

Opening Segment:

Opening Ceremony  
Opening Session  
High-Level Policy Dialogue  
Handing over of WSIS Prizes  
Group Photograph

Tuesday 3 May 2016

CICG, Room 1

09:00 – 12:15

Interpretation A/C/E/F/R/S

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WSIS Forum 2016 Official Opening Ceremony.

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>> Ladies and gentlemen, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, stakeholders, good morning. This is the time to put on hold your discussions, take your seats. Ladies and gentlemen, Excellencies, stakeholders, good morning.

Welcome to this first ever WSIS Forum that opens a new decade of implementation of the WSIS Action Line after the United Nations General Assembly overall review. Before we start the programme, please let me share with you some practical information: We have in the room access to the wi-fi. For your use also you have the interpretation facilities available in the six U.N. languages. Please don't forget using the captioning displayed on the screen. Also let me talk to the remote participants that are awaiting the opening ceremony of the WSIS Forum. While listening to contributions we encourage you to be a part of the social community using the #WSIS, global campaign on promoting values of the WSIS process.

Let now welcome to the opening of the multistakeholder ceremony, starting with the opening message from the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon. Please use your headphones for this purpose and I request my colleagues to start the message.

>> BAN KI-MOON: Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I'm pleased to welcome all participants to this World Summit on the Information Society Forum. Information, communication, technologies are the drivers of the global economy and have revolutionized how we communicate, interact socially. ICTs also provide innovative solutions to combat climate change, improve health and education and empower women and vulnerable. ICTs will be critical to advancing the 2030 Agenda associated with development, implementing the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. People are better connected than ever. We still have to close the gap so that everyone can benefit from ICTs. We have to ensure that everyone has freedom of access to information. I urge you to keep working to ensure universal access to a more open Information Society. Let us empower people everywhere with these transformative technologies so that they can help build a better future forward.

Thank you.

>> Thank you very much.

>> [Applause].

>> Thank you very much to the U.N. Secretary-General for his address to the participants of the WSIS Forum 2016.

Now please let me invite our Secretary-General of the ITU, Mr. Houlin Zhao to deliver the opening speech.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Distinguished Delegates, WSIS stakeholders, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. It is a tremendous pleasure to welcome all WSIS stakeholders those here on site and all of the WSIS stakeholders following remotely to this WSIS Forum 2016. Let me take this opportunity on behalf of all participants to express our sincere thanks to Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-Moon for his warm messages. In fact, this message was recorded last night and we received this video message midnight last night. We thank him for giving this message in time for this Forum.

The overarching theme for W-Z Forum 2016 is the Action Lines supporting the implementation of the SDGs, ensuring that the WSIS Goals serve as a strong international enabling framework for a connected world and for achieving the SDGs. This WSIS Forum is special and crucial for several reasons: It is the first after the NGA review that recognized the necessity of holding this Forum on an annual basis and called for a close alignment between WSIS and the Sustainable Development Goals processes. This is a real demonstration of an effective collaboration of all U.N. agencies that on the occasion of the UNGA review committed to strengthen the WSIS Forum as a key effort for discussing the role of ICTs as a means of implementation of the SDGs and targets.

Let me thank them and all WSIS stakeholders for supporting this effort. This week we're here with fresh ideas, renewed energy and determination to work together to identify the key priorities in the implementation of ICT for development. This growing attendance to the WSIS Forum demonstrates both renewed commitment and dedication by existing stakeholders as well as growing interest from new partners and stakeholders. This year we have more than 1800 stakeholders announced from 140 countries, including more than 85 ministers, deputies, regulators and 250 high-level representatives. I extend my personal welcome to those minute certificate, vice minister, deputies to come and join us for the first time. Dear ladies and gentlemen, the WSIS Forum is the only event of this kind where the Agenda and programme



appeared during the open consultation process. It is an intensive collaborative effort by all of us together that has resulted in content-rich Agenda with more than 150 sessions, including more than 100 workshops and Action Line facilitation lines, knowledge exchanges and high-level exchanges.

We have made all efforts to strengthen the engagement and commitment of all stakeholders in the WSIS Forum. You will experience several innovations from this Forum. The key ones, policy sessions are being moderated by high-level track Facilitators, moving away from high-level facilitator statements to the dialogue among the panelists and audience. WSIS Free Enterprise, the campaigns and another exciting space that encourages networking. To honor and recognize implementation work 18 WSIS prizes will be awarded later today. The WSIS prizes recognize all players in the effort to improve global connectivity. The WSIS prize process continues to give us real stories of on-the-ground implementation and case examples of how ICTs are impacting the lives of people worldwide. The underlying platform engages a community of over 190,000 invitations and entries comprised over 8,000 entries. This is convincing evidence that WSIS is a global recognized effective platform for identifying good practices, exchange know-how, creating partnership, looking at opportunities in the ICTs ecosystem.

Statistics play a key role in ensuring that we're on the right track, communicating our performance. In this regard the policy for measuring ICT development continues to play an important role in the WSIS process.

Finally, I would like to thank the partners who have so generously contributed to making this year's WSIS Forum a success.

Allow me to -- thank you for allowing us to have this forum. The United Arab Emirates, in particular, the TRA, regulatory authorities that have supported us since the inception of the WSIS Forum. Our partner for specific activities include Japan, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland. Our contributing partners -- audio issue (.

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(Audio channel speaking language other than English).

>> H.E. MAJED EL MESMAR: Our government has laid out a reliable system with our overall structure that's been provided by the ITU as one of the best in the region. We're also immensely proud of the countless innovative projects that



we have launched through the years and especially those of 2015, which the leadership declared it the year of innovation. The national innovation strategy emerging from this landmark year aims to establish the UAE as one of the world's most innovative governments by 2021. It is committing to innovation in seven sectors where the innovation is key to excellence, mainly renewable energy, transport, education, health, technology, water and space. Moreover, the forward thinking leadership is championing a national vision of developing a genuine Information Society. The 2030 plan and the Dubai smart city emphasizes heavily on the role of ICT and encouraging local and national development. As a new paradigm for modern cities, Dubai's smart city provides an innovative approach to address challenges of modern organizations. Implemented are three key themes of communication, integration and cooperation. The smart city for transformation aims to deliver a unique, safe, inclusive, productive, enjoyable city experience for residents and visitors alike.

To see more of what this vision means and the success we have achieved in reaching for the goals of this vision, please come and visit our stand at this forum in the lobby area.

I also would like to take this opportunity to invite you to participate in the best government service award. It is an annual award that stems from the launch smart government vision. This line -- in line with this, we have -- we invite participants from the UAE, the Arab states and the rest of the world to take part of this endeavor and to submit their creative and innovative solution. It could be provided to today's smartphone, wearable technologies. Today we reaffirm the UAE's commitment to you will announced and ongoing initiatives informing the Information Society. The telecommunication regulatory in the UAE is a longstanding partner of the world government summit and as we proceed hand in hand with your esteemed organization alongside other ITU Member States we aim to continue formulating every aspect of our lives to resolve around the concept of the innovation in ICT. With that being said, we look forward to working together with you all throughout WSIS Forum 2016 and the spirit of international cooperation and sustainable goals.

Thank you.

>> [Applause].

>> Thank you very much, for that visionary speech. Thank you for providing us the vision of the smart ICTs ecosystem.



It is my great pleasure to welcome here our coorganizer, Joakim Reiter, deputy Secretary General, UNCTAD.

>> JOAKIM REITER: Thank you very much.

Excellencies, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, it is, of course, a great honor to address the opening of the WSIS Forum 2016. We're proud to cosponsor this event because of the shared vision in the society in which everyone can create access and share information. It has been said that the best way to predict the future is to build it yourself. That's why we're here, to build the future we want. In the last few years we did the hard work of forging a consensus on the role of the Information Society and its connections to the Sustainable Development Goals. The U.N. general Assembly's high level meeting on WSIS and the SDG summit give us the basis for action and both expect us to deliver. ICT for development we all agree has proved its tremendous power. For now there is a wide gap between the reality we face of today and our hopes of tomorrow. This forum marks a pivot from agreement on paper to actions on the ground. This is not a small challenge. We need to think big, but we need to be practical. This is what we're trying to do also in UNCTAD through work on trade investments, science, innovation, ICT. Allow me to focus on one example, our eTrade initiative. Deeper commitment to online paying platforms have made it easier for countries to participate in the eCommerce which is helping with trades for rural communities, SMEs and ensuring women empowerment. The divide, it is huge. In the U.K. more than 70% of consumers already buy things online. The equivalent share in countries like Mexico, South Africa, it is below 5%. In most developing countries the shares, they're even lower. To bridge the digital divide developing countries have to divide the barriers in transport, logistics, legal frameworks, skills and awareness. This will involve expanding affordable ICT connectivity and bolstering what some of us call the analogue complements that underpin the ICTs ecosystem, human capital, infrastructure and regulatory and policy frameworks. This is where the eTrade comes in the picture. Other international organizations besides UNCTAD, they have all contributed effectively to increase eCommerce updates. The problem, as we see it, is that current efforts are fragmented. Meeting the challenge in developing countries requires a more concerted approach and on a much larger scale requiring getting all stakeholders on board. In this sense,



this project and initiative sums up what WSIS is about, ambitious ideas, more coordinated delivery and projects that are based on the needs of developing countries. Ladies and gentlemen, the best way to predict the future is to build it yourself. We only have until 2030 to do so. We must start now. The forum this week offers each of us the opportunity to begin the work that lies ahead. I encourage all of you to take advantage of this venue to share insights, test ideas and experiment with new approaches. With your support I'm confident we can foster an inclusive Information Society that drives development in the years to come.

Thank you very much.

>> [Applause].

>> Thank you very much for these remarks.

Now I have the pleasure to invite and to welcome the representative of the UNESCO, our coorganizer of the WSIS Forum 2016, Dr. Indrajit Banerjee, director of knowledge, societies division, communication and information sector of UNESCO.

>> INDRAJIT BANERJEE: Thank you.

Distinguished panelists, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of UNESCO Director General I'm pleased to welcome you as one of the four coorganizers of this year's world Summit Information Society Forum. This opening takes place on a very particular day on which we celebrate across the planet world press freedom day. This is also why UNESCO Director General could not be here today with us.

For UNESCO, this is one of the most inspiring moments on the global calendar. It is a moment to celebrate the fundamental freedom of every woman and man to express themselves. It is a moment to shine light on the right to access and share information. It is a moment to stand with all journalists and defend their safety. Freedom of expression goes to the very heart of what it means to be human. We all strive to understand the world. We all seek Information and Knowledge. We all wish to express and share opinions and views. It is in this same spirit which led UNESCO's 195 Member States last November to establish on the 28th of September the international Day for universal access to information. Today is not only a particular day we mark with 2016, also the fostering of the journey of implementing the WSIS +10 new outcome document, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Change



agreement. This is universal, transformative. Charting a course for people, planet and peace for the next 10 to 15 years. The WSIS +10 new outcome document recognizes that Human Rights is central to the vision on the Information Society. Information, communication technologies, they have the potential to strengthen the exercise of Human Rights. They can enable access to information and freedom of expression.

The WSIS +10 outcome document notes, however, with concern, that there are serious threats to freedom of expression and to access to information and calls for protection of journalists, media workers in the Civil Society. We thank all those of you who do not spare any efforts in the negotiation process to make the WSIS +10 the new outcome document a milestone in terms of Human Rights and ICTs, including the reference to future knowledge societies. It is knowledge societies technology which is first used by the UNESCO in 2005 in Tunis used in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This is the Agenda by the people, for the people set forth in 17 ambitious Sustainable Development Goals. At this WSIS Forum, UNESCO will explore how the WSIS actions lines can serve the SDGs. Tomorrow we'll have at 1:30 p.m. a high-level dialogue devoted to SDG16 to promote peaceful and sustainable societies for target 10, ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms in accordance with national legislation and international agreements. A number of our Action Line Facilitators who work on access to information on ethics, cultural issues will address this SDG jointly. In taking this combined WSIS SDG work forward UNESCO is clear, freedom of expression, it is not only aims of themselves but drivers of positive change. They're accountability, transparency, they appeal to democracy, the rule of law and good governance. They also are foundations for inclusive, sustainable development by all voices that are heard, all sources of creativity, they're measured. In empowering every woman and man, the fundamental force for dialogue, mutual understanding and lasting peace. We must have fundamental freedoms online and offline in Cyberspace, we're working to support the Internet as rights-based, open, accessible, multistakeholder driven. These are our principals. We're advancing media literacy to strengthen the respect for Human Rights with young people and to bolster new forms of global citizenship. The



Internet must be a force for peace, to prevent youth radicalization, to count mayor hate propaganda and extremism. Last June there was a conference on youth and the Internet fighting radicalization and the extremism and we'll include that in our SDG session tomorrow and we're also pleased to inform you going to organize a counter on youth radicalization in Cyberspace, we'll have that next Octobers in Canada. The goals guide the social media campaign the Director General launched last year in the University of Baghdad. For young women and men to share the message of Human Rights and we'll learn more about this in our SDG session tomorrow. All of this echos the conviction that guides our actions to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image, to advance sustainable development and lasting peace.

This is important and I thank everyone for the commitment of defending the freedoms that make us who we are. Thank you very much for your attention.

>> Thank you. It is migrate honor to invite Philipp Metzger, Director General of ofcom Switzerland, host of the first phase of WSIS 2003 which laid down the fundamentals of the WSIS Action Line framework. The floor is yours.

>> PHILIPP METZGER: Mr. Secretary-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, almost five months have already past since the WSIS 10-year review in New York. I would like to commend once again the very-able facilitator, Latvia and the United Arab Emirates and everyone else who has contributed to this memorable milestone. On the basis of the robust reaffirmation of commitment to an inclusive Information Society for all that was reached in New York and building on the numerous significant achievements since Geneva 2003 and Tunisia and Tunis, 2005, we're now confronted with another tall order to embrace digitalization with all its facets while still putting a human being, putting human needs at its center. We are indeed expected to tackle simultaneously many different challenges that lie ahead of us, some existing, others new, many yet to emerge more clearly, we may call those challenges of a post-internet society era. Ultimately we'll be living as a digital society with a inclusive tall economy in a digital world. It is essential not to forget the need for capacity building and for local content and it is equally indispensable to provide for unsensorred access to information for the freedom of expression and for privacy in order to make full use of the opportunities provided for by ICTs. The



challenges in particular effect women and girls who often cannot fully take advantage of ICTs and are therefore deprived of opportunities. A number of professional, social, political and cultural activities in which women and girls are not adequately involved is considerable. This is of great concern because the potential of half of the world's population of women and girls has to be fully unleashed.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, a lottery mains to be done for the Information Society to be truly inclusive and universal. We should use this opportunity of the first WSIS Forum since the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting in New York to shape the next concrete steps. Not only does the international community need it continue to attach the highest priority to bridging any digital divides, but also need to establish tangible links to the goals of the 230 Agenda for Sustainable Development as reaffirmed in the WSIS +10 outcome documents in New York.

The continued implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the link with the SDGs will require the commitment of all stakeholders, including international organizations, private sector, Civil Society, the technical community and academia, U.N. agencies and governments. I'm saying this with a particular emphasis bearing in mind my role as a new member of the ITU UNESCO Broadband commission for sustainable development but the light of experience in my own country. Two weeks ago Switzerland adopted digital Switzerland, a new strategy, the strategy acknowledging the importance of ICTs as a critical instrument in order to achieve sustainable development in all areas of life in order to succeed in eradicating team poverty we deem it important that the entire world's population has access to the Internet. This challenge is a tight linkage between the purpose of the WSIS and the U.N. Agenda 2030. Our strategy will be continuously developed in close cooperation with representatives from the economy, science, research and civil society. To that end, a new national dialogue will be launched to enable all relevant stakeholders to contribute to the further development of digital Switzerland. To succeed in this arena it is crucial for all stakeholders to work closely together. As part of our strategy with Switzerland we'll continue to support the Geneva Internet platform, which is managed by the DIPLO foundation and is an online platform as a capacity building center and as a permanent and good venue for discussion. We do hope that

the GIP will continue to make a meaningful contribution to capacity building in the field of digital policy, including the linkages, of course, with SDGs and we invite all interested parties from all stakeholder groups to actively take part and make good use of the GIP.

Ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD and the Facilitators of the Action Lines and the co-facilitators who have contributed to the implementation of the outcomes of the world summit on the Information Society. The United Nations agencies will continue to play a pivotal role in promoting information and communication technologies and will continue to face future challenges, in particular as regards the ICT's role as cross-cutting Facilitators in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Finally on behalf of the Swiss federal authorities as well as on behalf of the Republic of Geneva and the City of Geneva it is my pleasure to invite to you a reception to be held here in the cafeteria of the conference center at noon.

Thank you.

>> [Applause].

>> Thank you for that opening statement.

Now I would like to turn to Civil Society representative at this multiestablishing holder opening ceremony, Mr. Cyril Ritchie, President of The conference of non-governmental organizations Civil Society is invited.

>> CYRIL RITCHIE: Secretary-General, Distinguished Delegates, sisters and brothers of Civil Society, ladies and gentlemen, this WSIS Forum 2016 will spend several days of debates and interactions focusing on turning targets into action. A notable, indeed essential focus, for we're all aware that the immense efforts expended in intergovernmental fora to establish meaningful principles, goals, targets, indicators are not always matched by commiserate efforts in implementation. Even when responsible Civil Society organizations and competent business entities contribute their indispensable input to intergovernmental decision-shaping and decision-taking, there are gaps in moving from the intent to useful action. This present WSIS Forum is a opportunity for many to make serious cooperative progress in turning targets into action. The forum offers an opportunity to relate WSIS targets and concerns to the Sustainable Development Goals and to help ensure that their implementation gets off to a sound

start.

It is indeed striking how often SDG concepts and terminology occur in various forum events. One sees sessions on education for women and children, bottom up democracy, social and economic development, youth employment, if trade growth for LDCs, smart sustainable cities, peaceful and inclusive knowledge societies, building confidence and security, promoting life-long learning opportunities for all. There could scarcely be better illustrations than these of the crucial importance of open and confident cooperation among the governmental, Civil Society, business sector it is we're to achieve lasting results for the people of the planet.

I pay tribute to ITU and to all WSIS partners for having made the WSIS process over all these years one where open consultation has been the watch word and normal practice. That itself has contributed to building confidence and security in programming and all WSIS interactions. Civil Society has always welcomed, endorsed and fostered this open approach. There are however threatening clouds on the horizon, indeed, there are.

Over the past 10 years or so there has been a clear and deeply disturbing trend in a number of countries towards an increasingly restricted space for Civil Society as well as outright threats and intimidation. organizations and individuals. Notably, those who have exercised their rights as citizens to speak up on Human Rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law.

In these matters, international politics and national politics are not separate containers, but rather are communicating vessels. It is a social phenomena when governments introduce limiting or financing of the certain societies organizations, when harassing registration and reporting requirements are introduced, when measures are adopt that had restrict or prohibit Civil Society organizations and NGOs from accessing funds from foreign sources or when governmental spokesmen make derogatory, indeed sometimes inflammatory public statements about NGOs and CSOs that are carrying out legitimate civic responsibilities of advocating for just, social, environmental, economic policies.

The link of all that with the WSIS process is that if Civil Society is denied the exercise of its proper citizenship role at the national level it would be less capable and prepared to be the citizens' voice at the international level.

It will be less equipped and less present to make its indispensable contribution to implementing the WSIS targets and the overall SDGs. Let us not forget that at the outset of the SDG drafting the President of The U.N. General Assembly said governments cannot do this alone. We absolutely need Civil Society. Thus, Mr. Secretary-General, I ask that during this intense week of turning targets into action we remember that building confidence and security at the international level requires that at the national level governments demonstrate confidence in citizens and their associations and guarantee them the security inherent in respecting fundamental freedoms.

I thank you.

>> [Applause].

>> Thank you for the voice of Civil Society and now let me introduce Madam Dominique Lazanski from the International Chamber of Commerce and Business Action to Support the Information Society to provide the vision of the private sector in how to implement the WSIS Action Line.

Thank you.

>> DOMINIQUE LAZANSKI: Excellencies, distinguished guests, all participants, it is an honor and a pleasure to speak on behalf of the international chamber of commerce BASIS, business Acts to support the Information Society and as the first woman to speak today I want to start with a recent statistic from the GMSA that highlights many challenges where technology intersects with the Sustainable Development Goals, here gender equality. Worldwide 200 million fewer women than men own a mobile phone across low and middle income countries. In South Asia alone, women are 38% less likely to own a phone with all that implies in terms of information access and personal autonomy. It is my privilege to join such distinguished speakers today and I want to thank the coorganizer UNDP, UNCTAD, UNESCO, thank you for hosting this opportunity to check in on our collective efforts following last year. It is my privilege to speak and our privilege to be here to help move forward the WSIS Action Lines and bring liberating power of the Information Society to the next several billion people.

History is moving fast. GSMA and BASIS members are privileged to build a mobile bridge for the world and there is already access provided to the Internet at a rate of 1 million new customers every day with 90% of growth coming from



developing markets. We all know there is so much more to do. I was lucky enough to witness firsthand the early flourishing of the Internet as it moved beyond an academic project thanks to the entrepreneurs of Silicon Valley. I was employee 899 at Yahoo back in the glory days, my Twitter handle is so short, I was one of the first to get one that users still sometimes confuse me with a famous music rapper and wonder why he's so interested in Internet governance. We're all familiar with what happened there though. The Internet developed not as a top-down plan but emerged in a way that can only be described by noble laureate economist as a spontaneous order. I have just one plea for this meeting on behalf of the billions of people, men and women who are waiting silently for the opportunity to join the Information Society. As we share views from all our broad efforts to a common goal, a people's centered inclusive and development oriented Information Society we must not let the fatal top-down management and narrow goals to come between us and the goals. It will take all stakeholders to meet the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, in context of the Information Society industry can lead the way in some and many areas, including inclusion, digital, social, financial, which development -- which the development of infrastructure fostering local content and education and access are all key.

The need for capacity building and its need in lesser and underdeveloped areas means we must continue to have investment and maintain the growth of the miraculous communications network, it must allow the continued collaborative development of interoperable, practical protocols that are industry led and operated in a transparent, accountable way.

The multistakeholder model is how to connect everyone and everything to a better future.

Thank you, very much.

>> [Applause]. Thank you for the voice of the private sector. Dear ladies and gentlemen, this doesn't conclude the opening ceremony. This is a multi-effort agency of the U.N. system, this is an occasion of highlighting the importance which is set by the different U.N. sister agencies on their agendas positioning the ICT component very high in their political agendas. I would like to recognize the presence of the heads of the U.N. agencies representing the international organizations, but also the economic commissions from the regions that's why it is my great pleasure to introduce the

first speakers, Madam Arancha Gonzalez, executive director of the international trade center. The floor is yours.

>> ARANCHA GONZALEZ: I would like to thank you for the kind invitation to take part in the forum.

The Information Society, the ITC, the U.N. agencies, also the World Trade Organization all support SMEs, they're using trade as a tool to generate growth, employment, also Intellectual Property and very important part of our activity has to do with helping small and medium enterprises to take part in the digital economy. You use it in order to improve and heighten innovations as to connect themselves to value chains as well.

SM Es, size, land lookness, GDP, distance from markets can be overcome through innovation, through embedding technology in business processes or going digital.

Online retail is more than 13% of consumer spending in the U.S. More than 10% in Europe, and many more in individual countries like the U.K. or Germany. Business to business sales are estimated to be as much as 15 times as large. This is not just the case in developed countries, it is also true for developing economies. In Africa, for example, by 2018 eCommerce market is projected to reach 50 billion U.S. dollars up from 8 billion just in 2013. Yet, what we know in international trade center, it is that many developing countries and many small and medium enterprises in developing countries, they're not taking full advantage of this opportunity.

In ITC we have looked at what is holding SMEs back. We have asked them, and it is on that basis that we have moved from awareness raising to action. What are the challenges? You can find them summarized in a document we published recently international E. commerce in Africa, the way forward which is equally true for other parts of this world. Difficulties with international transactions, exclusion from international eMarketplaces, inexperience with sales taxes and input duties, infrastructure deficit, lack of local, regional institutions, these are some of the nuts and bolts we need to fix to get SMEs to thrive in the digital economy. Capacity building, shared structures and technology, improved access to transport and logistics, these are some of the answers that can fix those challenges.

Working individually SMEs are at a huge cost disadvantage. Bringing them together, it is alleviating

efforts, we're focusing efforts to build cooperative structures as a foundation to our work to promote eTrade. This is what we have done in Morocco, helping more than 400 SMEs build a platform called Made In Morocco that's seen sharp increases from products ranging from olive oil, cosmetics, books, music, tripling the transformation rate, that's to say the share of website visitors that purchase goods. This is why we want to replicate this experience in Senegal and Ethiopia, Rwanda and this is why we're supporting SMEs to go digital in digital marketplaces in Tunisia, Jordan, Egypt to name but a few.

You had an experience, you met some companies when we brought them to Geneva at the end of last year. You tested their products, buying online as well as seeing products live. This is what we did just two months ago with Syrian women who were eager to bring their products, they had painfully manufactured them in the midst of conflict and devastation and we will do it again in July so that you can see with your own eyes it works.

You know, we see the power that trade has to empower women economically. Women who can now obtain better prices for selling internationally online. Women who can thrive in ICT and in providing digital services, women who can now be financially included through electronic payment solutions. This is why in ICT we do particular attention to women micro, small, medium enterprises and why we're advocating that we all take action to ensure that women are also digitally included. Let me thank ITU for leading coordination of efforts in this space. We very much appreciate it.

In order to do that, in order to work, to work on this space, ICT partners with the private sector. We partner with many. What we do, it is not enough. We need to also bring greater attention to trade rules and to government policies to make sure that they're supported in digital inclusion. That's a reason why we support international organizations in their endeavor to coordinating collective efforts with aid for trade, aid for electronic trade because we want for our activities in an area of capacity building, governmental policy to support heightened participation of SMEs in the digital economy. Thank you for your kind attention.

>> Thank you for this message. Now it is my great pleasure to invite Mr. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of World Meteorological Organization, WMO.





Thank you.

>> PETERI TAALAS: Thank you, Excellencies, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honor to attend this high-level event. From our side we have organized nice weather for the coming days. Unfortunately you're sitting here in doors and you cannot enjoy the sunshine but by the end of the the week you will see temperatures exceeding 20°. Enjoy it if you have a chance.

I would like to appreciate the invitation to this WSIS Forum this year. WMO has a opportunity and long history with long cooperation with ITU. Information and communication technologies play an important role in functioning of the global infrastructure that allow essential -- climate information to be worldwide. It is also country boughting highly to the accuracy of the forecasts and climate information. 291 members of WMO, the meteorological services in the U.N. family, other agencies, we provide authority information on the climate system globally and we monitor and send early warnings about extreme events relating to weather and also climate. This wouldn't be possible without the help of ITU and ICT systems. At the WMO we're dealing with technology and -- hitech knowledge, we're technology-driven organization. Somebody may say that we're the father of big data. We have been always starting the two biggest computers in the world and we'll continue to do so in the future. We also are an organization for big voice and also for the small and big girls and boys, we're dealing with satellites, super computers, radars, rockets, aircraft, ships. One of the biggest things for mankind for this century, hopefully for the coming centuries, the big problem is climate change. We have achieved important agreements last year in the U.N. system, a couple of weeks ago, 175 countries signed the Paris Agreement in New York. Besides that, approved last year, the SDGs and the Sendai agreement dealing with disasters. They're all great achievements. If you look at the climate last year, 1° warming level, they also exceeded the 400 in carbon dioxide and we have seen 20 centimetres increase in the sea level globally, Arctic sea ice is melting at the record level, also the glaciers are melting and during the last three months together with this el n ino, we have had warming and by 2013 we expect to see a dramatic 2° warming. This negative trend we have seen in climate, bigger amount of disasters throughout flooding, tropical storms, forest fires, so forth, it is

supposed to continue for the coming 50 years, 2016.

That's the negative impact on the living conditions of the planet that will have an impact on food security in many parts of the world, will have impacts on economy, will have impacts on refugee crisis. At the moment we're facing crisis but because of climate, this crisis, they're still more and more intense in the future.

We have to adapt to this change but we have to pay very much attention to the mitigation to climate change and ICT technology offers very good opportunities for mitigation, working practices, you don't have to be physically involve anymore, that's happening in many of our main member organizations and you don't have to travel so much because of the modern ICT technologies. They are all good opportunities and I would like to thank you all for providing those.

From our perspective, there is also one thing that's dealing with climate change and safety services mainly Arctic sea, it is opening and needing to provide safety services there at the moment and telecommunication systems in the Arctic, they're very much missing and the community will provide better telecommunication satellites for that need.

Open data is part of the community nowadays, big data, as I said, and there are many opportunities for innovations combining ICT technologies and those datasets, also including mobile services.

Finally, I would like to announce that the WMO, ITU, they're organizing on Friday an event dealing with Disaster Risk Reduction. You're all welcome to attend that. WMO really remains strongly committed to promoting ICT technologies, improving climate services. With these words I would like to wish you a successful meeting and enjoy the nice weather that we have provided for you.

Thank you.

>> [Applause].

>> Thank you for that address.

Now let us turn to the original level of the implementation, very important with the overall review and with particular the I want gracious with the SDG framework. It is my pleasure to invite Mr. Christian Bach, executive Secretary of The United Nations economic commission for Europe.

>> CHRISTIAN BACH: Thank you very much.

Excellencies, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,



thank you very much to our good colleagues in ITU and UNESCO for leadership in organizing this summit. It is an honor, a pleasure to be with you today expressing the support of the U.N. regional commissions to the important forum. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda sets an ambitious historic part for transformation of our societies and digital technologies and Agenda driven that is discussed here on the world summit on Information Society will help us achieve it and achieve this transformation. I'm here to offer our strong partnerships, individual commissions under the coordination, we'll do our best to support this Agenda, use information and communication technologies to strengthen the knowledge and Information Societies and to advance sustainable development. There is so much to gain. ICT helps us overcome the restraints of geography, enabling totally new forms of collaboration, internationally, nationally and it is not feasible without it. It is bringing us together, new modes of organizing production, delivering services and it is particularly relevant as we heard it also earlier for small and medium sized enterprises and for landlocked countries, ICT is hugely beneficial to those economies and those companies who are at a disadvantage due to distance, unequal access to knowledge here, ICT, it can allow countries, communities, companies to leapfrog in their development struggle.

We live in a connected world, we see new fascinating markets and products, physical products and digital technology, they merge and they move together. For integration, it cannot be measured therefore anymore by commercial or financial flows than the intensity of data exchanges, it is increasingly becoming an indicator of economic integration. Access to information and participation in this global knowledge network is not possible without a well developed digital infrastructure. This is the backbone of our societies today. This value is no longer defined only by power networks, bridges, roads, something we deal heavily with the UNEC as host of the trans important conventions in the U.N., we also need the digital technologies that can allow connectivity and efficiency and it can add value to the physical infrastructure and the entire value chain.

ICTs is at the heart of innovations in multiple areas from automated driving, intelligent transport systems, smart power grids, environmental management systems and the efficiency gains associated with the smart cities. In all

areas we need strong legal frameworks, we need standards to efficiently deploy and utilize ICT. We need trust, predictability, we need common standards. The regional commissions, they're heavily engaged in these areas with UNECE, in the U.N., there is a redeveloping of standards and recommendations for trade facilitation and eCommerce bringing together stakeholders leading to common understanding and facilitating exchange across borders and bridges. We have had extensive work on transport systems, we developed a vehicle standards in the vehicle regulations with all the new fascinating vehicles and transport systems that we see emerging. On smart cities we have teamed up with ITU and developed a set of smart, sustainable city indicators so that we can now measure and guide and help cities to really become smart in a variety of areas that can help them also to inform their open development plans and strategies. ICT and ICT standards are help with the development of technology societies can help us to do more and to do it much faster and cheaper.

However, the implications of digital technologies do not stop here in innovation resource efficiency collaboration and management. They're an important tool for personal development because they can help us to build open and transparent societies and provide new channels for accountability. We hope this will give citizens the right to information but digital technologies helps governments to deliver on this right and provide information and services to citizens that can pave the way for political accountability and progress. A key objective of the 2030 Agenda is that no one is left behind. Digital technologies will help us ensure this and build inclusive societies, inclusive policies that pay attention to each and every group in a society. Here we need data, we need aggregated data to understand and measure and monitor how well we're doing. The U.N. regional commissions are really committed here to help Member States to build capacity, to deliver and desegregate the statistics to monitor the implementation of the inclusive policies. We're developing the tools and recommendations in our statistical commissions to ensure that we can use data and big data and new sources of data and modern technology to provide and produce statistical data to help us to react faster and better.

Despite rapid progress, there is still much to do. More



than half of the world's population is not using the Internet. We cannot yet speak of a global Information Society. We need to tackle these inequalities between countries and regions, between citizens, between communities. We are ready to work with all of you in doing so and all of you in this room and beyond so that we can further advance the construction of an Information Society and contribute to reaching the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you very much.

>> Thank you very much, executive secretary for this address. Now let me turn to the deputy Director General of the universal Postal Union, Mr. Pascal Clivaz.

>> PASCAL CLIVAZ: Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, allow me first to congratulate ITU general management as well as official from UNESCO and others for organizing this important forum. We all are close friends, partners and we're all committed and looking for common solutions and concrete actions.

Let me begin by saying that the UP you can and postal sector remains an important stakeholder in the development of the Information Society. The UPU is a co-facilitator of the business Action Line, working closely with the governments, regulators, posts to leverage the role of ICT as tool for business development and economic growth. Let me remind you all that the network was mentioned in many sections of WSIS action plan as an important national infrastructure to enable ICT solutions and ICT skills development. The UPU represents the postal industry that employees over 6 million people around the world -- employs. The postal employees deliver over 350 billion letters and packages each year.

When you buy or you sell online it is usually needing to be delivered physically. The post is an important national infrastructure for integrating the digital, physical all around the world. The UPU provides ICT frameworks to oversee the postal universal service obligation of all countries ensuring that everyone everywhere receive their mail, postal networks, many outside of the urban areas, they would be excluded from the benefits of the Information Society. The goals of the UPU strategy are to improve interoperability of network infrastructure, to ensure sustainable and modern products and foster market and sector functioning. The UPU works closely with Member States and posts to innovate and modernize the global postal network. The UPU is constantly



updating the postal industry channels and regulations to support the growth of the eCommerce through the postal network. The UPU develops and deploys affordable ICT solutions to ensure the standards can be implemented affordably by all Member States and their national posts. As an example, the UPU was worked closely with WCU to develop an ecosystem development focused items. Also to ensure the effective movements of goods through the post. The UPU operates a global tracking network. This network connects over 150 countries to exchange billions of items and data each day about postal movement around the world. We believe that equal and affordable ICT network access for all Member States is for the effective management of the international postal network, including confidence and security of the postal network for all citizens. This global ICT networks also connects airlines, customs, posts together to ensure management of the global supply chain. UPU works with WCO, other international organizations to ensure the global infrastructure evolves to meet the needs of Member States with the increasing trade flows through the post especially for business to customer traffic. ICT frameworks to integrate stakeholders of supply chain, eRetailers, post, customs, in using this for trade and cross-border commerce, this is a top priority of UPU. The financial inclusion of the unbanked, especially migrant is a key component in the future of the Sustainable Development Goals framework. Here again, posts play a role through the provision of financial services to all and everywhere now combined with mobile ICT solution. The citizen and businesses entering the Information Society need increased trust and confidence in transaction and providers. The postal network is providing universal service to all. Trust and universality, it is the cornerstones of the postal network for centuries. The UPU anticipated the importance of this issues in the Information Society a long time ago. The UPU was the first U.N. agency to establish a top-level domain on the Internet for a sector for post. That is a secure space on the Internet to increase inclusion and confidence in the digital transaction for all citizens.

The UPU also monitored the development of the Information Society capability in the postal sector worldwide. We recently released the second edition of measuring eService development report which is a global panorama of the state of the development of modern ICT-based services in Member States.

This report shows that the modernization of the postal network, it is growing and the UPU is showing ensuring results. In the establishment of a mandatory evaluation framework of the SDGs, by the U.N., the UP as leadership in a global indicator related to the measurements of eCommerce flows and developing countries and LDCs at the export level. This is the only eCommerce indicator being considered as part of the measuring and evaluation framework of the SDG17, strengthen and enhance the means of implementation of global partnership for sustainable development. The UPU is active in assisting Member States in building a resilient infrastructure promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation with major cases of providing expertise and resources to strengthen the international infrastructure. Ladies and gentlemen, a lot has been achieved since WSIS was agreed over ten years ago. However, many countries are still facing challenges in ICT infrastructure and the adoption of enabling environment for eBusiness. The UPU will continue to work with Member States and the post to assist.

Allow me to conclude my remarks calling upon all stakeholders in the Information Society to accelerate investment in modernizing the postal infrastructure. It is critical national infrastructure that is here to serve all citizens, all countries.

At modern post we accelerate the importance of the inclusive Information Society and help fulfill the promises of WSIS and SDGs. Thank you for your attention.

>> [Applause].

>> Thank you for that address. It is now migrate pleasure to introduce our last, but not least speaker, Mr. Peter major, the Chairman of the United Nations commission on science and technology for development which is convening just next week and will be proud to contribute to the results of this multistakeholder WSIS.

Mr. Major, the floor is yours.

>> PETER MAJOR: Thank you.

Deputy Secretary-General of the ITU, Chairman, designated Chairman of the WSIS forum, Honorable members, Excellencies, dear colleagues, friends, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the United Nations commission of science and technology for development it is an honor for me to greet the participants of the WSIS Forum 2016. Let me take the opportunity to express my appreciation to the coorganizers of the forum and also to



the specialized agency of the United Nations, the regional organizations and all stakeholders, last but not least, the sponsors who contributed to holding this event.

Reading the programme of the forum it is evident to me that this year the forum will be even richer than last year and it will have innovative and a variety of ideas that we can read in the WSIS outcome document approved by the Member States of the United Nations last December in New York.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you may know, the United Nations commission of science and technological development, CSTD, it is a subsidiary body of the economic and social council of the United Nations. It was established in 1992 to provide the generous advancement and relevant issues. Since 2006 the commission has been mandated to serve as a focal point in the system wide follow-up to the outcomes of the world summit on Information Society WSIS and to include through the collaborations of recommendations to the council aimed at furthering the implementation of the summit outcomes. The commission reviews and assistance progress at the international and regional levels in the implementation of the Action Lines, recommendations, commitments contained in the outcome document of the summit shares best practices and lessons learned, identifying obstacles and constraints and counters actions and initiatives to overcome them and important measures for further implementation of the summit outcomes.

The commission also promotes dialogue and fosters partnerships with other appropriated United Nations groups. The CSTD has proposed the report from the Secretary-General on the progress made on the implementation and of the follow-up of the world summit of Information Society outcomes at the regional, international levels based on inputs from the United Nations specialized agency, regional organizations and the Internet governance forum Secretariat. The commission meets annually for a period of one week. Next meeting is going to be 9th of May, next Monday, I hope to see many of you at our meeting. During the meeting the commission will consider the outcomes of this forum as well as the outcomes of the WSIS implementation and it will formulate the outcomes of the WSIS.

We have mentioned many times the WSIS +10 outcome document which was approved by the united nations in December. I'm pleased to tell you that in this 14-page document that the CSTD was mentioned 10 times.



I'm not going to read out all paragraphs including the CSTD in this document. I just want to call your attention to one paragraph which of course will be the continuation of the annual reports on the implementation of the outcomes of the world summit on Information Society through the CSTD and to the economic and social council taking into account the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in this regard invite the high-level political forum on sustainable development to consider the annual report of the commission on science and technology for development. Ladies and gentlemen, I hope to have given you some insight into the work of the CSTD. Let me reiterate my appreciation to the coorganizers and take the opportunity to wish you a very successful WSIS forum.

Thank you.

>> [Applause].

>> Thank you very much for this statement, and this concluded our opening ceremony of the WSIS forum. I would like to request all distinguished speakers to remain seated. I have the pleasure to invite the Deputy Secretary-General of the ITU, Malcolm Johnson to proceed with the ceremonial appointing of the Chairman of the WSIS forum 2016.

>> Deputy Secretary-General: Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, this year we're introducing a lot of innovations to the WSIS forum with the aim of strengthening engagement, inclusiveness, and the outcome orientation. There has been informals for identifying the Chairman of the WSIS forum 2016, it is my pleasure for you to consider His Excellency, ambassador Daniel Sepulveda, deputy assistant secretary, Bureau of Economics and business affairs, United States. I wish to ask you consider this in this matter.

Thank you very much. Congratulations Excellency Sepulveda.

Prior to inviting the Chairman to deliver his address to the forum, I would like to inform you that in order to strengthen orientation we have carried out consultations with all the major stakeholders in order to identify high-level track Facilitators and as a result we have 16 high-level track Facilitators representing Civil Society, technical community, academia, the private sector and their names will be displayed on the screens. Congratulations also to all those 16 high-level track Facilitators.

>> [Applause].



>> Now it is my pleasure to invite the Chairman of WSIS Forum 2016 ambassador Sepulveda to give his address.

>> DANIEL SEPULVEDA: I'm honored to be here to Chair this 2016 WSIS forum. As others pointed out, this is the first forum since the international community concluded its 10-year review of the WSIS in December of 2015. As such, it presents us with an opportunity to both reflect on the past and to look forward to the future. It also gives me an opportunity to express my appreciation for all the work that all of you have done to make this forum possible. I want to in particular thank the sponsors and the partners who have made this event possible through their funding. I take the time to note how much work goes into an event like this, the U.N. staff and those that prepare each of us to be here are the unsung heroes of the event. -- unsung -- for their hard work and quiet dedication they deserve our sincere thanks. When the world came together in 2003 and 2005 the Delegates were only beginning to understand the potential of ICTs and the Internet.

The question they had to grapple with was how to support the new organic bottom-up processes driving innovation and growth in this space as it evolved from a research project to a global platform for exchange of information. They chose to invest in, foster, enrich that process. 10 years later, in December of 2015 in New York the U.N. General Assembly recognized and reaffirmed that this was the correct decision and approach with a high-level meeting behind us, the question on everyone's mind is where do we go from here? Since the focus of the WSIS has always been on how we can use the ICTs to achieve nationally agreed development goals, the 2030 Agenda, it is a natural place to start. The 2030 Agenda is a milestone international agreement and will be an effective tool to advance our shared international development priorities. This new Agenda in its 17 new Sustainable Development Goals will catalyze action to increase an increased social development for people all around the world. The U.S. government is heeding the SDG call to action at the national and international levels to increase access to ICT as well as the ability to use them as a tool for economic and social development. For example, the Barack Obama unveiled the connect all initiative in march, 2016 to help Americans at every income level to get online and have the tools to take full advantage of the Internet by connecting 20 million more

Americans by 2020.

At the international level, the U.S. Department of State recently launched the global connect initiative which will have brought an additional 1.5 billion people online by 2020. Better coordinating existing efforts and mobilizing the development banks and development community will engage in this effort.

These initiatives among many others add to the collective efforts by stakeholders around the world to bring the potential of ICTs to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

The original WSIS and MDG development goals have only informal linkages but it is clear that the WSIS framework had a significant impact on achieving the MDGs. The WSIS plus 10 high level meeting recognized this progress and called for a continued close linkage between the WSIS and the 2030 Agenda. Although there is no single SDG that specifically focuses on ICT increasing the Internet access there is broad agreement that the continued development and deployment of ICTs are critical to realizing the SDGs and also to measuring them.

We believe that continued implementation of the WSIS Action Lines will organically contribute to the 2030 Agenda. We also believe that the WSIS communities work will foster greater connections among Internet and development stakeholders and allow for a stronger, more realistic understanding of ICTs' potential and the challenges constraining it in difficult development context.

ICTs can play a crucial role in monitoring, measuring progress toward sustainable development by facilitating data gathering and other indicators needed for every goal and target U.N. agencies, including those that are cofacilitating this event began to work to identify these indicators and we welcome that effort.

I look forward to continuing this discussion with all of you all of this week. The WSIS Forum is an annual platform for discussion sharing of best practices and implementation of the outcomes among all stakeholders. In a year we're working to make that Internet action a bit more dynamic, inclusive, engaging. I encourage you to take the opportunity that the WSIS forum presents to meet new people, forge new connections and foster new dialogue.

I thank you again for the honor of Chairing this event.

>> [Applause].

>> Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for the



statement, Daniel Sepulveda, and this is the conclusion of the opening ceremony. We would like to thank you very much, distinguished speakers and we would like to invite the speakers of the second session to proceed to the podium.

Thank you very much, one more time. Had a round of applause for our leaders.

>> [Applause].

>> Please remain seated.

We're running a bit late in our Agenda. Therefore for all speakers we have the kind request to keep to time planning.

I will invite the Ambassador to join. We're getting ready. Our distinguished representatives of the different stakeholder groups and the strong supporters of the WSIS Forum we have asked, therefore its migrate pleasure to welcome you -- my great pleasure to welcome to you the high-level opening statements business stakeholders supporting the effort of WSIS Forum. Please let me invite you with a round of applause for them.

>> [Applause].

Let me invite the first speaker, the vice Minister of the minister of internal affairs and communications of Japan. The floor is yours. Thank you very much. Excellencies, distinguished guests, gentlemen, on behalf of the Japanese government (Yasou Sakamoto) I would like to express my appreciation to the Secretary-General of the ITU and the members of the WSIS Secretariat and all stakeholders. Last December a review of WSIS was conducted and the implementation of the WSIS outcome has entered a new stage.

For this reason I recognize this WSIS forum is a very important meeting to kickoff to the goal which has not yet been achieved. We have made significant achieve.

S for the implementation of the WSIS outcome. On the other hand we have many other important challenges such as bridging the data divide and access to information. In addition, it will be necessary to take measures for new challenges such as the 2030 Agenda. We should reconfirm the Information Society will not be realized if we do not actively look at the challenges from the last decade under the new common understanding. Today I would like to comment on three important points. The first point, the use of ICT innovation benefits. ICT innovation will be made much more than we expect in the coming decade like the development of IOT, big



data, AI, so on. All stakeholders have the responsibility to consider how to utilize ICT benefits for human prosperity, including the promotion of open innovation, technology. The second point is the implementation of the multistakeholder approach. Unfortunately we still cannot say that we have reached a common consensus. However there are challenges getting increasingly complex. The stakeholder approach is a one and only solution to address the difficult challenges in cooperation with government, private sector, academia and Civil Society.

We would like to promote the multistakeholder approach and change our best practices among all in the future. The third point is a free flow of information. It is necessary to achieve an environment where all people around the world can access any information easy. When we think about the solution of global challenge it will become more and more important that we should continue to prioritize the distribution of information with quantity and quality domestically and internationally. It is important to affirm again free flow of information as a fundamental principle. Finally last week the G7ICT WSIS meeting was held in Japan. At that meeting we have adapted a charter for directory connected world and deck already ration to economic growth through ICT innovation and sustainable and inclusive progress by solving global challenges.

We expect activities will contribute in achieving WSIS goals.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

>> [Applause].

>> Thank you very much for this address. Now it is my pleasure to invite the representative of the Saudi Arabia, deputy permanent representative of the kingdom of the Saudi Arabia to the United Nations office in Geneva. The floor is yours.

>> KHALAD ALMANZALAWY: Ladies and gentlemen, Honorable audience, we're reaching here at the time of this WSIS Summit meeting to examine the final documents coming from the General Assembly in favor of the Information Society, this is a very important gathering and this will enable all the various stakeholders to discuss the major items.

Saudi Arabia has always been in favor of adopting an international vision of Information Society and here given the increasing importance which we attach to developing



Information Society we have undertaken this endeavor ever since 2003. Furthermore, we're very active and we have been active all throughout this most recent phase of the summit and this means a number of decisions must be made regarding the indepth examination of the General Assembly's conclusions in this regard. His majesty, the king, the monarch of Saudi Arabia has supported these various undertakings in favor of the strategic development goals and also for the Secretary-General of the ITU. It is our hope that we'll arrive at true economic progress through the efforts and we'll safeguard data and also further monitor activities all throughout the territory of Saudi Arabia and making the services available will make it possible for the kingdom to make major strides as well. We will continue investing and developing infrastructure. And like I say in recent time our GDP increased substantially, we have had 6% growth of GDP in the last year and there is a need for us to focus on other productive sectors as well in our economy. Furthermore, we're very active when it comes to the ICTs all throughout the Middle East. We have been spending some 32 billion U.S. dollars to further the availability of ICTs, this is up 7% since 2010 -- since 2014. Recent development in the area of ICTs, especially Internet had a major impact on our lifestyle. We know that Internet is just not an exchange of medium of people, but Internet of Things, thinks to that, we have been able to extend the Internet and different mobile networks to more and more populations. We can say that the use has increased substantially. Furthermore, Broadband -- we have Broadband coverage and it has increased by 160% and we have smart phones that have made it possible to increase the number of subscribers this year. There is also the increasing use of the new appliances and new types of units and we have, of course, the fourth generation, we have a full coverage, full 4G coverage throughout the territory and in 2010 we were roughly 1084 megabytes but this sharply increased recently and we want to make sure that there is greater use, broader use of Broadband services throughout the territory and for this reason we have launched a programme that will reach out to 2030 sustaining the Broadband infrastructure to cover more than 90% of all households, more than 90% of all households should be connected. We're 56% of the way there now. We have the input from the private sector and as we see it, Information Society has made it possible for Saudi Arabia to



bring in more and more programs and ever since the beginning of this programme, the 2010, all the way throughout 2015 many more lines were inaugurated. We've always been in favor of WSIS, been a strong proponent of WSIS, and we know this is an engine for economic development. We wish full success to this forum. U. thank you.

>> Thank you for this opening address. It is my great pleasure to introduce Her Excellency Magdalena Gaj, President of Office for electronic communications from Poland.

The floor is yours.

>> H.E. MAGDALENA GAJ: Good morning. Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, on the 12th of March 1876 for the first time in history a phone conversation took place. Mr. Alexander Graham bell said Mr. Watson, come here, I want to see you. These were the first words spoken on the phone. This is how the telephone was born and this is how the first simple message was transmitted over the phone.

Today on the 3rd of May, 2016 gigabytes of information will travel the world from this place to reach millions of people in Poland, Europe, everywhere thanks to the ingenious invention. These are our first WSIS forum after the General Assembly high level meeting on the overall review of the outcome, implementations of the WSIS. Therefore, at the beginning I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who participated in the review process and contributed to its success. The outcome document was extensively discussed. It is balanced, it reflects the most important issue that we should address in the upcoming years. In fact, we're opening a new chapter of the WSIS process. I hope that the spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding present throughout the whole negotiation process will remain with us and will be part of our future work.

The future is today.

We are facing enormous tech challenges. Artificial intelligence, big data, Internet of Things, so on. At the same time in so many countries we still struggle with basic challenges, lack of Telecom infrastructure and restricted access to the Internet.

Around 60% of people is it still offline. It is our duty to do our best and to take action to change this situation.

The entire planet has to be wrapped up in the Telecom network. Taking this opportunity I would like to share with you my experience and observations that are key in building

Information Society. Let me start with the telecommunication infrastructure which can be seen as a mutual network of the modern society and economy.

140 years has past since the first phone call. We can think of scenarios that look like a very distant future and almost impossible only 10 years ago. Yet Poland is one of the leaders in Europe in terms of mobile Broadband penetration. In 2015 more than 94% of our citizens used such services.

This result was approximately 90% higher than the European average and gives Poland the 5th place in Europe. It couldn't have happened without appropriate action of the regulator. In particular, the investment obligation imposed on mobile operators. Last year there was the auction for 800 megahertz. This was very important to the polish market and to the polish citizens and they're very much in the mobile Internet. This factored the facilitation of the introduction of the IP services in Poland which became a European champion in this area. This auction is a great opportunity to boost investment. Those that have released their licenses are committed to cover up to 90% of the addicts with 4 data services. The results of the action and the way in which the frequencies will be used, we influence the quality of life of polish citizens. ICT infrastructure is a network of modern society and economy and no country is able to operate without it. Infrastructure development shouldn't be our key priority.

We all know about the benefits in ICT. They bring transparency and enhance economic growth, social inclusion, in general they make our lives easier and better. ICT as all technology has also the dark side that shouldn't be ignored. The biggest challenge in my view is related to the issue of cybersecurity. This is an important factor that must be taken into consideration if you want to maintain trust in the network and services provided by means of the Internet. Without the secure networks and without trust in the networks we are not able to create real Information Society. In 2014 71% of organizations were effected by a successful cyber attack. Power and utility companies detected 527% more incidents in 2014 than in 2013. The average cost of the data breach increased by 15% in the LOST year, reaching 3.5 million U.S. dollars.

Cybersecurity is complex, transnational issue that requires global cooperation for ensuring safe Internet. Cybercrime is now a business which is more than a trillion



dollar as year in online fraud, identity theft and I want elect wall property effecting millions of people around the world as well as countless businesses and governments of every nations. I don't want to scare anybody. My goal is to raise awareness of the problem so that we could work on tangible solutions to fight it effectively.

To do that, we have to cooperate not only on the governmental level, but with the industry operators, businesses, law enforcement authorities as well as non-governmental sector. Awareness, cooperation, education, trust. These are the key elements that should guide us towards more secure Cyberspace.

Finally I would like to address the issue of gender equality. ITU data suggested that we have made some progress in that area as the propulsion of women online worldwide online is around 40% compared to around 46% of men. Bear in mind, this is significantly wider in developing countries and there is developed countries, the bridge gap is wider. In developing countries, the women is 21% less likely to own a mobile phone than the men and the divide is similar for Internet access.

I have been participating in a WSIS Forum for eight years. Each and every time I hear the same story, that it is important to reduce the gender gap, that we need equal access to the ICT for women. That ICD is the best tool to empower women, so on, so forth.

Ladies and gentlemen, we need real action p practical solution that will give women access to the ICTs to a majority position in cooperation to improve their lives. That's why I launched in Poland a project girls in new technology. It is for female students of technical facilities, those that participate in this have a unique opportunity to get an internship in selected company. Many students can only dream about the jobs in the global IP cooperation. We give the girls the opportunity to join such fields and stay with them. We have the power to make a difference. Why not move from the breakfast on to the main course? Why don't with he help a single-gifted girl from the least-developed countries to get education and to work in the ICT sector. Why don't we create a single success story per year? What's in the way? I believe that today's meeting and all the discussions and workshops throughout the week will give us more such examples and solutions that we'll be able to apply not only in terms of

gender equality but in all areas that are covered by the WSIS Action Lines. I hope that this will bring about real outcomes since we can make the difference and we can improve the quality of life of many people.

As Gandhi once said, you must be the change you wish to see in the world. Let's become the change.

Thank you so much for your attention.

>> [Applause].

>> Thank you very much for the statement and also for highlighting the importance of the gender dimension of the WSIS process.

It is now my pleasure of inviting the representative of ICANN, the CEO, Mr. Akram Attallah.

>> AAKRAM ATALLAH: Your Excellencies, ministers, distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen, I'm very pleased to have the opportunity to speak with you this morning and proud that ICANN is again partnering with the ITU for this annual Internet event. Just a short time ago it was ICANN's privilege to welcome Mr. Secretary-General to our meeting in Marrakech. Coming together in these two events is a sign of the advanced evolving relationship between the ICANN and ITU and a commitment that we're committed to strengthening in the years and months ahead.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on the important contributions this forum and the ITU made to the debate on the WSIS +10 output document last December. Notably, securing a 10-year mandate for the Internet governance forum and establishing the path for the ICTs to contribute to the implementations of the critically important Sustainable Development Goals that were adopted last year in New York. The WSIS review process clearly demonstrated the value of the multistakeholder approach in securing important agreements and I want to extend my congratulations to everyone involved in this effort. Another outstanding example of the multistakeholder example at work occurred this year on 10, March. When on behalf of the ICANN multistakeholder community the ICANN board transmitted a plan developed by the international Internet community that if approved will lead to global stewardship of some key technical Internet functions. It also proposes ways to enhance the accountability of ICANN as a fully independent organization.

The transition is the final step in the long anticipated privatization of the Internet domain name system. First

outlined when ICANN was incorporated in 1998.

The transmission, a simple push of a button represented over two years of intensive work by the global Internet community. I thank and commend each and every person who contributed to this historic effort. In March an additional transition of sorts occurred when the CEO of ICANN stepped down, shortly after announcing plans to end his tenure, there was an intense search for his replacement. The new CEO, the most recent position, Director General at the independent regulatory body Swedish post and Telecom authority and I'm sure many of you know him as he's no stranger to the ITU. He will take up the reins of CEO in late May and asked me to pass on his regards. Turning now, yesterday we hosted a workshop on reviews occurring related to the new programme. As I stand here today, nearly 1,000 new top-level domains have been delegated in the zone. This includes over 100 new internationalized domain names which permit the global community to use a domain name in the native language or script. This is important because the majority of new Internet users coming online in the next several years will be from economies using non-latin scripts and alphabets. This is a community effort again and I thank those that contributed time and expertise to enabling this. In closing, I want to reiterate that we're committed to the WSIS process and continued discussion on Internet governance issues. It is a pleasure to be here. I thank you for your time.

>> Thank you very much for this statement. We're unfortunately running a bit out of time. Therefore, a small request to the other speakers that we be as brief as possible.

Now it is my great pleasure to introduce the representative for ISOC, Internet Society, Mr. Raul Echeberria, Vice President. The floor is yours.

>> RAUL ECHEBERRIA: Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Internet Society, an organization working globally through 80,000 members and chapters in 82 countries of the world to ensure that the Internet is secure, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

The Internet Society was founded by the Internet and evolved from a brief that a society would emerge from this idea. The social connectivity, the important part of the future, unlike most pioneers, they were driven by curiosity and to push boundaries. They have connected more and more physical networks and more people together overtime. They



form a collective community that train with one another, big networks and connecting even more people. The history, it is a history of collaborative pioneery. Pushing forward by a community that sees challenges and opportunity for innovation and a goal of connectivity was equally the greatest tool for its success. In those days the Internet, it was measured by pen and paper and the benefits of each connection with each of the knowledge, connectivity, it was clearly advisable to the community as a -- visible to the community as a whole. To those participating, benefits were clear, it is moving more than from point A to B, it is a tool to empower and enable those that use it.

That collaborative spirit is alive today. Following the WSIS +10 review and the new Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is the spirit of empowerment and the Internet can enable that we call upon the global community to keep this close. Connectivity adds value to the whole but connectivity alone is not the goal. It is a means to other ends. This is why the Internet society's contribution to the sustainable development summit emphasized the enabling capacity of the Internet as a tool to drive and empower the Sustainable Development Agenda as a whole. To fully realize the Internet's potential we also need to enable people from creators, so that they become innovators. Companies, NGOs alone will never sustain the development, it can only be done by building communities that empower people and by giving them access to information, markets, healthcare, opportunities to make needs and others heard. As we engage around the world to promote and improve the open standards on infrastructure that underpinned the government we recognize the success of the Internet is linked to the building of the capacity of those it connects. Part of this capacity building is linked to the Internet itself of the open access and global reach and equally in the ability of the users to use and build on the open platform that's the Internet.

The multistakeholder approach is the way forward. We're different with you we have information and I believe that we can support the common goals here. Had the sustainable development conference, we have a chance to exchange solutions and to build and shape an Information Society and we can all relate to and participate in. One that can help promote sustainable development for the benefit of all. To do this, we must include all of the stakeholders that use, innovate the



Internet. We must strengthen the capacity in countries still needed and we must hear the voices of the youth and bridge the gender gap in shaping technology for all.

As we take steps to realize the global Information Society and to realize the issue behind the Sustainable Development Goals we must also look at our experiences of the past ten years and look at the multiestablishing holder approach that's brought us this far. We have this message in Europe, the message we must increase our collective efforts to address the challenge ahead and for the future Internet to be shaped by stakeholders, not borders. If we're to accomplish the full potential to look at sustainable development we must ensure that the governments reflect the global mature by being openly distributed, interconnected and the multistakeholder approach is more than a possible alternative. It is the Internet's DNA. The continuing strengthening of the multistakeholder approach is being talked about by governments and those that use it around the world. We have heard it in the WSIS plus 10 review and saw the mandate of the Internet governance forum extended. We see the preparation for the ministerial or digital and we have heard the meeting in Japan last week, and the multistakeholder approach is a way forward for a sustainable Internet from development to security, it takes a collective approach, as community we must not just talk about what we can do, we need to take action and this is time for actions. When we talk about strengthening the multistakeholder approach we're not talking about a model that fits all but an approach that emphasizes the inclusiveness, transparency, collective responsibility, effective decision making and distributed and interoperable government system that all entities whether private or public need to adopt to ensure effective governance of the Internet. We call on all stakeholders to share the responsibility we share so that it a force for future development and empowerment. The Internet society and chapters, present in all regions of the world, have worked to pro potency the Internet everywhere -- promote the Internet everywhere since the inception and we know it requires the input of all to enable the Internet's full potential.

Thank you.

>> Thank you very much for this contribution.

Now it is my pleasure to invite representative of the institutes of electrical and electronics engineers. Mr. Oleg

Logvinov., chairperson of the IEEE Internet initiative.

>> OLEG LOGVINOV: Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished guests, Honorable Ministers, ladies and gentlemen, It is my great pleasure and honor to be here today. I'm pleased to deliver the statement on behalf of IEEE as a contributing sponsor of the 2016 world information forum. We support this WSIS process as a means to facilitate open and to have dialogue on key issues especially on Sustainable Development Goals. The WSIS forum provides invaluable opportunity for all stakeholders to work together to develop tangible and actionable programs. We're pleased to be a part of this. As the world's largest professional association IEEE represents 420,000 members worldwide across 190 countries. As an international body it has a vital role in impactful technology and our members continue to shape the information technology for current generations and future generations. Grounded in the principals of openness, transparency, inclusiveness, the work in collaboration with all stakeholders around the globe to advance the technology for the benefit of humanity.

Connecting the world's citizens and achieving this, it is a lofty goal. In our view it is more than just a goal. It is our responsibility. In this room and beyond there are a diverse group of individuals with an array of exceptional skills and expertise that points the resources together and working in open, transparent approach, it is allowing the participation from equal footing and we can make great progress and succeed in achieving all, yes, all the SDGs.

As technologies, we believe that ICTs will play a large and central role in achieving the SDGs. We're committed to supporting ICT development and adoption as well as a global connectivity as there is a foundation to accelerating the social, economic growth and sustainable development both in developed and developing regions of the world.

IEEE is working with technology and policy building and bringing together to the forefront expertise from many technical societies and silos. We're bringing together the variety of technical means with the reach variety of expertise and experiences. We're working to address the challenges and opportunities that multiregional and multidisciplinary experiences bring to the forefront and to the development of policy. IEEE considers it is important to work with all on the technici cam community views that's relevant while

understanding the local variations and needs. For example, just a few weeks ago in conjunction with the word bank we hosted an event titled global connect stakeholders, advancing solutions. This event brought together a cross functional group of individuals from around the globe to identify tangible and concrete solutions that we can bring forward to enhance connectivity, to bring connectivity to underserved regions of the world and to connect those who have not yet connected. This solution is addressing many topics besides this, it addresses the needs to educating the individuals on the benefits of being connected as well as the critical elements of investment, strengthening technology and connectivity capacity and regulatory policy factors for advancing connectivity. Now it is time for creativity, innovation, open collaboration to open new paths.

As we move forward with the efforts to advance the development goals we are encouraged by the work of WSIS and congratulate WSIS on its success. We look forward on working on all sides of the stakeholders to support the Action Lines and advance SDGs. Although achieving the SDGs will not be easy, it is a challenge that everybody in this room is willing to accept and it is one that we'll achieve together. To advance, to better, to make the society connected with the information here. With that, I would like to thank you and encourage you for your participation in this fantastic work that WSIS started together with all of us.

>> Thank you very much. It is now migrate pleasure to invite our last speaker but not least, the representative of the international federation for information processing.

IFIP, the floor is yours

>> IFIP: Thank you very much. Honoring the kind request to realize there is another group of speakers anxiously waiting to address you, and we have an awards ceremony, at this point in the programme I only want to emphasize that the international federation for information processing is proud to be a contributing partner again for this forum. We really appreciate and acknowledge the importance of the forum. By nature IFIP of a Federation of Societies, of professionals, both from academia, from government, from industry partnerships, cooperation, it is in our blood.

We look forward to expanding these partnerships, my colleagues and I will be happy to talk to you during the rest of the week to see whether we can strengthen existing

connections, whether we can establish new connections with the aim of increasing the output of our partnerships. Many speakers said it before, we need to put it in action. Let's see how we can find ways to increase the output and show it to the rest of us.

That's actually all I want to do in this part of the programme. I look forward to speaking to all of you later this week.

Thank you very much.

>> [Applause].

>> Thank you very much, Mr. President of The IFIP, thank you for being brief and addressing the forum.

Dear ladies and gentlemen, with this, we arrive to the end of the opening ceremony statements, the only statements during this forum. As you know, we worked hard in order to increase the interconnectivity of the discussions taking place and this is our great honor to invite you to follow the next high-level strategic dialogue on the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs. Let me thank the distinguished colleagues and the panelists now for delivering their statements, calling for rounds of applause.

>> [Applause].

>> I have the pleasure to invite the panelists of the strategic -- the high-level strategic dialogue and to approach the podium. While we're remaining seated, there is a short announcement, we're running late, but we're not forcing any changes in terms of the programme apart from the shift of the reception which will start a bit later.

Please take note on this, taking into account that you will have any kind of other meetings set up.

I would invite our distinguished panelists to take the seats and to accompany the Ambassador and the Deputy Secretary-General.

>> Thank you again, thank you for the statement this morning, (Daniel Sepulveda) I'm excited to engage in this, the two framing documents for our work going forward.

As you know, access to advanced technologies have grown dramatically since the millennium development goals and now 10 years later we know that the implementation of the original WSIS goals have really changed the world. A big part of our conversation during the WSIS +10 review was the degree to which the glass was half full or half empty and there were varying views and we want to see the glass completely full.





As part of that effort we recognize there needs to be linkages between the work we're doing through the Action Lines and the 230 Agenda, which is about sustainable development and ensuring that the 17 goals that were issued by our leaders are met.

With that, we have a a very esteemed group of panelists today and I'll pose three questions that we would ask each of you to address in the allotted time and so that we have time for some additional exchange at the end between panelists.

I'll move from left to right for each of you to address.

Why are ICTs and WSIS Action Lines essential for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the principal of ensuring no one is left behind with the main opportunities and challenges, what they are, specifically the key elements required for policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress and maximize the transformational change we need to see and what actions are needed to ensure that no one in the Information Society is left behind. Are there specific issue areas or even communities that require urgent attention. I would ask for each of you, starting on my far left to introduce yourself and to give a brief summary answer to those questions and we'll engage in a dialogue.

Thank you very much.

>> Thank you. We support the negotiations on the Sustainable Development Goals and on the 10-year review of WSIS. On the first question, the importance of ICT for the SDGs, I think we have a lot this morning already about the (Marion Barthelemy) revolutionary solutions that ICTs are providing to the challenges that we face in the area of sustainable development and I find in the area of health it is particularly striking, the kind of things that we are able to do today. Another reason why ICTs are important to realize the SDGs, this area of integration, they're closely related and we need policies that advance on the barriers, SDGs and with ICT you have the power for example to develop views that help you to envision the impact of the action in one area and the other area and still on integration you really need to have the kind of strategies that are not only directed at ICTs but take into account sustainable development and the ICTs together. Another reason for the importance of ICTs, mobilizing other stakeholders and at the U.N. we're using more than usual the social media to mobilize Civil Society, the private sector and to make the SDGs known by everybody.

There is the role of ICT in the area of reviewing progress through the new kind of data that you have.

In terms of the challenges that you were referring to, we still have those sustainable development challenges that we have had, for example, the availability of electricity, a big challenge that cannot be solved by ICT alone. I think the way to meet them, there are many solutions and we have heard about them this morning, but one of them, it is integrated policies. The other one, more critical than ever, it is institutions that are capable and accountable and able to engage people in policy making and then another critical dimension is education and still people need the skills not only to use ICTs but to engage in the kind of employment that you need now in the digital society. There is the importance of cooperation that we have, that's emphasized both in the SDGs and in the WSIS.

I'm leaving one behind but I'll stop soon, I see you all looking at me.

The decision in Agenda 2030, is that no goal, no target will be achieved unless it is achieved by all the groups of Civil Society. They're trying to identify some groups and then each country has to look in the context of its own strategy which group is a threat of being left behind and there I think what matters is really that leave no one behind becomes a key principle for the policies and the institutions and then there is the importance of mobilizing, another Action Line of WSIS, the importance of the desegregated data to see how much progress you're making on each of the targets.

Thank you.

>> With your permission, ambassador, we have coordinated a bit our interventions if that's okay.

Thank you very much, it is a great honor to be -- for me to be here and to speak to you in my dual capacity one hand as director executive for the council of science and also as coChair of the 10-member advisory group on the new technology facilitation mechanism. I want to make some comments on linking ICTs to (Heide Hackmann) movement of open signs and talk about the technology in that context as well.

Over the past 3 to 4 decades global change has surged around the communities and has made incredible advances in our understanding of the dramatic global environmental changes related to increasing fossil fuel consumption, accelerated resource use and of course the growing world population. Also to address our understanding of the complex interlinkages

between natural and human systems that underlying the changes.

Despite the wealth of scientific knowledge and despite many national regional, global, policy efforts and international agreements, we have taken very small steps towards the kind of sustainable development that back in 1986 was outlined in the report and in Agenda 21 adopted at the first Rio summit in 1992. Our failure to act in this time and the growing exposure to threats that this again raise now poses the tremendously difficult task, transformational task of accelerating transitions to sustainable, peaceful, just world. Now we're in a situation where the world community has adopted such a transformative Agenda. As we turn to the hard work of implementation of that Agenda we all recognize and it has been mentioned many times this morning that this will demand an integrated multistakeholder, multisector approach in which science and technology has a central role to play. This poses a significant new duo manned on to the scientific community. It demands that it should be more immediately impactful, making a difference to real world problems, to people's lives in a way that's much more immediate and direct and with this demand comes a challenge for science to change, to change the way in which it has worked.

Not only to work -- to work with a reinvigorated, interdisciplinary but really to work with the skills, the kind of boundaries spanning skills that allow signs to work with other knowledge partners, with decision makers, with practitioners, with business leaders, with citizens in developing in what we call codesigning and coproducing innovative solutions oriented knowledge or policy and practice. This is the essence of what we now call open science, this engagement of science with society, not science working for society. Working with society. Open access to publications and open data are the engines that drive open science and of course this is where the issue of ICTs connects directly with the capacity for science to country bought solutions to global challenges in ways that really have not been possible before and this is where the WSIS Action Lines really connect directly to the Sustainable Development Goals. Fueling the potential for scientific discovery, technology development and social innovation. This kind of solution oriented science that builds on open publication access to open -- access to open access, open data, supported by innovative ICTs, it is supported by many new international



initiatives like future earth which is a global research, global sustainability research platform that's cogoverned by my own organization and also UNESCO, the United Nations University, other international organizations represented here and we really now with the technology facilitation mechanism have an opportunity to scale-up on these kinds of activities. As you know, the TFM, it comprises three elements and the U.N. interagency task team and a forum on science, technology, innovation for the SDGs and online platform that my colleague will talk about in more detail.

The first forum on SDGs will be held at the U.N. headquarters on the 6th and 7th of June this year on the theme of realizing the potential for STI -- of STI for all to achieve the SDG. What we'll focus on here is how to build fit for purpose science technology systems across the world and a successful outcome of the discussions will have to include agreement on how best we can harness the benefits of ICTs for the benefit of all countries and all stakeholders.

We need to ensure that there is cooperation and synergy between the ICT and the STI communities. I'm reminded here finally of a comment that's attributed to the play write George Shaw, if you have an apple, you have an apple, we exchange, them, we each have an apple, if we have ideas and we exchange them, it is two ideas, the technologies and processes of the digital revolution really provide a powerful mechanism for this kind of multiplication of productivity and creativity through the rapid interchange and development of ideas by the network interaction of many minds.

I think if properly and equally honest across the world, in all countries which means building capacity of those STI systems then ICT can and must become a powerful platform for change.

Thank you very much.

>> [Applause].

>> Good morning, everyone. I'm a professor of technology and the international development at the University of Oxford. I'm also the founding director of the technology and management center for development at the University and also today I also in my other capacity is as member of the ten member advisory group to the U.N. technology facilitation mechanism. (Xiaolan Fu) today it is a great pleasure to share my thoughts on why information in the technologies, why it is essential for the achievement of the Sustainable Development

Goals, and in particular my capacity as the leader of the Working Group of the online platform for the TFM, technology facilitation mechanism, share with you our vision and our ongoing work of this online platform and to get your ideas and feedbacks.

Last year the global community agreed on the transformational Sustainable Development Agenda and the technology and the local capabilities development have been identified as a critical measure for the implementation. However, a major challenge that is facing many developing countries is the lack of necessary technology that are needed for the achievement of the SGs.

My research in Africa has found that many of the firms in Africa in the low-income countries, especially the SMEs, they're lack of the financial and human resources to develop this major and original technologies that are needed for structure change and to address the challenges for sustainable development.

Therefore technology transfer from the more advanced countries to the less-developed countries, from the leaders to the followers, it is very important for the development of technological progress in the developing countries. Therefore, overcoming this geographical financial and informational barrier to defuse the knowledge from across the countries or from the leaders to the followers, it is very important. In this respect information and telecommunication technology can play a very important role to provide, to facilitate the technology defusion at an unprecedented speed and at an unprecedented way of penetration and at much lower cost. Information can play a very important role for the defusion of technology to the countries, to the communities, to the people who need them for global development.

My research in Africa has found that mobile phone technology is widely used by the SME, the small firms to search for new technology and suitable technology and also I participate in a project in India, it is a poor state in India, they use mobile phone technology to provide agriculture extension services, the services are provided at faster speeds, on time and more accessible and the farmers used to services much more -- they use the services much more frequent than before. In recognition of the role of information and of ICT for SDG, the U.N. Member States have agreed to develop an online programme which is mandated in the SDGs in the 2030



Agenda for Sustainable Development and in this action Agenda and this online platform will serve as a gateway for the information of existing knowledge and initiatives and it will also facilitate to access information, knowledge, best practice and also in this regard, thirdly, this online platform, it will facilitate the dissemination of the open access, scientific publications to the wider community wherever it is generated. It is worldwide knowledge generated and will provide this access and dissemination to the communities globally wide. This platform will be an important part of the key effort, the technology facilitation mechanism. Now we're in the process of carrying out an independent assessment, ideas and participation of all of you are truly needed to further the development of this online platform and also for the skill of the platform in the future. In the future. To sum up, ICTs, an important engine for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It is a facilitator but also it is an accelerator to enable ICT to play this role we need infrastructure like the online platform. We need global partnership in developing knowledge and the infrastructure and also changes in regulations and the practices like open sciences to allow this.

Thank you.

>> [Applause].

>> Thank you very much.

This has been a critically important conversation already. We have heard more about the technology facilitation mechanisms than I had heard thus far. It was a source of conversation and it is a source of great interest to many in this community. The platform and the mechanism will only be as useful as people who participate in it.

The ability to use this forum (Daniel Sepulveda) and to reach out to leaders here, engage this process, I think there is interesting issues and questions that were raised. I particularly like the idea of science working with society rather than science serving from the top-down, giving to society. That's a general concept and theme we're trying to achieve across leadership both within the U.N. and at the local and national level, the idea we're servant leaders, not top-down mandators of the ideas and concepts.

With that -- and also I want to take if not credit, great Joy in the diversity of the panel both gender and otherwise noting earlier that my colleague Dominique noted she was the

first female speaker. That's my shout out to her, my friend, I want to ten the table to you, Amb Janis Mazeiks, my friend, colleague from latvia, a two co-facilitator for the WSIS plus 10 review, during the many hours and late nights we were negotiating, I had moments of doubt, I don't believe you ever had a moment of doubt that we would achieve a successful conclusion. I wanted to hear from you about what you thought since that time, how this event has moved forward and the relationship between ICTs and SDGs.

>> AMB JANIS MAZEIKS: Thank you. I didn't doubt the result. I do enjoy the reversal of roles of you giving me the floor than the other way around.

Before I turn to the specifics, I would like to emphasize the importance of continuity in the WSIS process ensured by the WSIS +10 review. It was our collective success that at the end of last year that we did reaffirm the trust in the WSIS process for building a people-centered, inclusive, developmentally oriented Information Society and preserve the multistakeholder nature. Some parties in the SDG negotiations were disappointed with the absence of a separate ICT goal I would argue that not having a separate goal on ICTs is actually a good thing similarly as not having an individual goal on electricity.

This proves that ICTs like electricity, they're indeed key enablers for women and recommend vent for all aspects of it and we need both those and for implementation of all goals.

I do not want to go deeply into the outlining of the opportunities provided by ICTs as this audience needs no convincing on that. Suffice it to say that ICTs provide the challenge to leapfrog in development and thus speed up and reach the goals of the 230 Agenda. First and foremost, the goal of eliminating poverty.

Regards challenges, despite the success of the digital technology, connectivity, affordability, it remains a problem both across and within regions. The gains, they're not equal across the globe and there are large variations in the connectivity between high and lower income countries and between cities and rural areas. Broadband connectivity has become a basic infrastructure of modern society comparable to roads, electricity and water yet it is the one area where the digital divide is most obvious.

The work on the universal access needs to continue but we should keep in mind that it is not only about speed and cost

as our review document highlighted and mentioned speed, affordability, language, local content, accessibility for people with disabilities. I would also stress the importance of enabling environment, the different development levels of ICTs in countries that are otherwise in similar situations can be explained perhaps only by the differences in the national regulatory environments. Ironically insufficient communication between various stakeholder holder groups is a challenge although we're in this field. In the review process I witnessed a number of occasions where government stakeholder holders were generally surprised to learn of the good work done and the contributions made by other stakeholders. With respect to necessary actions I think that the key is getting high gear of implementation as the 10 years for the next WSIS review or 15 years of the implementation of the 230 Agenda, it is not that far away. Leaving no one behind should be easy as all groups are invested in the review. However I would like to highlight a couple of groups that do face challenges. The first, LDCs and small island developing states have particular difficulties in bridging the Broadband gap. It is important to mainstream the ICTs which is a new area and it is a dire development portfolio. Women and girls must be an important focus group while the absolute gender gap is not massive, it is not acceptable to have this 20th century problem in 21st Century technologies. Thank you.

>> [Applause].

>> Thank you.

(Brahima Sanou) I would like to point out before I start that when you look at the infrastructure in the world today, ICT infrastructure, one can say that we have achieved a critical mass of infrastructure. Today there is optical fiber, there is 7 billion mobile subscriptions, this is giving us a different look than 20 years back. Now, for me, the -- the ICT, it is more about how we use this infrastructure in the government processes and indication, and we have culture, eCommerce, eCulture, all the 17 goals -- of the 17 goals of the SDGs.

I think the role of the ICT was recognized in the text, I quote display of information and communication technologies, global interconnectiveness has great potential to accelerate human progress to bridge the digital divide and to develop a new society. It is clear at the beginning that it is governance at ICT and there is a big role to play in the



obtainment of the SDGs.

We have, as I said, we're now more than 7 billion mobile subscribers and the good thing is, this technology is spread out even in the most rural areas of the most -- of the Least Developed Countries. It is an asset we have to use for ICTs.

We have big data, someone mentioned that this morning, we have open data, we have Internet of Things, all of those, they're new opportunities that are open to us to achieve, to help achieve the LDGs. I just read a report that was saying that by 2025 we'll have the Internet of Things generating an economy of 11.1 trillion U.S. dollar presenting at that time 11% of the GDP in the world and that more importantly that 40% of this economy would be generated in the developing countries which means that we're getting really huge opportunities today with the innovation and new technologies to help achieve the SDGs.

As for some challenges, I know we're running out of time, I'll go fast -- today the ICTs, it is global and colliding with other economic sectors. What you need to do, it is to see policy level, introductory level, operational level how this can exist in the new digital ecosystem and you cannot use the ICT regulation of policy and you have the policy and the regulations to deal with this here.

The idea of vertical regulation, the vertical policy, it should be abandoned to go towards what we call a collaborative policy and the collaborative regulation and also the collaborative cooperation, this is a way that I see what we can do to accelerate that.

Coming to your third question, what do you do for the people that are left aside, I would say you can do a lot. I would like to focus on one piece, that's the inclusion. Today it is -- we're more than 2 billion people that are financially excluded. We're working on this. We don't have the means to be integrated in the classic banking system and at the same time we have also 7 billion mobile subscriptions. This is one side and you need the resource on the other side.

The good thing is that the platforms exist, you can have the good inclusion and everything we can start from there and we can look at the other issues.

As it was one of the last reporting by the U.N., it was saying that we need at least 7 trillion investment per year in infrastructure in order to create jobs. I think that ICT can increase this level.

Thank you.

>> DANIEL SEPULVEDA: Thank you.

>> [Applause].

>> DANIEL SEPULVEDA: I know we're running a bit behind schedule. I'm asking to you bear with us as we hear the rest of the panelists. I'm particularly looking forward to hearing the voice of young people and seeing the degree to which this resonates and how it resonates with you in academic and as someone working in this field?

>> Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the indulgence of a long morning. I feel we're in the final stretches. I can feel it.

I suspect that everyone that is in this room because you believe that ICTs are indeed key tools for the SDGs (Michael Best) and we have heard examples of this over the many years formed in rooms similar to this one this morning, and professor FU mentioned mobile agriculture extended services provided to small-scale farmers in India, Mr. Sanou mentioned mobile banking services for the unbanked, we have heard examples of many ways that this is instrumental keys for the realizations of the SDGs. In addition, ICTs are increasingly the central means for measuring and evaluating the progress towards realizing the SDGs. Consider how they're often now the tools that you use to acquire the house held survey data no longer are they secured by putting pen to paper but increasingly keyed straight on to hand held appliances whisked across a data network and on to a public or private Cloud. ICTs are engines that crunch this account, analyzing, visualizing the data into figures bound for the many, many, many progress reports that I think we're all going to be seeing and contributing to as we work between now and 2030. This pattern of data acquisition and analysis is taking on a predictable configuration in my estimate. Data is vacuumed up by shall we say the people and then it is tweaked and geeked into slick national progress reports by maybe states or perhaps international compare tissue reviews for a U.N. organization. This configuration is glossed with the all-too common monicar of big data and I think we have heard that phrase already used this morning and yesterday's conversations. Big data is apparently large amounts of data cleverly configured in the ability here. A national institute on computing and society, I direct it, it is a new U.N. research and policy think tink focused on this. Think of us

as a scrappy, an Internet research start-up in the center of the United Nations family. We're particularly interested in goals 5 and 16, we're young and entrepreneurial and we're open to exploring and partnerships and goal 5 through the gender tech lab, it is focused on efforts towards gender justice, gender equality and women's empowerment in ways to be facilitated for participation and the knowledge society. In goal 16 we're working with a digital piece lab where we can examine and invent ways ICTs serve as tools towards peace making and peace keeping, strengthen resilience to cope with conflict by improving humanities capacity to communicate with loved one, allies and people's perceived enemy, alert parties when potential conflicts flare and develop platforms for conflicting parties to find ways towards reconciliation and community building.

Throughout these initiatives we're excited about something we're calling small data. The application and relevance to the SDGs, by small data I don't mean small datasets, and indeed the amount of data might be quite enormous. Instead small data refers to cases where the sampling unit and the unit of analysis are similar in size. For instance, if the data is composed of individually sampled data then the comparative analysis is between the individual him or herself.

If big data describes individual surveys of household water equality aggregated to a national level and then visualized over time in order to demonstrate Member States progress on SDG goal 6 which is completely a valid thing to do, not something that I would criteria sides, don't get me wrong there, small data, it is community crowd sharing of household water conditions, aggregated and analyzed at a local level, proximally informing household decision making and ultimately infusing some sort of national dialogue and policy planning activity.

A small data approach could envision the data sharing platform enabling local community members to inform themselves about their water conditions, come up with realtime sharing and response plans for local challenges and advocate public water stakeholders based on local empirical data.

Indeed, ICTs are a core tool for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the. Central tool for effective monitoring and assessment of SDG progress. We have research and innovation partners, exploring the



relationship between the technical data systems and the 2030 Agenda and with our small data approach we're also asking for us all to never forget just exactly who the data represents. The fabric of our SDG data is woven with the lives of many men and women and at the small data approach it is trying to ensure that the data does not just originate from them as raw bits and Bites on to some sort of overall national aggregate analysis but also returns to them as actionable and empowering knowledge.

Thank you.

>> Good afternoon. It is a pleasure to be here. I'm representing GeSI, the global eSustainability initiative comprised of 30 private major ICT companies and other organizations such as the ITU, we seek to build a world (Joan Krajewski Chen that's sustainable through transformation and indeed it is a pleasure to be here. A theme that I have heard throughout the conference, it is the need to work together in joint action and GeSi is a collaboration organization that's committed to that especially regards to the Sustainable Development Goals. In preparation for this forum with the distinguished guests, GeSI worked with others and the membership in the ITU to create a report which has been provided to you as a summary copy entitled system system transformation, how digital solutions will drive progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. In this report what is very striking is that we have found that each and every country has gaps, and approximately 50% or more are the Sustainable Development Goals. However, ICT has a contributing role to play with respect to solutions. I want to focus in particular on an action lean that is really important to us as an organization, being it is a collaborative, innovative organization, that's Action Line number 1 which really encourages us all to work together jointly. I emphasize that in particular because one of the things we discovered in this report, it is that many of the solutions are very complex to implement and some of the countries that at least have the resources to deal with these very complex issues, they're those countries that need mostly the joint action from all of us. This successful implementation requires joint action by policymakers, multilateral organization, the ICT sector, businesses outside of the ICT sector and also NGOs.

We really need to work together to achieve the up tick

necessary in why do we focus opening ceremony ICT as a private sector. It is because we believe that digital solutions offer unprecedented speed and reach while increasing access to goods and services in a more people-centric, affordable way and I consider the fact that I -- I also considered the fact with respect to education as an example.

It took 130 years for electric grids to reach 17% of Sub-Saharan Africa, with mobile networking, however, it only took 23 years for the first digital networks to become available. In essence, this is 23 times higher diffusion speed and reach. This is in -- I also wanted to raise an example of the scale and complexity of the transformation needed so I raised the report's findings as to eLearning, eLearning can enable a huge number of people to gain access to affordable and quality education, including a digital curriculum which is so important to bridge the digital divide opening the door for as many as 450 million people to obtain eLearning degrees by 2030 and thereby cutting the cost of education, improving affordability and also improving quality for people everywhere.

They can herald a really fundamental transformation by the year 2030.

To reach this very worthy aim we have some hurdles to overcome. We have to jointly address issues such as improving infrastructure for energy in the Internet, affordability, to raise the digital literacy rates by updating learning curriculum both among young and old and making lessons linguistically appropriate to make sure no one is left behind. There is already a digital divide between the haves and have-nots and the men and women and we have to work together jointly to overcome this divide.

Despite the huge potential that ICTs have, we must work together to overcome the gaps. The research is identified -- has identified a couple of major gaps in barriers in deploying digital solutions. First these -- these gaps exist unshout ply side and on the demand side in least developed, developing, also developed countries but most urgently we need to overcome the regulatory and financial barriers that we face.

These barriers hinder full- scale ICT deployment.

I know we have an ambitious Agenda still to fulfill, we will not reach the digital solutions in the SDGs alone. We need joint action to harness the full potential in every

sector and all over the world and working together with our partners in government, business, Civil Society along the WSIS Action Lines we'll accelerate the SDGs to reality.

>> DANIEL SEPULVEDA: Thank you very much.

What do you make of this conversation so far and as someone that will be in 2030 still actively involved and working, maybe sitting in one of these chairs, I want to get a sense of you of your hopes for the community? Adela Goberna (Speaker) personally for me, you have done a terrific job of achieving the goals that my colleagues here, that they're saying. Nonetheless, we have to acknowledge the policies regarding the two-side way of thinking, we cannot say there and say that we must acknowledge one of the goals in order to just acknowledge that, we just need to get a both side way of thinking. When we achieve a goal we'll do a serious step forward on achieving other goals. There is clear examples, goal number 7, regarding the electricity and providing safe electricity to everybody, it is totally linked with connecting the next billion within the WSIS Action Line. If we get safe energy we can connect them and we can assure that they have better education which is linked to goal -- I don't recall it -- the goal related with infrastructure. When we achieve one, we're doing serious step forwards on other ones. That's why I need to stress the fact that we need to leave this one-way thinking to get the both-way thinks between the WSIS and SDGs. Regarding the second question, about opportunities and challenges, I do think that the challenges usually means opportunities.

With that in mind, I believe that we need to open -- this is a combination between willingness, interest, challenges, and for instance, I'm 23 here, I'm addressing you. I have the chance to be here. There are not many other people that can do that at my age.

I know that when we open the game for new players we have new interests, new perspectives and that's quite difficult to merge together and to have new policies.

The thing is, the key challenge we have here, it is to stop targeting new efforts, targets of current policies and start engaging them as policymakers. Actually they can have a nice word down there and if we just listen to them and empower them to talk that brings good results to the table and the elements that we can take into account.

The last question, how can we assure that no one is left

behind, I think we can have two ways of thinking, first understanding how they relate, I'm 23 and people my age, they do not relate to people that are older. That's one thing there. Another thing that's going on, we have to do serious capacity building because when we do serious capacity building we empower people to make full use of Internet when they understand how that works you start to think about getting policies done and, therefore, we just follow the circle and by doing capacity building we enable them to reach P. use Internet at full potential making Internet itself work at the full potential. Thank you.

>> DANIEL SEPULVEDA: That's a strong argument, newspaper actors as policymaker, not just participants in the conversation. I think this particular panel, it is representing both a cross section of expertise, interest and of commitment from a variety of groups of stakeholders to fulfill the SDGs and the WSIS Action Lines in parallel and how they into one another is a great step forward to moving forward to our policy discussions in the afternoon. I would open it up to conversation but we'll go ahead and move forward to the rest of the debuts of where we are in the schedule. Thank you very much, panelists, for the conversation. Thank you.

>> Ladies and gentlemen, please remain seated.

This is a great moment, but prior to going to this great moment we have had some changes in our Agenda.

Let me wait here for a second.

Please take your seats. I request you for a second of patience while preparing for the prize ceremony.

>> Ladies and gentlemen, this is the moment when we would like to request you to take your seats. Put on hold your discussions. We are approaching the time to start the prize ceremony.

Before we're starting, dear ladies and gentlemen, one more time, a small request to put on hold your own discussions and networking activities. Please take your seats. Before we're starting the prize ceremony, I have the pleasure to invite the Director General of OFCM of Switzerland to address you, we have had reshuffling of the Agenda and due to this fact he'll be -- he'll not be able to address you during the lunch which was kindly organized by the Swiss federation and sponsored by OFCOM, therefore, Excellency, it is my pleasure to invite you to address the forum. Mr. Chairman,



Mr. Secretary-General, ladies and gentlemen, we will, this is a bit of a peculiar moment for me. Of course I would like to welcome to you the Swiss reception with Swiss timing, but due to the success of this morning's deliberations we have taken a bit more time and I unfortunately will have to leave Geneva shortly. . I wanted to welcome you to this reception, it is a bit special as I said, I'm doing that before the food actually is available to you. I'm doing it in a different room than you will enjoy the food and drinks.

I wanted to say that we're very pleased as the Swiss government and also on behalf of the Republic of Geneva and of the steady state, we're extremely pleased with the lasting success of the WSIS forum which has taken place here every year since 2003. This is obviously a very important gathering as the success shows as your interest shows and in particularly I would like to thank the Facilitators, the ITU and all of those with the know how in the different Action Lines who are there to help you in finding solutions while they shape the discussions and we take the responsibility in bringing the Information Society, the global Information Society closer together.

Obviously Geneva is a fertile ground for these debates. Here in Geneva we have an unrivaled number of institutions, of people, of processes, that make this possible, that enable rich debates, very forward looking dialogues and hopefully also the finding of solutions and you can count on the Swiss government on its commitment to the international Geneva to continue providing the best possible framework, the best possible conditions for those who are engaging in Information Society discussions to do so also in the future.

Of course we have Internet governance related questions that are often discussed in Geneva as well with different agencies and with different organizations that we have here and as I have already mentioned this morning, we're more than happy to continue to provide Geneva, the Geneva Internet platform for those discussions.

Ultimately our success will be measured by how we manage to link up all of our activities with the Sustainable Development Goals. I think that's been mentioned several times this morning. It is really key that we create the proper linkages between this process, between the purpose of the WSIS and the WSIS forum with the pursuit until 2030 of that Agenda of the SDG Agenda.



With that, I would like to conclude, I wouldn't want to prolong. I think that the prizes, they're extremely important, we'll have to honor the champions, and we have a chance to honor the champions of the WSIS process in a minute and with a little bit of delay you will receive some well-deserved food and drinks served outside in the cafeteria in about 20 minutes.

Thank you very much. A very fruitful discussion this afternoon and for the rest of the week.

Thank you very much.

>> [Applause].

>> Thank you very much, Director General.

Ladies and gentlemen, WSIS stakeholders, allow me to ask you for your attention.

Thank you.

>> Thank you for your attention, ladies and gentlemen. We're now about to start the WSIS prize 2016 ceremony. It all began in 2012, five years ago. A round of applause to congratulate all of the prize winners who have won the prizes since 2012.

>> An exciting moment of truth.

We're all awaiting for so long, it has arrived. It is time to announce the winners of the prestigious WSIS prizes for the year 2016. On the podium we have asked is the Secretary-General of the ITU, Mr. Houlin Zhao, who will present the prizes to the winners.

>> [Applause].

>> WSIS stakeholders in the room and those following us remotely, let's see the winner for category 1, the role of establishing holders in the promotion of ICTs for development, the category one is fostering intergracious of Argentine academia in the activities of ITU, enacom, Argentina.

>> The interpreters would like to remind you that this section of the presentation will be without interpretations. Thank you. the winner of the WSIS prize, national information technologies, JSC from Kazakhstan, the deputy Chair of the board is receiving the prize on behalf of the national information technology GSC.

>> [Applause].

We're now moving to the video for category 3, access to Information and Knowledge, the winner of WSIS prize 2016 presidential social council from Costa Rica.

>> [Applause].

>> Thank you very much. Congratulations.

Now let's move to category 4, capacity building, the winner of the WSIS prize, 2016, it is the Department of International trade promotion from Thailand. For the project smart online SMEs, S.O.S., by Thaitrade.com.

>> Congratulations, we're moving on to category 5, building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, the winner is Office of Electronic communications from Poland.

>> Congratulations to Poland. Now we'll move to category 5, enabling environment, the winner of the WSIS prize 2016, the Ministry of Communications and information technology from Egypt. They'll be receiving the award for the project lifelong learning and employment for people with disabilities. [Applause].

>> 830% of the graduates for the training of employment grant is employed at the ICT sector.

>> Congratulations. We would now move on to category C7, ICT applications, eGovernment, the winner of WSIS prize 2016 is Ministry of Justice from turkey for the project eNational judicial system. Congratulations.

>> Justice anywhere, at every time. Lawyer, citizen, institution, prosecutors offices, institutions of forensic medicines in prisons and All State institutions, the Ministry of Justice has made an important stride in terms of preventing unfair treatment. Justice everywhere at any time.

>> Now let's move to the WSIS Action Line C7, ICTs applications, eBusiness, and the winner of the prize is helping charity organizations from charity, ATAA.

>> The system is a national project to manage and link information from all charitable organizations in Saudi Arabia aiming to provide credibility and helping under privileged people all contained in a secure, privacy protected system, currently there is 60 charities, 1110 beneficiaries and covers all media transactions and progresses include all charities in Saudi Arabia.

>> Congratulations, Saudi Arabia.

The next category is category 7, ICT applications, eLearning, the winner of the WSIS prize 2016, national digital strategy from Mexico for the project Mexicox-platform of massive open online courses.

Congratulations.

>> The Mexico platform has been developed in partnership

with the Ministry of Education to offer free market open online courses with the use of an open code the project developed 6 strategic lines for all development. There is more than 6,000 users worldwide now. Visit and be a part of the us any time, any place.

>> Congratulations. Now eHealth. The winner of the price is softel from Cuba. Congratulation. The project is called informization of the Public Health system.

>> For category 7, ICT applications, eEmployment, the winner is information and communication technology Office of Philippines for the project technology for education, employment, entrepreneurs and economic development project. Congratulations.

>> Congratulations. Now let's move to the eEnvironment, the winner of the WSIS prize is green data center from Malaysia for project Asia-Pacific green data center farm. Congratulations. we build this facility with the primary objective of showing that these next generation of centers will play a role in climate change. This is one of the biggest contributors to the greenhouse gas emissions and industry needs to look at the disruptive technologies such as this for the sake of the people, planet, profits.

>> Congratulations. The next category, ICT applications, eAgriculture and the winner is center for development of advanced computing from India. Congratulations.

>> Congratulations one more time.

The winner for the WSIS prize 2016 in the category of eScience is Institute of Applied mathematics of ivane javakhishvili tbilisi state University from Georgia. Congratulations. the project is called R-package to compute can have deps intervals for herit ability, reliability and heterogeneity, congratulations.

Category 8, cultural diversity and identity, living WSISic diversity and local content, the winner is bridge Africa from United States of America.

There was a gap in terms of relevant, online information perturbing to communities in Africa.

>> We have deployed them to the field from freelancer to freelancer creating websites for them and most importantly training them how to use the platform. If you don't have a laptop or an Internet connection, that is also with just a text message we're putting everybody in one packet, information is available.



>> Congratulations to the U.S.A.

Now let's move to the category on WSIS Action Line C9, media. The winner of the prize 2016 is Bangladesh NGO of network for radio and communications.

The project name is youth women in community media and journalism.

>> Congratulations. The next is ethical dimensions of the Information Society, the winner of C10 prize is cibervoluntarios foundation, Spain, empoderaLive.

>> Congratulations to Spain.

Finally, in the category C11, international and regional cooperation, the winner for this category is the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of UA for the project name ICT development in Arab region.

Congratulations.

>> Congratulations once again to the UAE. Ladies and gentlemen, we present you the 18 winners of the WSIS prize 2016. A big applause. we would like to invite the Chairman, the ambassador Daniel Sepulveda to join us for a photograph with the group winners.

>> Now we would like to invite the elected -- yes.

>> Thank you very much. Now we would like to say please remain in the line and we would like to invite the elected officials to join the line.

Ladies and gentlemen, with this picture, we're concluding the opening segment of the WSIS forum, 2016. We have had the pleasure of inviting all of you to the official reception from the Swiss federation on the first floor of the cafeteria area. Please proceed to this space and congratulations one more time to all winners.