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>> GITANJALI SAH: Good afternoon. Ladies and gentlemen, we are about to start. Dear, ladies and gentlemen, we're about to start. The conclusion of the high-level track.

>> Recording in progress.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Please take your seats. Thank you for being here with us. It's been a busy day. Request you to please take your seats so that we can begin. Ladies and gentlemen, we'll have an interesting summaries from our High-Level Track Facilitators. We had 11 high-level policy sessions this year. This shows the great interest from the high-levels which included ministers, heads of regulatory bodies, private sector C level executives, Civil Society, technical community, and very high participation from the academia as well.

So we thank all of you for being here for enjoying the event, for enjoying the high-level track. And now we would like to listen from the High-Level Track Facilitators their summaries and their takeaway of the high-level policy sessions.

I would first like to invite the high-level Policy Session one, High-Level Track Facilitator, the session was entitled bridging the

digital divides, Ms. Mei Lin Fung, she's the chair and co-founder of People Centered Internet. Over to you Mae.

>> MEI LIN FUNG: I've got my back to all of you. Sorry about that. Our panel began with an exercise to remember who was not in the room. How it must feel to be forgotten and left behind. Imagine you're a child again. Close your eyes and remember playing hide and seek. You're hiding. Now the game has gone too long and you hear nothing. Open your eyes. And you discover that your favorite aunt has taken everybody for ice cream, but you have been left behind. Remember this feeling, because where we -- only when we stand in solidarity with those left behind will we be prepared to do the difficult collaboration needed to bridge the digital divide together.

Amazing breakthroughs were described for bridging the digital divide in our panel. And the breadth of initiatives were breath taking, funding innovations, infrastructure plans, involvement of multi-stakeholders, attention to multiple generations. The richness and agile innovation going from Gabon, Georgia, Greece, Africa, Venezuela, Japan, Nigeria and Norway. We went on an exciting journey around the world. In 60 minutes we heard stories of how people were not being forgotten and efforts by many, many people were under way.

The vision is of an Olympics of bridging the digital divide. It will take many approaches. And we want to see how each country is doing in bridging the digital divide. There could be a funding category. There could be an infrastructure category, the multi-stakeholder engagement category, the citizen engagement category. The emerging trend here is a flood of activities being undertaken by governments around the world.

The opportunity is to take all of these activities and provide a leaderboard in each of these different categories so countries can see what each other is doing and via to compete to cross the digital divide. This leaderboard would be based on results and impact voted on by the ones who care the most, your peers, working on the very same problems.

The key challenge is to find a way to actually set up this kind of exchange of information. It requires a knowledge which curates the programme and provides a directory of the players.

The outstanding example was the 440 million in India who acquired bank accounts who were previously unbanked. Yet Nigeria left a very, very big impression on me with such a large population, seeing India reach its population, it is catching up. I was impressed by the innovative data strategies pioneered in Nigeria Georgia and Greece. They stood for the huge commitment each are making. It is equally clear for each country that spoke the interest is very high.

COVID has taught us all the value of digital and the pain of the digital divide. So we all want to bridge it. The link to the SDGs in my opinion is SDG 17, partnership to cooperate in bridging the divide. The road ahead is the Olympics of crossing the digital divide. And the people around the world will be the real winners

we all want to see.

Thank you.

(Applause).

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you very much, Mei Lin. Interesting session there. We'll move on to high-level session 3, building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, Dr. Ahmad Sharafat, Iran was the High-Level Track Facilitator. Over to you Dr. Sharafat.

>> AHMAD SHARAFAT: Thank you very much. I had the pleasure to be the moderator for session 3 on building confidence and security in the use of ICTs.

We had eight prominent panelists. Three of them participated remotely. And the topic, which is building confidence and security in the use of ICTs is of paramount importance for enhancing and exchanged the use of ICTs for sustainable development, particularly in developing countries and corresponds to WSIS Action Line C5 for which ITU as a specialized agency of the United Nations is the lead Facilitator.

The high-level panelists were asked two questions each on their view and best practices as well as on challenges on building confidence and security in the use of ICTs.

Since the high-level panelists were from different sectors, a comprehensive and inclusive picture was presented in the session.

The high-level panelists emphasized that in the digital age trust is everything. Cybersecurity is crucial in ensuring trust worthy and equitable access to. The high-level panelists view in setting standards and undertaking studies and assisting different stakeholders to build confidence and security in use of ICTs of vital importance.

The high-level panelists were also of the view that the approach should be comprehensive and inclusive. Leaving no potential players and contributors behind. The need to enhance and expand the participation of women was also emphasized.

The high-level panelists emphasized the importance of public awareness as well as skilled workers in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs.

The high-level panelists also underlined the need for international cooperation and sharing of best practices in this area. Thank you.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you, Dr. Sharafat.

(Applause).

>> GITANJALI SAH: Appreciate your summary. This is Action Line C5 always being an important one. Thank you so much.

Our next High-Level Track Facilitator for session 4, bridging the digital divide, Tim yeah, international chamber of commerce. She had to leave and catch a flight on an urgent basis. However, she has left her summary with me. And we will go through it very quickly.

So she has captured that the session highlighted the need for greater collaboration and multi-stakeholder dialogue. They identified fresh priorities, the need to build a transparent and

trust worthy policy environment. Some emerging trends, holistic view of the digital ecosystem, effective spectrum policies, base policies in evidence, and data, especially when targeting remote and rural areas.

They highlighted some opportunities, how expand suggest meaningful connectivity and bridging the digital divides is a mean to unlocking broader development goals. Some of the key challenges were highlighted in the session that affordability remains a problem and connectivity gaps were also identified.

Some case examples were expressed during her session. The Gulf initiative between German federal ministry for economic cooperation, ITU, digital exact alliance to help governments build effective and cost efficient Digital Government processes. The national telecommunications programme for social inclusion of Bolivia, the international mobile telecommunications in South Africa that acted as one of the key interventions to stimulate economic recovery following COVID pandemic.

These summaries will be available online. So you will be able to read the summaries of the high-level track fair statements in detail. I would like to move to high-level session 5, ICT application and so far ass. Ms. Moira Patterson, community engagement Director IEEE association was responsible for this session. Over to you Moira.

>> MOIRA PATTERSON: It is a pleasure to provide a brief summary of this session which focused on ICT applications and services.

I also want to thank and acknowledge all the panelists who shared their knowledge, experiences, and insights from their different countries, different stakeholder groups, and different sectors that they represented.

The high-level panelists insights conveyed a vision where ICTs focus on -- enable governments, collaborating with the private sector, and they develop platforms in digital services with the end user needs in mind and experience in mind as well. Where inclusion of the development of ICT development is critical to provide opportunities to all, including for youth and for women.

Where digital literacy of all population including different age groups, persons with disabilities, language communities, refugees will spread the benefits of ICTs and access to the associated services to all and which will enable societies to be resilient during crises and develop sustainably.

Panelists highlights priorities. Of course the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the digital transformation which has been a key source of resilience during the pandemic. Digital infrastructures where digital infrastructures were already in place, they provide continuity of services and helped build resilience there.

Governments as a platform to provide public services online in a future looking and user focus approach is a key learning. A focus on the needs of end users has also been mentioned.

Also, the need to preserve confidentiality where needed but also

open knowledge sharing and open data to provide opportunities for innovation for the greater good. And then the role of national strategies and policies around ICT as key drivers were also mentioned.

Thank you. Yes, thank you.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you so much, Moira. Thank you for joining us. One of the High-Level Track Facilitators could not join us. Thank you for joining us this year.

We will move to high-level Policy Session 6, climate change bridging the digital. Ms. Melika Righi was with us. Melika is a new stakeholder. It's the first forum for her. Welcome. Over to you Melika.

>> MELIKA RIGHI: Thank you, everyone. I will give a brief report of session 6 about climate change and bridging the digital divide. Of course, bridging the digital divide is the framework for all the 17 SDG and for (?) climate action. Some points in common was with Columbia, Germany, UK, Uganda, and Canada, and from UN office for disaster risk reduction.

We need to bring connectivity and energy and affordable device to people. We need to cut -- we have the opportunity to think about our ICT system and design in a circular economic way.

So the vision all over the world is clear. We need to bridge the digital divide and bring the digital services to everyone to bring good fast connection, we need to bring energy and affordable device to people. It's important to have cooperation of regulation authority and Civil Society. Every one of the stakeholder will sit at that table. That made me so proud.

Some countries are facing (?) the most of all is reduction. Greece, example, is (?) as well many other. Other country are jumping into 5G technology such as Colombia both are dealing with the same problems. Not convenient for reach. Affordable connection in rural area can help with the health and well-being, SDG4 quality education but also with number five.

Now, what we have to do is to act. Because we cannot leave anyone behind. And we not leave it for the next generation the climate change.

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you so much, Melika.

(Applause).

>> GITANJALI SAH: We would like to move on to high-level Policy Session 7, inclusiveness, access to information and knowledge for all bridging the digital divide, Dr. Liberato Bautista conference of NGOs and consultive relationship to the United Nations the over to you, sir.

>> LIBERATO BAUTISTA: Thank you. It was my honor and pleasure to facilitate session 7 focused on inclusiveness, access to information, and knowledge for all and how to bridge the digital divide. On the panel, I had the expertise of government Bangladesh, Romania, Samoa, one UN agency representative acting as WSIS Action Line Facilitator, UPU and Civil Society groups bays in Italy, USA, and Bangladesh. Among all panelists it was clear that digital

technology has already immensely increased people's access to information and knowledge and that the potential for further development is enormous. Hence, the possibility as well lessening if not eliminating the knowledge of digital divides.

Digital technology is not only a catalyst for economic development and why there are societal communication but also for achieving effective governance and open societies and multilateral cooperation.

However, technology alone cannot bridge the knowledge on digital divide. There is need for reinforcing multilingual approaches and ethical foundations along WSIS line action number 10. The widening of digital knowledge is responsible for augmenting digital responsibility in the health sector as a prominent example. The experience of the COVID pandemic is unfortunately the best recent example with the corollary that online working and methods of work has now become the norm in so many people's lives.

The digital world must necessarily be gender inclusive. It must also factor in issues of gender equity, intergenerational solidarity and social and economic vulnerabilities of peoples and communities considering social inequalities arising from an even development of economies. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you, Dr. Bautista. We would like to move to high-level session 8, enabling environment, Action Line C6, Mr. Kevin Perkins, Executive Director from Canada. Congratulations, sir, you also won the WSIS priors prize this year.

>> KEVIN PERKINS: Focused on regulatory policy that enabled our involvement of the ICTs on the digital divide. We were joined by eight experts from eight different country, Cambodia, Mongolia, China, Namibia, Georgia, France, the panelists were two ministers responsible for digital development and information technology, four senior leaders of regulatory bodies, one representative from a global telecom community, and another one from the business association. Great diversity and panel presentations were fascinating and very well prepared.

We introduced the session, of course, the Action Line Facilitator, Ms. Sofie Maddens began the session with some contextual comments.

Some of the highlights that came from the panelists' presentations, first, that there are three streams of action needed to meet the challenge of bringing connectivity to the 2.9 billion people that have never connected to the internet. These include increasing adoption through infrastructure development and improving access for all and increasing use, which really depends on value creation.

A strong theme that came out and a real vision for the kind of enabling environment is collaboration and partnerships involving all stakeholders take the whole of government and whole of society approach.

Overcoming the digital divide needs to focus on constraints.

We've heard this from other sessions as well, in gender equality, rural disparities, age, policies that are in gender equality that bring affordable connectivity to rural areas and provide additional supports to elderly and provisions for access and use for people with disabilities.

E-government there is a lot of government on the potential for that. We heard some fascinating examples. But they highlight the importance of internet accessibility and affordability so that all citizens can access government services. We heard about private investments being marshalled to help achieve connectivity goals, the importance of user education and digital literacy as a government function.

And finally, some comment on global collaboration, for example on IPE6. Thank you very much for the privilege of facilitating this. Thank you.

>> You have five seconds to go.

>> KEVIN PERKINS: Oh, I have five seconds.

(Laughter).

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you, Kevin. Thanks for being with us here. We would now like to move to high-level session 9, this is to inform the participants that it was a fully virtual session consisting of several high-level delegates and our virtual moderator professor Ke Gong, the world federation of engineering organizations. He actually moderated this for us. And he was really very active trying to keep up with the physical event as well as -- it's already quite late in China. He will be making an intervention from there. Over to you Professor Gong. Thank you so much.

>> KE GONG: Thank you so much. Ladies and gentlemen, in session 9, so WSIS Action Line Facilitator Dr. Of UNESCO and eight panelists from government, public sector, and academia in different parts of the world have shared good practices and opinions on pressing challenges and priorities to bridge the digital gap.

The session highlighted the great efforts made in the past years. For example, Bangladesh has introduced the one country one rate for the broadband services so that people in the rural area are not discriminated with a higher price.

India has taken a series of measures, including a robust right-of-way rules to roll out the digital infrastructure. With these measures Indian telephone subscribers have increased by 80 times since 1997.

(?) made up the islands scattered in the Indian Ocean integrates the satellite and undersea cable as well as mobile communication with universal service fund established by the government.

China has got all villages across the country connected by broadband and basically achieved same network, same speed in both rural and urban areas. China has also implemented a moderating forward looking digital strategy by deploying its 5G network which has now reached more than 400 million users.

Although significant progress has made, much more need to be

done. The session stresses that to further close the gap, efforts should be made on both hard and soft side. The hard one is mainly about network infrastructure and smart devices to provide broadband service access as a basic need for personal educational, social, and economic growth.

The soft one is mainly about digital literacy and skills with special attention to women, youth, and vulnerable populations.

The session calls for building a dynamic digital ecosystem and creating a digital transformation towards future proving society and a more digitally literate adaptive culture where affordability and equal access are the norms. And preventing our society from erosion of the freedom of expression and from dis and misinformation as well as from cyber attacks. These will only be achieved with proper government policies and international collaboration as well as public, private partnership.

I'll stop here. Back to you.

(Laughter).

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you, sir. Thank you for your --

(Applause).

>> GITANJALI SAH: Thank you for the excellent summary and for your enthusiasm. It is really very infectious. Thank you so much for joining us this year and hope you will be with us in Geneva in the next physical WSIS forum.

We would like to go into the mindful Policy Session number 10, digital economy and create financing for development and the role of ICTs. The frack Facilitator was Ms. Emily Middleton, partner, public digital United Kingdom. Over to you, Emily.

>> EMILY MIDDLETON: Thank you. It was my great pleasure to facilitate session 10. We focused primarily on digital trade as well as the growing importance of the digital economy, both at the national and international levels.

Participants also touched on the need for more and better financing for development and especially for connectivity infrastructure. The panel featured a really fantastic range of perspectives from marly, Ethiopia, Lithuania, Germany, okay tad. And despite the breadth of the topics we covered, three big themes emerged. The first was the importance of data and data analytics to enhance trade, for instance for improving access to information about supply chains and as an opportunity to create new value added services and fuel economic growth.

Second, was the need for closer international collaboration to help more countries unlock the benefits of digital trade and level the playing field. This included the benefits of international standards and rules and cross-border infrastructure such as digital payments to facilitate e-commerce.

Third, connectivity and digital literacy were cited as fundamental enablers to a flourishing digital economy and trade. Without reliable internet access and universal digital skills, not everyone can participate fully in digital trade and in a digital economy.

There were a number of opportunities mentioned such as the use of newer technologies and analytics to improve the traceability of goods and to improve the efficiency of supply chains.

Several government representatives mentioned reforms undertaken to increase competition among internet service providers with the aim of improving quality and lowering prices.

But a number of challenges were also mentioned especially related to digital trade, such as the lack of a commonly accept definition and terminology uncertainty over which trade rules apply in what situations and the need for regulators to constantly keep pace with new developments and new technologies.

So in summary, based on today's panel, Chairman, I think we can expect to see three things, a continue to focus on many countries to ensure critical enablers are in place for a flourishing digital economy, especially skills, connectivity, and financing. Second, promoting the digital economy, and third, increased collaboration between international organizations, governments, and the private sector on common standards and common terminology.

Thank you.

(Applause).

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much, Emily. We will now move on to the high-level Policy Session 11 on ethical dimension, media and gender main streaming and ICTs. Mr. Paul Spiesberger, Chair Austrian network for information and communication technologies for development Austria was moderating this high-level Policy Session. Over to you, sir.

>> PAUL SPIESBERGER: Thank you very much. By listening to all the summary,s give me a moment to congratulate the Chairman and colleagues for the outstanding work and the panel and the WSIS forum organization. You did an outstanding job. So session 1 at the core concern the beautiful diversity of people on this planet and how we can preserve this rainbow of colors within the media and the world. Participants actively promoted for tightening collaboration of member states of the United Nations and discussed issues concerning the internet, online media, global ethical ICT standards and gender equality a global phenomenon that can only be solved with close collaboration.

There was a broad consensus that current ICTs and the internet are not welcoming and not actively supporting cultural diverse content. Governments' lack of investment for translations and the limited research conducted on local cultures and languages.

This would especially include the elder and younger generations who are widely kept offline by cultural barriers. Focused research on local cultures and variable programs to create tools for languages need to be development and promoted.

Several panelists raised their concerns about the current state of freedom of speech, equal access to internet, active censorship, freedom of expression, internet shutdowns, and the quality of information online and in modern media. Quality content versus misinformation is a challenge and people lack the digital skills to

distinguish between them. Only intensively awareness campaigns can decrease how it is perceived. Journalists are under attack and facing threats on and offline especially women and young girls. Freedom of expression s freedom of press must be ensured.

A shared belief that the internet must be open for everyone was underlined several times. The chain of digital divide was discussed as the COVID-19 pandemic increased online harassment.

Further, awareness programs are needed to strengthen woman rights on line. Concerns about ethical aspects of upcoming and current technologies were raised during most statements. The rerange of motion of privacy and lack of data ownership is an increased threat to free societies. Only a few companies are in control of future technologies as artificial intelligence apartments.

Decentralization of the internet to break the power of big players and promote diversity must be on top of the agenda in upcoming years. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> MODERATOR: Thank you. I would like to go back to high-level Policy Session 2 which was moderated by Mikaela Jade. She could not be with us just now. She is the CEO and co-founder of InDigital Australia. She's done all her work, Chairman. I will read her summary on her behalf which she has requested. Thank you so much.

So she said that the high-level track for sessions basically delegates addressed initiatives for the ability of all to access and contribute information idea and knowledge as part of an inclusive information society. Several visions were shared that included sharing and strengthening global knowledge for development by removing barriers to equitable access to information for knowledge, for economic, social, political, health, cultural, educational, and scientific activities, fresh priorities, climate change initiatives, especially low carbon strategies were a feature of the interventions. For example, Guiana developed a low carbon development strategy with built-in carbon mechanisms through a ground breaking partnership with the kingdom of Norway. And then some emerging trends, machine learning, hyperconnectivity, internet backbone and structure were a feature of panel interventions.

For example, the chief technology officer for Qatar provided an example of deploying machine learning to assist more than 1.5 million visitors to have an exceptional user experience of the free for world. Interesting. And some key challenges was said that training and capacity building is extremely crucial. That was one of the main outcome of the session, digital skilling at scale.

Thank you so much, Mikaela, and we missed you being here with us.

Chairman, this is the end of our session summaries from the High-Level Track Facilitators. Maybe we can give them a big hand.

(Applause).

>> MODERATOR: They worked really hard. We had several training sessions.

>> I think they deserve another round of applause.
(Applause).

>> MODERATOR: We had several training sessions, Chairman over the months. And they worked overnight to produce all their summaries to be ready. Thank you so much.

And now, Chairman, we'll hand the floor over to you for your final takeaways and your summary.

>> ISA ALI PANTAMI: Please permit me to invite the Secretary-General of ITU to comment.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you very much. I would like to express myosin sear appreciation to the high-level Policy Session coordinators for their hard work. Just talking from the training earlier, I think the last two days very hard to host this panel session and prepare this high level briefings. I noticed some of them, for example, my friend professor Gong in Beijing, approaching midnight. Any how, his hard work is appreciated. More importantly the content shared with us is absolutely important.

We will take this summaries with some kind of further work to follow up and make sure that what our panelists expect us to do and to have the task to have that kind of thing further followed.

Let me just, once again, you had two times requested to have applaud. Let me add a third time.

(Applause).

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Wonderful work.

>> ISA ALI PANTAMI: Thank you very much, Secretary-General. Also, please let us invite the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO to you may wish to speak.

>> TAWFIX JELASSI: Thank you for the Facilitators for their summary of high-level discussions. As I was listening to you and reflecting on WSIS plus 20 we're almost getting there. Some of us were at the 2003 Geneva meeting or the 2005 Tunis meeting. A number of things have happened, of course. Technology at the time was just a tool. Today in the private session we talked about how to transform education thanks to technology.

So I think the big questions are for us how can technology create or add value to whom, to individuals, communities, societies, minority groups, disabled people to, of course, countries, nations, but also benefits to public sector, private companies, and Civil Society organizations.

If we say it's information for all, it must be not only the technical attributes of the -- but must be the benefits that technology enables to all. I think we have it in terms of value, in terms of benefits. It's not only transforming education. It's transforming lives. And the key question and we'll start with that, how can we ensure that technology transforms people's lives for the better? And how can we ensure that technology makes all of us, including organizations, successful going forward?

And how in that process of information for good, how can we address and it tackle the issue of harm of hate speech online, harassment online, misinformation, disinformation, and all the

negative sides being permanent on digital platforms? I think we have to keep in mind how can technology transform lives for the better? How can technology make us all more successful and benefit from it? Thank you.

(Applause).

>> ISA ALI PANTAMI: Thank you very much, assistant secretary or Director-General for your contribution. I think this is the peak of the event as we have listened to our high-level experts with their submission, recommendations, and also deliberations.

Permit me to use the opportunity to appreciate the Secretary-General of ITU and all other United Nations agencies for making the World Summit on information society 2022 forum meetings and engagements very successful.

Furthermore, I also want to use the opportunity to thank our partners, at least three countries that have and many other institutions that have supported this event to be very successful. Your effort, contribution, and support are all appreciated.

In addition, I am very delighted to report some of the discussions of our high-level sessions here. However, we have heard from the 11 speakers that previously spoke on the topic. But I had been given another summary by the Secretariat to go through superficially within a few minutes that will make us to appreciate the sessions.

The high-level tracks provide a platform for tracking the achievements with WSIS action lines in collaboration with all stakeholders. And it provides information and analysis of the implementation of WSIS action lines. This is very useful in enabling us to identify the best lines of these action lines with a view to following through on a strategy to support the implementation of the action lines.

Once again, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the team of experts who served as Facilitators in each of the 11 high-level tracks for the WSIS action lines. Your commitment and professionalism indeed are commendable. And on behalf of the entire WSIS Community, I extend our gratitude. I also extend our appreciation to the panelists. And it was interesting to see that most of the panels had representatives from the different continents. Some Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America, and Australia.

As I mentioned yesterday, my vision for this year's WSIS forum includes a paradigm shift from a focus of just five-day event or starting from fifth of March to early June to a more engagement throughout the year. Because so far starting from around 15 of March to the first week of June I believe a lot has been achieved. But we need to consider these achievements as our baseline. And we need to engage our colleagues and other stakeholders throughout the year so that we will be able to achieve more. And I do hope that we do have your support and the support of all other stakeholders WSIS 2022 is going to be the best ever.

Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> ISA ALI PANTAMI: In spite of the fact that a lot has been achieved through the engagement starting from 15 of March to date, I just want to consider all what we have achieved as just our baseline. So we need to do the more work starting from the first week of June to the end of the year. So what we have achieved so far has been sacrificed as our own baseline.

I will go through the high-level sessions starting with session number 1, which has been facilitated by Ms. Mei Lin Fung on bridging digital divides. Through her own presentation, we have learned the advantages of digital divide, its necessity, and many more. The benefits of IT revolution are evenly distributed among developed and developing countries. It is necessary for the gaps to be bridged in order to use ICT as a actual to promote digital opportunities for all.

This is in line with the observations and recommendations made by the deputy Assistant Director-General of UNESCO right now. The panel agreed on the need for the development of policy instruments to accelerate digital transformation and increase rollout of fiber optic cables, especially in underserved and unserved areas and the adoption of strategies for reducing the cost of data.

In the ministerial roundtable we had today it has been said that by one of the ministers in their country there is tax on data. Complete data consumption doesn't have any tax. Why? In order to promote patronage and support broadband penetration in their country.

There is need current metrics, policies, and the proposed policies for enhancing connectivity. Each country will have its own peculiar situation and challenges. We need to think how to continue to promote connectivity, particularly in areas that are not profitable.

Then Ms. Mikaela coordinated session 2 on WSIS Action Line s and the 2030 agenda inclusiveness, access to information and knowledge for all bridging the digital divides. The panel discussed how to enable people to both access and to contribute information and knowledge to enhance the emergence of an inclusive information society.

The focus was on using ICTs to enhance equitable access to information. Traditionally, excluded groups like women, girls, and persons with disabilities, need to be prioritized and emerging technologies can support these efforts. Usually, you will discover there are groups that are left behind. We need to make their scale of preference, so we will be able to bridge the gap.

There is an urgent need to harness emerging technologies and use them to foster digital inclusiveness across the globe.

Session number 3, which has also been coordinated by Professor Ahmad Sharafat on building confidence and security in the use of ICTs. Cybersecurity is critical to the success of the WSIS process. As people, we only have the confidence to utilize digital technologies if their information remains secured and private.

Building confidence between government, private sector, and

citizens is key to that so that citizens will have peace of mind that privacy and confidentiality cannot be compromised.

The panelists emphasized on the need for international cooperation enhancing digital skills and public awareness to mention but a few.

Cyber criminals do not respect any border. They do not require any passport, Visa, and they are not subjected to any investigation. It is because of this we have to appreciate the fact that cyber crime doesn't respect border. So there is need for more of an international approach to fighting cyber criminality.

Most of the crimes committed in one country, you'll discover criminality from another country. It's because of this there is more need of an international approach in addressing the challenge and I believe ITU is in the better position to champion that.

There is need to identify the baselines for cybersecurity and data protection across the different regions of the world. Session 4 forecast bridging digital divides and it was moderated by Ms. Timeo Suto. It was, however, read by moderator here. It discussed topics of 5G technology, digital divide, digital inclusion, digital transformation, and machine learning.

There was a consensus on the need for government to invest in order to enable universal connectivity. As well as a need to ensure a level of enforcement of sustainable goals by administration. And this will foster development and support in accelerating digital transformation.

Session number 5, which has been coordinated by Ms. Moira Patterson on ICT applications and services. ICTs are not an end in themselves. They are not the target. Rather, they shall improve the living for citizens around the world in a sustainable way. ICT today is the key enabler for economic development, for economic growth, for medical care, for agriculture, in smart agriculture, for security, and many more.

It's no more than the key enabler of all other sectors. It is because of this, we need to identify that the role ICT plays is not restricted to just the ICT sector, but rather, that role shall be extended to all other sectors in order to serve as the key enabler.

Relevant policies need to be developed and implemented to enhance digital literacy and skills, promote the use of digital platforms among others.

Ms. Melika Righi coordinated session 6 on climate change, bridging the digital divide. At the moment the Earth is our only home. And we need to protect our planet. Hence, the importance of preserving our planet.

We need to play our part in preserving this planet by reducing the carbon footprint, e-waste, and other things that affect the climate. This is indeed very important as we have no other place to live but here.

Session 7 was on inclusiveness, access to information on knowledge for all bridging digital divide. And that was also coordinated by Mr. Liberato Bautista. In that session the

discussion centered around initiatives implemented by various countries to address issues of inclusiveness, access to information for all and the digital divide in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

Some next steps to be taken and recommendations forward are countries shall document, implement comprehensive access to information legislation that protects the right of access to information in line with the international standards and ensure they are being properly implemented in practice.

Furthermore, there is need for more collaboration among government, Civil Society, public and private sector, academia towards the development of policies and expand programs that prioritize inclusion.

And there is need to increase investment in the telecommunications sector, particularly in the area of infrastructure. This is one of the issues that the Secretary-General has been stating that we need to give priority and preference to four Is, that is infrastructure, investment, innovation, and inclusiveness.

Member state and stakeholders need to be encouraged to create the right regulatory environment and adopt the right policies. And we always encourage the need for developmental regulations. We should not consider regulation as unnecessary restriction, but, rather, we need to come up with regulatory instruments that will support and facilitate development. We can only restrict when it becomes necessary.

Session 9 was on inclusiveness, access to information and knowledge for all, WSIS action lines and 2030 agenda and bridging digital divide. It was moderated by professor Ke Gong. The panel addresses both hard and soft sides of inclusiveness.

The hard side refers to the need for infrastructure. That is the hard infrastructure. And the soft aspect of it on skills development and even policies to support the skill development and hard infrastructure deployment. All WSIS stakeholders shall pay attention to both, the hard and the soft aspects that foster inclusiveness.

Session 10 was on digital economy, financing of the development and role of ICT. And it was facilitated by Ms. Emily Middleton. The topics of the session included blockchain technology, digital divide, digital economy, among others.

Governments are encouraged to strengthen their economic environment. Furthermore, governments are encouraged to come up with policy that will support financing for ICT, particularly when it comes to skills, connectivity, and financing.

High-level Policy Session 11 was on cultural diversity and identity. Diversity local content, ethical dimensions of information and knowledge societies, media, ICTs and gender mainstreaming. It was moderated by Mr. Paul Spiesberger.

Considering the importance of a cultural and linguistic diversity to an information society and sustainable development, it

is imperative to develop policies that support and promote cultural heritage and local content development in this regard. Development of our indigenous content is key to development of our indigenous content development. Common trends of the discussions, number one, the need to translate content on the internet using other minority languages with investments targeted at this in developing countries, especially privacy and secure use of the internet, especially for women and vulnerable ones.

Declining quality of information which has given rise to fake news and negative campaigns, this is one of the issues mentioned by the assistant Secretary-General of UNESCO. Need for capacity building and paradigm shift to engender the public as champions over the internet.

And finally, call for the responsible use and treatment of information by media and also by all sundry.

Next steps, call for the inclusion of more languages in content development by countries and facilitating collaborations in this regard among countries that have common languages. You will discover in some continents two, three, four, or five countries have common language. So there is need for more collaboration and partnership in achieving that.

Conclusion, I thank you for your kind attention. And I look forward to a very engaging 12 months or so of activities to support the WSIS Action Lines. This is in summary what has been presented by the 11 sessions, the high-level 11 sessions. I want to thank the Secretariat for compiling these and given to me to go through it.

(Applause).

>> ISA ALI PANTAMI: I will allow the Secretary-General to comment before we finally close with your permission. And I do hope that you will not mind another round of applause for me.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Why not?

(Applause).

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dear colleagues. I don't want to keep you too long in our meeting room. Any how, what the Chairman just shared with us is what he considers important as take out from this meeting.

We heard the briefings from 11 session Facilitators. Now we also get to the confirmation from our Chairman, what he got from those briefings by 11 Facilitators. This is proves another thing. If we have Chairman with background of professor, we can get a lot of useful information, right?

I turned to him for the ministerial roundtable meetings. I found that his briefings, his understanding of the ministerial roundtable meetings are very impressive, a lot of good ideas. That is you yourself, not by supporting team.

What he received actually, I see is not from our Secretariat but from the team you bring with you and yourself consider this absolutely important. You want to have this good summary, you charge your team to work harder to prepare very high quality briefings. We appreciate it very much.

Let me take this opportunity to express our thanks to your team. Last but not least, I think it is my duty to express my personal appreciation to our Chairman for your leadership, for your passion, for your commitment to help us manage this WSIS forum 2022. You consider this absolute excellent session. I agree with you. Why we have this session so successful, we thank you for your strong leadership, your leadership not only by the chairing of the sessions here but also a lot of bilateral contact and your guidance, for example, you share with us we should not stop here.

From the first week of June, now we continue to work to the end of this year. That means what? That means our Chairman would like to cooperate with us until the end of this year to check what secretary has done and what our members could do to put the result of this in action rather than just have nice award and then it's finished.

He himself already told me that he would not like to stop as Chairmanship. He wants to stay with us to the end of this year to see what will happen. Because according to our practice, we have to change your Chairmanship annually. But the key, he's one of very few Chairman that doesn't want to see the end of this week. Thank you very much.

Let me take this opportunity to share with our participants, I would like to provide you with my certificate and with ITU for your wonderful leadership to help us manage this one.

Of course, we also have certificate of our session Facilitators that we will do that after I provide my certificate to our Chairman. All right. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> HOULIN ZHAO: We have to present your certificate.

>> (Off Microphone).

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Minister for communications and digital economy -- for outstanding contribution to the work of the World Summit on Information Society Forum 2022.

(Applause).

>> ISA ALI PANTAMI: Interesting. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> HOULIN ZHAO: (Off Microphone) one of the buildings will be demolished. So in the future you will have it anymore.

(Laughter).

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Put these two together. My friends, colleagues, please join.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. We would like to start the certificate ceremony also for our High-Level Track Facilitators to appreciate them as a token of our appreciation for your hard work. The high-level Policy Session one, Ms. Mei Lin Fung Chairman of People Centered Internet.

High-level session 2, Mikaela is not with us. High-level Policy Session 3, Dr. Ahmad Sharafat. High-level session Policy Session 5, Ms. Moira Patterson.

High-level Policy Session 6, Ms. Melika Righi.

High-level Policy Session 7, Dr. Liberato Bautista.

High-level Policy Session 8, enabling environment, Mr. Kevin Perkins.

High-level policy session, Professor Gong, he's not here with us today. He said he'll come in November to pick it up from the ITU.

High-level Policy Session 10, Ms. Emily Middleton.

And high-level Policy Session 11, Mr. Paul Spiesberger.

I'd like to invite (Off Microphone).

(Applause).

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow for more exciting events. Thank you very much. Good evening.

(Event concluded at 1822 CET)

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