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>> GITANJALI SAH: Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to all WSIS stakeholders who have joined us today. We would like to welcome you to the WSIS Forum 2022 inauguration ceremony. The WSIS Forum 2022 is an open and inclusive multi-stakeholder platform to identify emerging trends, challenges, opportunities, and recommendations on the future of the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for advancing the achievement of the SDGs, sustainable development goals. Starting today, the forum will feature a wide range of activities, in a virtual format and will culminate in the final week from 30th of May to 3rd of June

in a physical format with enhanced remote participation facilities at the ITU headquarters in Geneva Switzerland.

The WSIS Forum is hosted by ITU and co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, and UNCTAD in close collaboration with more than 30 UN agencies.

This year's theme is ICTs for well-being, inclusion and resilience. WSIS cooperation for accelerating progress on the sustainable development goals.

Dear WSIS stakeholders this session will be recorded and human captioning is available for this session. The recording of this session and captioning will be made available on the WSIS Forum 2022 website. This event is being broadcast live on the WSIS process Facebook page. I would now like to invite you to please see the screening of this WSIS Forum video to introduce you to the different activities that will be taking place.

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>> Thank you very much. Welcome once again to the virtual WSIS Forum 2022, we would now like to invite Mr. Houlin Zhao, International Telecommunication Union to provide opening remarks and inaugurate the WSIS Forum 2022.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you very much, Gitanjali. Dear friends, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, it's my great pleasure to welcome you all to this inauguration of the World Summit On the Information Society Forum 2022.

We are at a time of urgent challenges and enormous opportunities, a time when the need for international cooperation has never been greater. And this is exactly what the WSIS Forum is all about.

The WSIS community has been a global force for good. Bringing different stakeholders together, in the name of inclusive sustainable development, and making -- (No audio).

The Forum has been a major platform for exchange and innovation. And this year is no exception. Let me just give you a few highlights of what to expect in the coming weeks.

We have a new special track on ICTs and developing and Least Developed Countries, something that is crucial when we know that most of the world's unconnected live in these countries. The ICTs and mainstreaming special track has initiated activities such as the repository of women in technology and the new WSIS gender trend status, which will drive the inclusion of gender perspectives in discussions.

Over 7,000 languages are spoken in the world today,

but half of this could disappear by the end of this century.

Our ICTs and languages co-organized by ITU with UNESCO and others, we are inviting participants to ideate solutions to preserve and keep these languages alive.

We will continue our good work in the ICTs and older persons special track, including the WSIS Healthy Aging Innovation. I look forward to seeing you all during the final week of the forum, from the 30th of May to the 3rd of June.

We will recognize all the WSIS prize 2022 winners. Let me take a moment to recognize our co-organizers, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP, as well as the participating agencies of our extended UN family, and our partners and sponsors.

I think we are presented with the names of sponsors on slide.

We have put them all on a slide for you.

Thank them for their valuable, continuous support. We have seen the WSIS Forum move from strength to strength over the years, growing ever more diverse. The contributions of WSIS and this forum to ICT development have made a huge difference. The role made by ICTs during the COVID-19 pandemic is proof of that, although we have not made too much promotion of unique, special, valuable contributions from WSIS process to this achievement.

As we head towards WSIS plus 20, I hope this forum will continue to be a driving force for international cooperation and universal collaboration.

There's been major achievements but there's still work to do. We have 3 billion people not connected online yet. This year will give us a chance to make a lot of progress as three of ITU's major world conferences take place in 2022.

The world standard communication assembly, it finished last Wednesday and then we will have the world telecom development conference. We have in Rwanda, in the first half of June. And later, we will have ITU conference.

So let's make this year's WSIS Forum an important part of this effort. This will continue to be united and driven by our common vision of connected work, of work where we can accelerate the digital transformation for all. Thank you very much for your participation and looking forward for very successful meeting of WSIS today. Thank you.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you, Mr. Zhao. Thank you for

those motivating and encouraging words. We are sure that all participants who have joined us today are very excited to be part of the WSIS Forum this year. And we would now like to move on -- like to move on to an important co-organizer, UNCTAD, the deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Isabelle Durant has joined us today. Madam, the floor is yours.

>> ISABELLE DURANT: Thank you so much. So Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I'm, of course, pleased to welcome you to this WSIS Forum along with our co-organizer, ITU, UNESCO and UNDP. So this forum takes place precisely two years after the world went into lockdown and the COVID-19 pandemic has been hugely disruptive.

While solutions has provided means to mitigate the economic downturn and strengthen resilience, we have seen widening digital gaps. To ensure that ICTs promote well-being, inclusion, and resilience, we need more cooperation and WSIS Forum with its multi-stakeholder approach, offers us an excellent avenue.

UNCTAD is firmly committed to enable development gains from this. You have to know in the recently adopted mandate, the digital economy has a central role. Member States request to move to a more resilient digital and inclusive world of shared prosperity, transforming economy to diversification, fostering a more sustainable and more resilient economy, improving the way development is financed and revitalizing multilateralism.

In this spirit, we are hosting a discussion on eCommerce and digital economic. We have digital value creation and data governance, and we are producing research that guides developing countries in benefiting from a rapidly evolving digital economy.

We are collaborating with various international partners, donors and communities to ensure development gains from digitalization.

For example, all eTrade for all initiative offers relevant resources for many partner agencies. Our eTrade for women program boasts family digital entrepreneurship in developing countries. We strongly advocate for the need to go beyond connectivity issues. Developing countries need to build ICT skills and enabling environment for eCommerce and the digital economy. They have to invest to participate in a global digital market and ensure that they have a say in digital governance.

I want to draw your attention to one specific aspect of the digital world that is increasingly important. It's the question of digital data. Digital data plays an ever more critical role as an economic and strategic resource. The problem is that many developing countries are mere providers of raw data to global digital platforms and after pay for the digital intelligence generated from their data.

The United States and China dominate the harnessing and the processing of such data and the marketing capitalization of the world's largest digital platform.

Developing countries need to have a say in how their data are used, and they should be able to also benefit from the global data value chain. A new global framework for data governance could be the answer to help avoid further fragmentation of the Internet, and narrow existing inequalities.

Finally, I also want to take the opportunity to invite you to our upcoming eCommerce week. It will take place online from 25th to 29th of April 2022 and will focus on data and cross-border data flows and their role for economic and social development.

Our ambition is that the debates and the discussions can contribute to building more resilient and increasing societies and economies. So I look forward to also engaging with you then, and I thank you for your attention.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you, ma'am. Thank you for your great partnership and support. Also, stakeholders should look out for the eBusiness activities that we will be doing in collaboration with UNCTAD and other Action Line Facilitators. It will be really exciting. Thank you very much, ma'am. We will move on now to UNESCO, also very, very important partner of the WSIS process, and co-organizer of the WSIS Forum. Dr. Jelassi, welcome. And the floor is yours.

>> TAWFIK JELASSI: Thank you very much. Dear ITU Secretary-General, Mr. Houlin Zhao; dear UNCTAD Deputy Secretary-General, Isabelle Durant, Excellencies, members of the WSIS Forum and ladies and gentlemen, I'm very pleased to participate in this WSIS Forum inaugural session. Last year 50,000 participants joined the WSIS Forum online events, a record attendance that shows the importance and the vitality of this forum.

This massive participation is also a vivid demonstration that technology can bring us together. Let me recognize the WSIS co-Secretariat team, particularly our

WSIS colleagues at ITU, as well as at UNCTAD and UNDP, for their remarkable work in developing the rich and inclusive agenda. We are eager to do even better this year. I hope that many WSIS stakeholders would have joined this call have made use of the open consultation process to organize their own 2022 WSIS sessions and will help us to reach our overall goal of gender parity at WSIS.

When achieved, this will be a very welcomed and important symbol for the global ICT community. This year's theme, ICTs for well-being, inclusion and resilience echoes the important role of Internet access, both in terms of connectivity and beyond.

As 2022 marks first year of the UN international decade of Indigenous languages, I would like to outline the importance of Internet access, including multilingualism in the cyberspace.

While you might well have an Internet-connected device, if the languages you speak are not available online, you will not have access to the rich content on the Internet. This year, UNESCO has identified more than 8,000 languages spoken or signed in the world. Within this century, many thousands of these languages are threatened to fall into disuse. Online, only around 300 languages are functionally available on the Internet, through tools such as Wikipedia and Google translate. This despite possibly as many as 4,000 languages having a writing system.

UNESCO believes it is possible to bring at least 1,000 languages online, by the closing of the international decade of Indigenous languages. If we all work together, including through a multi-stakeholder WSIS process. At this year's forum, the WSIS secretariat has established a WSIS special price and global hackathon around ICTs to support knowledge, empowerment, and the preservation of Indigenous languages.

I invite the WSIS community to consult the global action plan of the international decade of Indigenous languages and to find out more on how they can contribute to advancing inclusive digital empowerment and language technologies.

Ladies and gentlemen, the WSIS process is the final multi-stakeholder digital cooperation model of the United Nations. Today, thanks to the steady support of the WSIS partners and the exemplary team work of the WSIS co-organizers our WSIS community has an opportunity to build upon the momentum of the past years. As we move into

the WSIS 20 review process which will be completed in 2025 at the UN General Assembly, the insights of the WSIS community, will definitely influence the international Development Agenda that will guide our work after 2030, where digital cooperation will be integral to all development activities.

Thank you very much for your kind attention and, again, what a warm welcome to all of you through this event.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much, Mr. Jelassi. It's a pleasure, always, to listen to you, and thank you for leading the way to integrate the decade of Indigenous languages into the WSIS Forum. We look forward to the exciting hackathon and the different, you know, prizes that we will be doing together at the WSIS Forum 2022. Thank you very much, sir.

We would now like to move on to Mr. Xu, who is the UN Assistant Secretary-General for UNDP for policy and program support. Sir, the floor is yours.

>> HAOLIANG XU: Thank you very much. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, and colleagues representing the diverse WSIS stakeholders. Greetings from UNDP and good morning from New York.

I'm very pleased to join this meeting on behalf of our administrator at this inaugural session of the WSIS Forum 2022.

The pandemic has kept us apart, but the ICTs have helped us to connect -- to be connected, enabling us to work together. The WSIS stakeholders always understood this potential of ICTs to respond to the needs in normal times and in crisis.

From many in the WSIS community, in fact, the tools and the strategies that helped us fight the pandemic, and stay connected, the apps for contact tracing, and for rapid development and the deployment of vaccines and connectivity to health, governments and the businesses to function, devices to deliver life-saving information and innovations to extend the reach of critical services.

We are a world transformed by both the pandemic and the rapid digitalization, but the WSIS Action Lines agreed in 2003, not only to remain relevant, but are more crucial for planning, recovery, that get us back on track towards 2030.

There are areas for our collective action, from meeting capacities to addressing the ethical dimensions of

new technologies. Let me share some of our priorities at UNDP, which we believe are our common challenges.

First on building future-ready capacities, governments everywhere are trying to meet increasing demands to be more effective and transparent and to provide the better services. Many, however, are still playing catch-up, trying to improve internal operations and machinery fit for today's land scape at the UNDP. We call for whole of government approaches, noting weak digital capacities, for entire countries.

Second on governing in the digital age, rapidly evolving technologies transform our world, challenging the policy making and the challenging engagement in the public sphere. Social government and AI are raising, and misinformation are destabilizing information.

We are carrying them in rights-based principles and keeping them focused on the goals of development and thirdly, colleagues, pandemic recovery requires how we think about development. So closing the digital gap is imperative as previous speakers have emphasized. 3 billion people remain unconnected, mainly from the developing world, among people who could not afford the connectivity, the devices or don't have the skills to connect. They are at the risk of being left behind -- left further behind.

Lastly, we need a great solidarity to move forward. So WSIS community has collectively the expertise and the resources to help us accelerate progress on the SDGs and look forward to learning more in the coming weeks, not only about more ICT, and the digital projects but also how insights from the pandemic could help us meet the challenges ahead towards achieving SDGs.

Thank you very much.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much, sir. And thank you for, you know, helping us maintain the leadership of the WSIS process in New York, for promoting us, ensuring that the WSIS Action Lines help achieve the attainment of the sustainable development goals.

Also, we will be working very closely with UNDP on local governance issues and the roles of ICTs. Thank you very much for your contribution. So colleagues and friends, we heard from the co-organizers of WSIS Forum, how committed they are, how excited they are for inviting you and welcoming you at the WSIS Forum 2022. We are starting today, and we will end with a physical event at the WSIS Forum from the 30th of May to the 3rd of June. We look

forward to seeing you very soon.

Like our Secretary-General said, without the support of our partners, WSIS Forum is definitely not possible, especially in the way that we are able to organize it. So I would like my colleagues to please put up the slide of partners, which our Secretary-General was referring to in his speech and we would like to invite our platinum sponsor, of course, UAE TDRA to please invite the DG to make his opening visionary remarks. Over to you, DG Mesmar.

>> MAJED AL MESMAR: Thank you, Ms. Gitanjali. Do you hear me?

>> GITANJALI SAH: Yes, sir, we can hear you clearly.

>> MAJED AL MESMAR: Mr. Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General, Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. Good afternoon. Good evening.

I have the honor that my country has been one of the most supportive of the World Summit on Information Society, WSIS. We have demonstrated this through the various events that we have supported and sponsored. This support stems from our belief that the world we live in today, which is characterized by constant acceleration and transformation needs platforms that foresee future and provide hope for sustainable development.

From our position -- I'm sorry. From our position as strategic partner, we look forward to enhancing the presence of WSIS, and enhance participation in global affairs by developing a new mechanism and increasing its involvement in helping nations absorb emerging technologies to share their goals of well-being. And in before that, in bridging the digital divide and benefiting from the remains of digital transformation.

Based on that, we have for concerted efforts to develop the WSIS process. In preparation for the 2025 review. Which continues to face the future challenges.

I'm happy to share with you that last November 2021, the UAE has organized a hackathon with WSIS and ITU, carried out under the theme of using ISDs.

It looked at digital safety, blockchain and climate change. I'm grateful to the WSIS and the ITU for their great sport in executing this.

Coming back to WSIS 2022 forum, I have to say that we are very happy at the large volume of turnouts at this year's forum. It reinforces our confidence in all members

and reassures us of their commitment towards building an effective empowered tool.

We are confident that through this forum, the WSIS ITU and its members will feel even more driven to continue and contribute in fulfilling our common goals.

The WSIS forum 2022 will run until the 3rd of June. We are eager to see our unwavering enthusiasm until then. We hope to see more engagement activities from WSIS, especially ones where we can interact with our partners in person, now that the restrictions due to COVID-19 are being lifted worldwide.

I'm pleased to invite you to visit the UAE booth, and participate in our sessions either in person or remotely. Welcome to WSIS Forum 2022. Thank you.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you, Excellency Mesmar and thanks to the support we receive from UAE and from our other partners. We are able to grow the WSIS Forum and to include, to be more inclusive and open with new ideas, with new innovative projects, new prizes. So thank you very much. We have been able to engage a lot with the youth, with older persons, our gender repository. So thank you Excellency for your vision and we look forward to working closely with you and your team. Thank you very much.

We now would like to move on to Ms. Mashaal Al Hammadi. She's the undersecretary with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology Qatar. Qatar is the gold partner of WSIS Forum 2022. So Mashaal, this will be the first time that you will be coming to Geneva to participate in the WSIS Forum physically, and a gold partner. To please share with us some of your perspectives on how the WSIS project contributes to ICTs as key enablers of sustainable development and what plans does Qatar have for WSIS 2022.

>> MASHAEL ALI YOUSEF AL HAMMADI: Thank you, Gitanjali. I would like to take this opportunity to express our utmost gratitude for the fruitful cooperation of all concerned parties organizing WSIS Forum 2022, for which we are proud to be a gold partner.

The state Qatar, as part of the comprehensive vision for national, regional and international levels gives great importance to UN SDGs set for 2030 and acknowledge the role that they play in being constant reminder on what matters. International forums should continue to highlight the importance of SDGs as this ensures we are all moving in the same direction.

The WSIS for sum a major international event that highlights the initiatives through SDGs.

It makes recommendations through the relevance of its Action Line. Together, with ICTs the relevant policies, solutions and services are adopted across all sectors such as he -- education, healthcare and sport. To result in social, environment and economic prosperity.

In the education sector, Qatar has made a good use of material and human assets. It has also worked at improving its infrastructure and providing better training to accelerate progress in this sector. In alignment with the 4 SD good.

Goal. A new platform which is Qatar education, a system providing an interactive learning environment among the students, teachers and parents.

In health sector, the government is always concerned with enabling this sector both logistically and technologically, to face any difficulties, to use the -- the use of ICTs is very clear in the examples such as important mobile apps like Qatar's intercom, online clinics are assessing patients. Unified clinical system for centralizing all medical data. And a national registry for communicable diseases.

As for the sports sector, eight amazing stadiums will be hosting the FIFA World Cup 2022 and each one is an example of how cloud computing is important to providing the necessary linkage. These sports facilities follow the UN SDGs. They feature improved lighting and greenery which positive impact the health and well-being of individuals. The stadiums also ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by using up to 40% less energy than international benchmarks.

The FIFA World Cup use dust control thus reducing the use of potable water by up to 40% as for climate action, the stadium adopting energy efficient designs.

WSIS Action Lines acts as a driver to target more SDGs and we see the number of projects on the WSIS platform increasing, which means increased collaboration between nations.

Qatar has strengthened its efforts with WSIS submission and this can only come from the effort and the number of IT projects nationally. Qatar is developing a digital strategy for safe and smart nation. This strategy contains -- considers the UN SDG alignment to ensure we are working on the same wavelength as the other nation.

And the international community. We believe that WSIS Forum is important to us for three main reasons. First of all, we have had a great deal to learn from other countries and participants either through their submissions or workshops. This constant exchange of information is an ever important catalyst for continuous change and development.

Second of all, the alignment with UN 2030 SDG is necessary to ensure that we are constantly combining our efforts focusing on specific goals and reaching them collectively.

Lastly, being a forum that hosts governments, WSIS is well-positioned to provide recommendations that tackle our issues from a multichannel which is a collective approach and that includes the private sector, public sector, as well as academia.

Exposure and openness that WSIS Forum provides is apparent. Your Excellencies, general secretary thank you again for hosting this forum and we wish everyone the best of all sessions to come.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much Ms. Al Hammadi. We look forward to this great partnership. Also, I would like to request all stakeholders to look out for the accessibility track where we are going to partner with Qatar on, and we are planning to do some capacity building and training sessions with Qatar. So please look out for that and some interesting challenges that will be coming out from now until the end of the WSIS Forum.

Thank you very much, Mashaël.

We would now like to move on to Karen McCabe, the senior director of public affairs and marketing of IEEE. Welcome, Karen. IEEE has been a very strong partner. We started first hackathon at the WSIS Forum and now it's become a very popular and permanent innovative activity at the WSIS Forum.

So Karen the theme of WSIS forum 2022 is ICTs for well-being, inclusion and resilience. So can you share some exciting plans IEEE has for this year. I know you will bring the wonderful torch. A lot of WSIS stakeholders have been looking forward to collect those. Over to you, Karen.

>> KAREN McCABE: Thank you so much, yes, we look forward to the in-person part of the WSIS Forum at the end of May, early June. It's been a long time and I can't wait to see everyone in person again. Thank you. As a specific

activity partner it's a pleasure to be with you on the occasion of today's WSIS Forum inauguration, I would like to thank the co-organizers for organizing and engaging event.

I encourage you to take in all that WSIS has to offer to everyone. As a theme of this year, as you noted for ICTs for well-being, inclusion and resilience and cooperation for accelerating progress on the SDGs. I want to really focus on the intersection of these words or these elements. When we think about well-being being inclusion, resilience, cooperation, these words and meanings really don't stand alone. How can each of us have well-being without inclusion and how can we have resilience or inclusion without cooperation.

Coming from IEEE where our 400,000 members from around the world innovate for a better tomorrow and who work to advance technology for benefit of humanity, we really know power of these words through our actions outputs and their impact around the globe.

A core tenet of IEEE is open collaboration. Knowing that open collaboration embraces diverse backgrounds and experiences to be ahead, launches innovation that catalyzes advances and realizing the SDGs and well beyond. There's that voice of question that needs to be heard as we know that innovations change the world we live in, having profound impact in driving change but they can also be counterproductive impacts on human well-being, society and the planet.

With this, we need to consider and address both opportunities and challenges that innovations bring through holistic and a systems thinking approach and putting a by design framework at the forefront so thinking of it as well-being by design or inclusion by design, in short prioritizing these at the onset of our planning and implementation of innovations and technologies so the advances in progress we collectively make for a better world do not inadvertently introduce more or more complex challenges and sustainable is at the core of the innovation.

Immense challenges face the sustainability of our global society that require technological innovation and innovation, overcoming them will mean that we use technologies that prioritize people and planet. And to establish collaborative ecosystems at the intersection of technology, standards, regulation and policy to plan,

co-design, and help implement inclusive ethical and sustainable pathways and solutions.

The WSIS Forum provides one such amazing mat form that helps us to enable this -- to enable and lead us to put sustainability at the heart of what we do, and empower collaboration for well-being, inclusion and resilience. I really look forward to an amazing WSIS Forum, you know, all that is going to offer as I mentioned earlier, and I really encourage everyone to explore and participate so we can learn together.

Thank you so much.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much, Karen. Also we look forward to the discussions during the WSIS Forum. You always have a very interesting discussion as well. We look forward to that. Thank you very much.

I would like to move on to Ambassador Thomas Schneider, the director of the international affairs, OFCOM Switzerland who has been hosting the WSIS Forum in Geneva. You have been part of the WSIS Forum. You are the right person to ask that what have we achieved? What are our challenges? And what are the WSIS Action Lines doing to help the achievement of the global goals like the SDGs? Over to you Ambassador Schneider.

>> THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Thank you. Can you hear me?

>> GITANJALI SAH: Yes, sir. We can hear you clearly.

>> THOMAS SCHNEIDER: Okay. Thank you, dear Secretary-General of the ITU, dear Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD and assistant Director General of UNESCO, dear colleagues and friends. Our world is changing rapidly. The unimaginable has occurred and is shaking us to the core. The last two editions of WSIS Forum were dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As if this were not bad enough, we are receiving new shocking news regularly these days and we cannot simply ignore and pretend like nothing is going on.

I would never like to express my great concern about the immense suffering caused by the dramatic events in Ukraine and recall that Switzerland condemns the Russian military attacks on the Ukraine in the strongest personal terms.

Last few years but especially the last few weeks have shown how important it is to be able to communicate with each other in times of crisis to have access to reliable information, information that can be trusted. In this regard, it's unacceptable for us if media, journalists and

ordinary citizens are threatened to be put into jail if they report and speak about what they see.

Another fundamental basis for trust is international law. Law which has been agreed by all our countries. I therefore refer to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres who said a few days ago that this conflicts calls on us to come together in solidarity to support everyone affected and to overcome this violation of international law.

We are gathered today to celebrate the 22nd edition of WSIS Forum, and we need to do everything that we can to connect people, foster dialogue and achieve trust. It's expected from around the world need to progress the implementation of WSIS terms and contribution of ICTs to achievement of the SDGs.

Switzerland is convinced that multi-stakeholder processes like the WSIS Forum are essential in all stages of implementing the results of WSIS and achieving the SDGs. Only through multi-stakeholder cooperation and dialogue we can improve mutual understanding and create a better and more sustainable decision making.

We can strengthen the trust between different actors. The better we understand our needs and objectives, the easier it is to work together and agree on shared norms for working together and leading together peacefully.

In times of crisis and conflicts between societies and nations in, times where fundamental values and rules are at stake, it is even more important that we break silos and bring together experts and decision-makers from all sectors to discuss policy issues, the linkages to the SDGs and to embark on new constructive and peaceful cooperation and partnerships.

The WSIS forum 2022 will conclude the final week at the end of the May. I hope that the pandemic situation will then allow ITU to hold the final week in a hybrid format based in Geneva. For now, things are looking good and this situation is already allowing the ITU to hold hybrid events in Geneva again, such as recent WTSA.

I wish everyone a constructive and fruitful exchange in the coming week, and hope to see you in Geneva for the final week of WSIS Forum. Be at various panel discussions or at the reception that Switzerland has a longstanding and proud contributor of the WSIS Forum that will most likely organize for all delegates of WSIS will organize on the 31st of May.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you, ambassador for your

support and we already heard many stakeholders are excited to attend the Swiss reception, which is so generously hosted by you every year. So thank you very much and we look forward to welcoming stakeholders in Geneva from the 30th of May to the 3rd of June.

Thank you, sir.

We would now like to move on to Ms. Moira de Roche, the vice president of the International Federation for Information Processing, IFIP and a supporting partner of WSIS Forum. So Moira, what are the plans that IFIP passed for the WSIS for thumb year and what are the key' merging trends you have been noting with the SDG framework? Over to you, Moira?

You would have to unmute yourself, please.

>> MOIRA DE ROCHE: Sorry.

Good day, Secretary-General Zhao, Excellencies, honorable speakers and all attendees of this inauguration of WSIS Forum 2022.

When I was thinking about what WSIS Forum has given to IFIP, I was reminded that when we are on any journey, we must look forward to see our destination or at least the road to the destination. It's only when we look back that we see how far we have come.

Looking back on our brief history in the WSIS, our colleague, Raymond Morel was involved since its inception. He was always enthusiastic about WSIS, and he could not find someone to share his enthusiasm, especially to the RP3. They could see a clear connection between the goals of WSIS Action Lines and the RP3 mission of creating ICT as a global profession.

We understand that WSIS primarily considered the user or the consumer side, but RP3 introduced the requirement for the supply side of ICT to be strong and professional to allow information and knowledge society to develop and spread.

When the sustainable development goals were launched at the beginning of 2016, this gave all the RP3 structures a focal point.

Also in 2016, RP3 launched a campaign including everything digital. This focused our attention on trust and why it is a vital requirement for achieving the goals. After RP3 changed the tag line to partner trust in digital and we have used this since 2017.

It was interesting to see that trust very much emerged as a prevailing theme at the WSIS Forum and about that

time. To support trust, IFIP launched its code of ethics in 2018. The code used the ACM code as its basis but IFIP consulted the members to refine the code, no matter what they are and no matter what discipline though follow.

After RP3 delivered first workshop in 2012 and we continued to do so after is UNESCO, other IFIP entities have ICTs for education and the WSIS process. The technical committees and the Working Groups have been paying close attention to the SDGs and concentrating their research on the goals. IFIP has been sponsoring the forum since 2016, to demonstrate our support and belief in the WSIS process.

The process has given IFIP a focal point for its work and has ensured that the works supports the Action Lines and contributes to achieve the sustainable development goals. Now we look forward to the future of the WSIS process. We believe that sustainability new be a major focus going forward. We do consider sustainable goals. Perhaps we can address technologies that address sustainability issues, most importantly climate change and so accelerate progress. In several ways ICT companies have contributed to the problem, but now they can and must create technologies to fix the problem.

The WSIS Forum could facilitate discussions resulting in partnerships that have a firm agreement about the steps to be taken. The time for this is now. We will focus our thematic workshop on this theme.

The theme for this year's WSIS Forum on ICTs is ICTs for well-being, inclusion and resilience. It's very appropriate in the world today. Inclusivity, along with accessibility is essential to the new world of work. I'm not sure with using ICTs for resilience, though, because resilience is a personal characteristic. It's a skill and the reason it is, is because it cannot be replaced by ICTs or robots.

IFIP wishes the WSIS team a successful forum 2022. I look forward to seeing you all in Geneva for the final week. Thank you.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much, Moira, and thank you for the support that IFIP has been providing us. Bringing in new topics as you mentioned every year at the WSIS Forum. Thank you very much for your support.

We would now like to move on to Mr. Michael Hodin, from the Global Coalition On Aging. Michael has helped us to strengthen the ICTs in older persons track, we have

innovated in the track. We had a healthy aging innovation prize and a hackathon last year. So Mike, could you please share with everybody the plans for this year and how can we be more innovative to popularize this important activity? Over to you, Mike.

>> MICHAEL HODIN: Yes, well, thank you very much and on behalf of the Global Coalition On Aging, we're delighted to be a partner again this year. This will be our third year where we are focused on older adults, older persons. And it's appropriate. First of all, the theme this year on well-being, inclusion, and resilience is very much a part of healthy and active aging.

And digital technology is an important enabler for that.

One of the most important enablers that we have learned particularly through COVID. We are now in our second year of a decade of healthy aging and the partnership among the various UN agencies including ITU WSIS, World Health Organization, UNDESA and others in advance the goals of decade of healthy aging is something that will be embedded in our week where we partner from May 2nd to May 6th on the panels around celebrating and enabling greater opportunities for older persons.

So this is really a great opportunity, as you say, Gitanjali, and Houlin Zhao, we appreciate your partnership, that this year, again, we will have the healthy aging innovation prize. I encourage all ever you to look in the chat function where the prize is communicated or on the WSIS platform, web platform or, of course on our Global Coalition On Aging web platform, where you can continue to submit for your competition.

We have a variety of areas that go across area, FinTech and another many enabling elements for a healthy and active aging.

And the final point that I will make is simply to suggest to you that one of the things that we learn around this partnership which is now in its third year, to be very blunt, is that everything you always thought about getting old is not true. That is to say, we can have a healthy and active aging if we have digital health and technology and information and technology are core elements of that. We are delighted to I have a partnership not only with those that one would expect like ITU, WSIS. With HO, UN DESA, but I note that UNESCO is here and, of course the education and training for older adults around caregiving around

engagement, staying in the workplace have very important.

We have a focus through the Global Coalition On Aging on the business voice in the context of healthy aging and -- context of healthy aging and the role we can play with respect to innovation. Innovation and digital technology, but innovation across a variety of platforms, that can only happen with the right kind of policy incentives and those are ones that we will talk about May 2nd to 6th in our panels, and are embedded and reflected in the healthy innovation prize. We are delighted to be a partner again, and welcome the opportunity to be with you both virtually and we hope in person in Geneva in May, and at the end of the meeting as we move into the first week in June.

So congratulations to all. Thank you for your partnership and delighted to have this business opportunity to participate in the WSIS process again this year.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much, Mr. Hodin. It's always a pleasure to partner with you and with your colleagues at GCOA and we look forward to an exciting healthy aging innovation prize and the older persons track. Thank you so much.

So participants we see that we have more than 120 with us today, and we would like to invite you for two more exciting things. We have a poll and a group photograph. If we can do these two simultaneously, we would like to invite you to please raise your hand if you would like to be part of photograph, so we can bring you all into the room, and secondly, we have a poll which you can see on your screen. So if you could please click very soon, very fast so we can, you know, let everybody know the results, and in the meanwhile, we are also inviting you for the group photograph.

So we can see that there are -- so basically, the poll question is: What has the WSIS Forum's primary benefit been for your entity or organization to date?

So number one, knowledge sharing. Number two, identification of ICT emerging trends, challenges. Number three, effective platform for creation of partnerships. Number four, showcasing of successful ICT projects and number five, all of the above.

So we see that most of you have voted for all of the above, so 65%. So we are very happy that we are able to provide you with all of these services. So thank you very much, colleagues for participating in these polls, and we

would like to make these polls a regular feature in all the workshops so we can engage with the audience better.

Thank you very much. We would now like to invite you to switch on your cameras and be with us for the group photograph. Our Secretary-General is still with us. And Mr. Jelassi from UNESCO. And we have our all of our panelists with us. Please do put on your cameras and if we could be directed for the group photograph, please.

So whoever raises their hand is brought to turn on your camera. So please do switch on your camera and -- so Dinara, if you could please direct us for the photograph.

>> Yes, we have a few more hands up. We are waiting for them to open their camera.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Okay. Thank you very much. Thank you, participants, for joining us today.

We have participants from all over the world. We were following the chat. So we could see many from Asia, Africa, the Americas, which we are making all efforts to increase the participation from the Americas region. So thank you very much for joining us today.

>> All right. I think we are good to go.

So please look at your cameras. And give me a big smile in three, two, one.

Perfect!

One more time, please.

>> GITANJALI SAH: If you could all say WSIS.

>> We all say WSIS in three, two, one.

>> Great. We have two screens so if you could please allow me to take a couple more pictures on the second screen.

Okay, three, two, one, smile.

And the last one.

Three, two one.

Thank you very much.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much, Dinara. And thank you so much to all.

>> Thank you.

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