest estimate of ITU show as the mobile brand band have sold from 268 million in 2007 to 2 point billion in 2014. This shows annual growth rate of 40 percent. As I already said, in today's words, broadband access is a basic need and should not be treated as a privilege. We need a mobile network that can keep up with Internet data downloads. We know reports that our data usage increasing dramatically as the Internet has become such an essential part of our life. One of possible solution is to allocate more spectrum frequencies for mobile broadband access but also to develop broadband fiber infrastructure. And to what rule should the regulator play in this area? In my view currently, it is not room for strict regulation. In the market and for imposing a full set of regulatory remedies on the incumbent. Now when we are really thinking about the MGM which needs huge investment, we should start the dialogue with our operators, big operators and the incumbent. We should prepare good environment for this discussion. And even have some agreement between the operators and the regulators. For example, in Poland, I signed a memorandum of understanding and it is the memorandum of investment between the Polish regulatory authority and the incumbent about the -- and I think it is good direction. Because the regulation can stop the dynamics developed of the market. I know that the cable operators in Europe are not regulated, yes? The fix operators of mobile, they are. So we have the problem in Europe. Of course it depends on the level of development of the market. But I think that in the 21st Century, the time is to start discussion. And as all participants say that we live in one ecosystem, and both sides, the regulators and the operators, should understand the situation and should cooperate. We haven't time for battles between the operators and between the regulators. We should discuss and we should prepare good solution for our citizens. And I hope that we all should remember the sentence, first of all do no harm. Thank you very much.

>> RAFFAELE BARBERIO: Thank you very much, Magdalena.

Let me say that the reason, on my left, the person writing continuously for all the time, he's our scribe. And I want to give you some information about him if I can, I'm sorry. Yes. Let me say our scribe will ‑‑ he's picking up of main topics we are speaking about. And he's Mr Ulf Pehrsson. He's Vice President Sales and Marketing and Head of Government and Industry Relations for Ericsson. And your role will be to transform our session in a platform of good ideas and putting together what is coming out from this session and also from the audience which will be invited in few minutes to participate. And at the end, you will conclude our session saying exactly which could be the relevant direction we may need to have. Thank you.

I want to make some short questions. You know, Internet sometimes is in several countries valued differently as a right or a privilege. Your country is in a very peculiar condition. Came to democracy very recently. But in the last few years, you hosted a very important United Nations event which was very important for Internet. How to manage this false question about Internet as a privilege or Internet as a right? And what you are doing to make concrete for your country a future in which Internet could be really valued as a right, as a universal right for the population.

>> Moez Chakchouk: Well, first of all, yeah, sure, it's important, yeah. Tunisia has with this Forum 2005 second phase of this Forum but at the Internet in that time was really very bad situation because we had surveying and people cannot really work with the Internet, could not really understand the issues related to Internet Governance. So I think after the revolution as I mentioned that in my previous intervention saying that today everyone needs to understand what is Internet Governance deals with. It is real important to understand what is the role of government, what is the role of private sector, what is the role of civil society. If there is no debate or commitment between all actors to work together and to raise the issue of Internet development, of an open Internet development, it will be very tough for a country like mine.

And what I'm doing, and what IGI is doing, actually, is as I mentioned before, we clarified our role. We tried to make our role to civil society and what we need for the Internet to be open.

For example, I can mention that we have launched recently the Internet exchange point, Tunispoint, which is member of the European Internet Association and it is the first Internet exchange point ‑‑ and when we launched the Internet exchange point, it is to explain to civil society and to government and to the private sector that it is important to make it and to declare the Internet exchange point in Tunisia. Internet played at a local level. But actually we need to be declared. Because we cannot really be a hub for investors, we cannot create opportunities for society, for the people, if there is no Internet exchange point that could connect with the cost base. This is what we feel is very important for our future. And of course we need to connect with each other. We have good infrastructure between Tunisia and Libya and Algeria. And this infrastructure is not used at all.

For example, to send an email to Algeria, we have to route our traffic via Italy and via France and then get to via cable to Algeria? And we have very good infrastructure between the two countries? This is so unbelievable. You know we are engineers. And we know that if there is infrastructure, we need to use it. We need to activate peering. We need to know all those issues. It is not just because we are in Africa or in the region that suffered from censorship for years and somehow security related to policy security issues. No. We need to develop an open Internet. And this is how my response to your question first.

>> RAFFAELE BARBERIO: Thank you. There was recently, very recently a judgment by a German court on the fact that person which has been denied access to Internet asking for compensation for this. And they called, said yes, because Internet is very important thing. And you can't deny the access to the net. And so this term is not for emerging countries. Is also for very advancing countries, which is Europe in this.

>> MATTHIAS KURTH: I think it's quite obvious that everybody should have access to the Internet. And I think that that's the case, you know. In Germany, you have competitive environment. You have dozens of offers. But it's not for free. It should not be a misunderstanding that you have Internet access for free. You have to pay for that. And I think a lot of services should not be for free. So you pay. And you pay also for the quality of your access, if you want a high broadband access. So that's the case. But nobody should be denied access. And there should be no discrimination. And I think there is not one house or one home who is not able in Germany to have Internet access, you know. Maybe the quality could be different, you know. And in Europe, we talk now about quality. For two megabyte access, you have 99.9 coverage already. But people in the European countries say 2‑megabyte, which is for a lot of countries in the world a lot, you know. They haven't reached that level. But in Europe, they are turning the wheel one step ahead. No, no, 2 megabytes is not enough, we need 30 megabytes, and then we need 50 megabytes, and then we need 100 megabytes.

So the real issue with this right is how do you adjust the level? And I personally think that this should be done by the demand of the people. The minister from Columbia mentioned that before. It's not only rolling out infrastructure. And I agree. We have countries in Europe, we have 100 percent rollout of fiber infrastructure. And even if you look on the figures of Japan and Korea, it doesn't say itself that if you have a rollout of the infrastructure, it's automatically used by everybody. We have also to think about content issues, about uptake issues.

So my advice in this would be not to have a legal battle about legal rights, but to think about how we can influence the demand side by commercial offers. And the more commercial offers we have, the better it will be. Because that was a point when some part of the industry is investing like cable in docksis, for example, which has a high uptake in broadband quality, other market players are also forced to invest. Or if we had LTE networks, there is interplatform competition. And the lesson we learned in Europe is where you have an active and lively interplatform competition, all participants of the market can't wait. Why? Because it will lose their customers. The customers will run away to those who offer the better quality, better price and better service. So I believe it should be demand‑driven and it should be driven by market. And that is not contradictory to a right for Internet.

>> RAFFAELE BARBERIO: Thank you. Magdalena, which is the role of regulator in ensuring the access to everyone?

>> MAGDALENA GAJ: I think that I talked about it, but I think that a little more. I think that we should think differently about the mobile market and the fixed market. If we are thinking about the fixed market, I think the main tool in the hands of regulators are the spectrum. The spectrum policy and good management of the spectrum. The operators need spectrum. In Poland, I think we are one of the EU countries with the highest percentage coverage in Europe. But it is very good management of the spectrum, I'm sorry. And we have LTE on 1800 megahertz. This year we will finalize the option on 800 megahertz. So it is, I hope, will be the coverage of our country about 100 percent or maybe 90, 98 years. And so if we are talking about the fixed market, of course it is huge money. Much more huge money, it is what you said. The collaboration and one ecosystem and the agreements. It is all I think. Of course demand. Demand is very important for the operators. But if it is the role of regulators, I don't know. Of course we can propose some platforms to call collaborate with the operators. But I think that it is the main task for the operators, for the governments to give, how to say, create the demand and the capacity in our citizens.

>> Raffaele Barberio: Thank you. Lynn St. Amour, which is the official position of ISOC on the access to Internet to everyone?

>> LYNN ST. AMOUR: As I said in my comments that we actually think that we need to be careful that we don't conflate broadband and the Internet and that it's important that we, our official position is that broadband and access to the Internet is not a human right, that Human Rights are things that are enshrined in freedom of speech, freedom of expression. And also that a human right should not be tied to a particular technology. Technology will evolve over time, and we wouldn't want to go back and re‑visit or reopen those discussions simply as technology evolves.

>> RAFFAELE BARBERIO: Thank you very much, Lynn.

Diego Molano Vega, you are member of a government. Do you think that the right to Internet could be provided as a constitutional right? What do you think about this?

>> DIEGO MOLANO VEGA: No, no, again. Lynn said it. I agree with what she said.

No, I think that the role of government here should be to encourage private investment. To make sure that there is more investment not only in building infrastructure but also in developing those ecosystems that create the applications. We have a principle that was given by my boss, in a book that he wrote with Tony Blair, that is the market as far as possible is state as far as needed and what we should do is encourage public private partnerships and the government should take care of the right policies to make sure that the private sector invests.

>> RAFFAELE BARBERIO: Thank you. We have a few minutes. And there is room for some questions from the audience. So I invite you to participate to this exchange of point of view. And I invite you to state your name and your company, your institution. Is there someone? Yes.

>> OMOBOLA JOHNSON: Thank you. My name is Omobola Johnson, Minister of the Communication Technology in Nigeria. I think I want to ask the question about leaving everything to the market. I think that for while I agree, I completely agree that the private sector needs to invest in broadband infrastructure and it's important that the private sector is involved, I think that for many African countries, we are seeing dominance by some network operators and we are also seeing some anticompetitive behaviors that are coming in. So my question is that while it is good to leave it to the market, what would you do in terms of dominance that is artificially driving prices of access very high? It's artificially driving the cost of building up the networks, as well. And how would you suggest or propose that we regulate, we continue to have government as far as needed as Diego has said. We also allow the private sector to do what they do best, which is to invest in the infrastructure. Thank you.

>> RAFFAELE BARBERIO: Yes. Who wants to reply?

>> DIEGO MOLANO VEGA: Basically, you know, the fact that the private sector should be encouraged to invest, that doesn't mean that we should have a role of a private sector. I mean regulators should take care of the competition, a good level of competition. And what we have seen in many, many countries right now are strong, dominant positions and we have to regulate them. Now actually talking about what Matthias was saying before about assigning a spectrum, in this new phase of assigning a spectrum, we have to take care of the composition of the markets to make sure that there is no dominant position and there is enough competition that assures a good level of pricing, a good level of coverage and also quality.

>> MATTHIAS KURTH: The issue is you need no regulation if you have more operators, let's say more than three operators in competition. So spectrum was already said. If you have four operators and they have ‑‑ it's very likely that none of them will get a dominant market share if you issue the licenses in the right timing and then there is in Germany or in most parts of Europe, there is no price regulation for mobile access prices.

And in fixed line it's similar. So the European system is you only regulate if there is market dominance. And if there is no market dominance, there is no regulation. So the goal of the regulation would be to initiate competition and then when competition is there, to pull back the regulation. And therefore I think the platform competition between cable and the incumbents, which is not everywhere in Europe but which we have in some countries is a good example that is a price competition for end consumer prices without regulation. It's also possible for the fixed network, it's more difficult but I think the regulatory concepts should be always aiming to initiate platform competition.

>> RAFFAELE BARBERIO: Yes. Is there any other question? Yes, please.

>> Thank you very much. I don't actually have a question to ask. I have a comment I'd like to make. I wanted to draw your attention to something, to the fact that the question of broadband is one which is very, very fundamental, particularly when we talk about a multi-stakeholder partnership which is something you have been considering from the beginning. I think it's important to return to this question because I'd like to pick up something said by the Minister of Columbia. Yes, that is a political issue. And that being the case, it is very important that governments play their role, especially in those countries where we're very, very far still from being able to provide universal access. It's very important that in this Forum we come up with a very strongly worded recommendation to the private sector, yes, because as Matthias said earlier, it's expensive. They need to get involved. But you can also have the government and the private sector working together to do what needs to be done. The private sector could help the government deal with its concern to provide universal service. At the same time, the civil society, which provides content, civil society must also be a full member of this partnership. And ITU should be standing behind the partnership to facilitate it and to guarantee that it works.

I think we need to stop making speeches, basically, and preferably before 2015, make sure that we've built these partnerships and really got them up and running because I think the possibility of doing so is there. Thank you.

>> Moez Chakchouk: I'd like to respond in French since the comment was actually made in French. And I welcome the comment. It is extremely important that that kind of partnership that you are talking about be set up between the private sector government and civil society. In Tunisia, for example, and I referred to this earlier, we did have problems between these various partners basically because of the political situation which was pretty complicated. When we had the revolution and the government changed, more opportunities opened up, particularly for work to be done by the ITI, which as I mentioned is a semi-governmental body and civil society. That provides a great deal of extra value added. And in our case it allowed civil society to not only get involved in the action but being involved in the action taken, too. And that's extremely important. Thank you.

>> RAFFAELE BARBERIO: Okay. Thank you very much to Her Excellency, Obramoa Johnson, and Adena Saku. I want to pass the microphone to our scribe Mr Ulf Pehrsson. You have all the elements to conclude our session. So the microphone is for you. And I bring it to you. Oh, sorry. There's a question again. Yes.

>> Thank you very much. I think we've heard a very good discussion from this panel. Yes, I'm the Director General of the unit providing follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society.

>> Raffaele Barberio: Sorry, if you could speak one at a time, please, thank you.

>> Thank you. I was saying we had the opportunity to listen to very interesting presentations, but there is one particular point which I don't think we've heard very much said about. Magdalena was urging that access to broadband Internet become a right, almost. Well the point is, I don't think we should mix up Internet and broadband. What I do think we should do is defend the right to the freedom of expression. The term "broadband," freedom of expression, the term Civil Rights, these are going to be discussed at some very considerable length at the next ICT for all 2013 which will be organized in Tunisia between the 11th and the 14th of November, I think. You would be very welcome so that we can continue this discussion which at the moment remains unfinished.

>> ULF PEHRSSON: So, thank you, Raffaele, and I'll try to sum up my impressions from this very interesting debate and very impressive panelists.

First on the rights issue, let me tell you that actually that the founder of Ericson, an engineer and entrepreneur, Lars Magnus Ericsson, already in the 19th Century stated that communications, as he talked about them, is a basic human right. So the issue has been discussed for a long time, definitely.

But listening to our distinguished panelists, I think there seems to be more or less common view that access to Internet or access to broadband is a basic human need or a fundamental right.

So the questions are, then, what does this mean regarding the level of ambition and also regarding the means the tools, and the policies to achieve this. If we should say that access to broadband Internet should be on par to access to water or electricity, as sometimes been mentioned, it could be seen as a not ambitious enough objective because a quick glance at the numbers, I did that with the agency and World Bank shows that access to electricity is somewhere around 80 percent. Access to water is between 40 to 80 percent. So the right itself as Matthias said will not really change anything. But I think we can agree that we should have a more ambitious target than that when it comes to broadband Internet access. And there is room for optimism, realistic optimism here, based upon the rapid expansion and rapid buildup of broadband infrastructure in the past few years.

And according to Ericson data, our biennial mobility report, 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 level of some 1.5 billion mobile subscriptions to 6.5 billion, an average growth rate of 30 percent. So mobile broadband looks to be the technology that will connect the majority of the world's citizens with the rapid uptick of increasingly accessible smart phones playing an important role. And as Minister Diego said, the world seems to be solving this.

So regarding the ambition level, I think we should set our ambitions high, realistic that all people on this planet can get broadband Internet access.

But then regarding the means, the best tools, the best policies to reach this objective, well, on the supply side, we need to look at that. And also of course on the demand side. On the content side. So from our different panelists, if you look at the supply side, we have heard quite a range of advice when it comes to building up the networks.

And we heard about the need to stimulate competition, the need for opening you up more spectrum, technology neutrality, and stimulate investments, private investments, not necessarily through universal service obligations.

Also, as we heard from ‑‑ we heard this of course from Matthias, we heard this from Magdalena, but also from Magdalena, we heard the importance of cooperating with local government and local entrepreneurs.

Also we heard from Matthias, once again, the importance of sharing best practice because sometimes we see surprising high uptake and buildout in countries where we didn't expect it and the reverse. So best practice exchange is very important.

Then coming to more of the Internet and the content side. Of course we heard from Lynn the importance of separating Internet and broadband, as she so clearly put it. Broadband being the pipe and Internet being the content over that pipe.

And of course we heard from Lynn the importance of sticking to the multi-stakeholder process and multi-stakeholder governance of the Internet in order to keep the Internet open.

I think we heard from Moez a fascinating tale of how in a very few years as he described it, it is moving from what he referred to as a censorship machine to promoting the open Internet from the same agency. And of course we heard about the importance of safeguarding the open Internet. And here he also referred to the very advanced proposals on Human Rights on the Internet as prepared and forwarded by the Tunisian government.

Also when it comes to content development, the importance of developing partnerships, we heard that from Moez once again. And I think that what Diego, referring to the Columbian situation, highlighted is of course the development of local content many working in order to stimulate the local ecosystems in each and every country. Content is primarily local. That's extremely important. And of course here also when it comes to content development, the role that governments can play in developing e‑government services, for example.

So I think I learned a lot during this session. It will be try to summarize this for the WTPF tomorrow. But as also I'm taking the liberty of also quoting the Secretary General in his opening remarks, broadband will change the world and basically it will affect everything we do. Thank you very much.

>> Raffaele Barberia: Thank you very much. We finish this session. And I want to thank Lynn St. Amour, President and CEO of Internet Society; Magdalenia Gaj, President of Electronic Communications; Diego Melano Vega, Director of Information Technology Columbia; Matthias Kurth, Executive Chair and member of the Executive Committee Cable Europe; Moez Chakchouk, CEO Tunisian Internet Agency; and last but not least Ulf Phersson that has been so patient to make a beautiful job for us. And thank you to all the people that contributed from the audience.

We have a few minutes for a coffee break. And we start again with the second session at 4:30. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

(coffee break).