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>> CHAIR: Good morning, everyone. Let's take our seats so that we can start the second plenary of the conference. Thank you.

>> Recording in progress.

>> CHAIR: I kindly ask you to be seated, please, so we can start in time. Thank you very much.

Good morning, everyone. I hope you have a good night's sleep and that you enjoyed the last reception by the host country, Romania. The people dance there, but I don't know because I have to leave earlier. I had to be rested for the plenary today.

And mentioning the receptions, a big thanks to all the countries that hosted the receptions yesterday. It was Gambia, Poland and Uganda. They were very well received by the delegation. Thank you very much for organizing the receptions.

I would also like to take a moment to congratulate the delegation for celebrating today their national lead. Let's give them a round of applause, please.

Now let's move to the businesses. We have co-approved the agenda -- (audio difficulty) Document ADM12. I am seeking for your approval. Approved.

And we are moving to the second point in our agenda, which is general policy statements.

(Audio fading in and out)

Okay. This is working. It's fine. Want to have a backup. It's okay. And we will start with Bulgaria. And I'm inviting his Excellencies, Mr. Hristo Aleksiev, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Policies, Minister of Transport and Communications. So Your Excellency, please, you have the floor.

>> HRISTO ALEKSIEV: Okay, okay. So, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dear Mr. Chairman, Dear Secretary-General, esteemed political officials, honorable ministers, distinguished heads and members of delegations, Excellencies, dear Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends.

The republic of Bulgaria is proud to have 142 years of traditional relations with international telecommunication union, dating back to 1880. Since then, the republic of Bulgaria has been strongly committed to the achievement of the goals of the organization. Focusing on telecommunications development.

Digital technologies are changing from the way we communicate to how we live and work. Digitalization is potential to provide solutions for many of the challenges we are facing now. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, digital became a key component for both economic recovery and resilience.

To make our society a common fit for the digital age, we aim to create the safe digital space for our citizens. And business in a manner that is inclusive and accessible for all.

This means enabling the digital transformation that safeguards our values and protects citizens' fundamental rights and security.

New technology co-developments create both challenges and opportunities that require adequate policy responses. We believe that focusing our resources on agreed priorities, we can deliver the best benefit of our citizens. In particular, we continue to focus on expanding connectivity. Taking into account all digital technologies and creating a human-centric regulations.

We are convinced that all the ITU member states have a lot to offer in building better societies and economies around the globe. I ITU is one of the organizations that can help facilitate these processes. Since its creation, ITU has developed a strong reputation as a global telecommunication and ICT International Organization, building on the expertise and relying on the inputs of all its members, including the industry and academia.

We strongly believe that ITU members should seek every opportunity during the conference to promote and defend our vision for digital transformation that puts people in the center and empowers individuals. It should encompass openness, inclusion, equity, respect of human rights and aspirations and should contribute to a dynamic resource sufficient and fair economy and society in full respect of democracy.

Accelerating connectivity where it is most needed should be our mission, including by ensuring equitable access to an efficient use of nature resources and of the spectrum. By placing it for a member of ITO council for region C, the government of Bulgaria has shown strong support to the mission and activities. The election (audio fading in and out) both as an honour and also as a high responsibility. We are committed to the achievement of ITU strategic goals and to finding solutions that are efficient and also responsive to the dynamic requirements of digital sector and the needs of all ITU members.

The last but not least, we would like to thank our host, the government of Romania, for the excellent facilities provided and the kind to welcome extended to the delegates.

And, finally, I take the opportunity to invite you to the lunch that will be here today at 1:30 p.m. at Bran Kushko where we are going to present our candidate.

So, may I wish you a lot of health, all the best to you and to all your families. Have a successful conference. And have a successful day. Thank you.

(Applause)

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, your Excellency. I am inviting now Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. Syed Amin Ui Haque, Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

>> SYED AMIN UI HAQUE: Honorable ministers, delegates and the countries from the member states, it's a great honour for me and a pleasure for me to be a part of this event. Pakistan is a proud but longstanding member with the ITO. This organization which more than (?) has made a critical contribution in setting a standard and a development partnership to promote ICT as a catalyst for the socioeconomic development.

In the past two decades, the impact on our lives, societies and economies has been transformed. The technology have catalyzed economic growth and have been instrumental in elevating and promoting sustainable development. In the mid of COVID-19 pandemic, the ICT emerge as a key tool not only in the fight against the virus, but also in sustaining and improving our health, education, social and economic ecosystems.

As the world is increasingly become digital enter dependent, harnessing ITP remains a key global policy. We ensure aspiration for a safe, inclusive and equitable digital future for progress and peace. As guided by the United Nations road map on digital cooperation. At the fifth largest country with the huge number of talented and enterprising youth, Pakistan is fully invested in developing a knowledge-based economy and a digitally impounder society for the use of adaptation of inclusive, affordable and sustainable ICT.

With more than 90,000 ICT companies and over 600,000 ICT professionals, Pakistan, ICT industry one of the world's largest among its regular client and providing service to over 190 countries around the world. Pakistan has a population of 220 million. Out of that, 195 million people have an access to the mobile phone. This density almost 88%. And, again, same with 40 and the three user, 119 million people are using the 4G, then with the broadband, broadband penetration is already over 55%, 122 million.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the government of Pakistan has been improving telecom infrastructure to ensure affordable connectivity to remote to the underserved and the unserved. This is the second and third year of the city. This is announced empowerment of women and girls. Their participation in labour market, financial market and the freelancer. The increased connectivity has opened new avenues of economic in the four-point areas. Pakistan is pursuing an open-door policy framework designed to maximum facilitation to companies in business sector, e-commerce and other (?). The environment pro investment policy and are inclusive and affordability of both participation.

In the end, I would like to express my sincere thanks for the excellent preparation by our host, the government of Romania, and the people of Romania, for making this 2022 conference a memorable event for all of us. I thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, your Excellency.

Next country is Indonesia, and I'm inviting His Excellency Mr. John Gerard Plate, Minister of Communications and Informatics. Please, you have the floor.

>> JOHNNY GERARD PLATE: Excellencies, distinguished guests, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. As the world conquers the new future beyond the COVID-19 pandemic recovery, an internet stage is taking place. It is of paramount importance that we seize this moment to accelerate our efforts in bringing about the digitally connected world. Right at this moment, a full one-third of the world population still lives in digital blackout, in which we are risking to inherit a new phase of digital inequality to our next generation if we fail to act immediately and accordingly.

It is within our best intentions and interest that we strive together to achieve a meaningful and universal connectivity where our people can benefit from the productive usage of the internet.

Today, working towards the goal rate the same meaning as contributing to the containment of ITU strategy goals and the connect 2030 Agenda.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates in the context of the G20 forum, Indonesia as this year presidency strive for unserved and underserved in the digital world. Through the police station of the G20 economic ministerial meetings early this month, the forum has reached broad agreement in accordance with digital economic working group priority issues. Namely, digital connectivity, digital skills and literacy, and data free flow with trust and cross-border data flow.

On the basis of lawfulness, fairness and transparency. In this regard, Indonesia highly appreciates the support of the ITU on smart regions and smart Islands initiative as one of the digital economic working group concrete deliverables. As a nation of vast islands, Indonesia is ever committed to providing an inclusive, affordable and secure digital connectivity all throughout the (?). Currently we are in the midst of deploying fiberoptic cables in land and subsea to connect the unconnected backbone points of Indonesia, in which we have (audio fading in and out) cables. We are also preparing 4G stations to cover the needs of thousands of villages in noncommercial areas, 65% of which are located in the frontier and outer most areas.

In the second quarter of 2023, next year, we allow units of 150 gigabit per seconds high satellites geo orbit to supported the dedicated internet access for more than 150,000 Indonesians public facilities. To communities underdeveloped areas, outer most and frontier areas of Indonesia. With such initiative, Indonesia hopes to meaningfully contribute to the reductions of 2.7 billion unconnected, both in Indonesia and also around the world.

Prior to concluding my statement, I wish Indonesia (?) for the membership of ITU Council and the candidate of Dr. Media Thomas Gjoka as a member of the regular regulation board for Regni. Herewith, I welcome all member countries in valuable support to the above-mentioned candidatures.

I count on your valuable support. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, your Excellency, for your statement.

I am inviting, Egypt, His Excellency Amr Talaat, Minister of Education and Technology. Your Excellency, you have the floor.

>> AMR TALAAT: Thank you, Mr. President. President of the conference, your Excellencies, ministers and heads of delegations, your Excellency, the Secretary-General of the ITU, dear participants, it gives me pleasure to speak to you on the occasion of the holding of this international event and please allow me at the outset to congratulate the government of the republic of Romania for its warm welcome and distinguished preparation of the conference in view of the importance of this event.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Egypt is mindful always to actively participate in the activities of the ITU through the positive contribution from the Egyptian experts to join the ITU in '76 and then to the Council in 1973. The Egyptian government has adopted a strategy to build the numerical Egypt that is based on a number of pillars in order to achieve digital transformation, build capacities and to provide an infrastructure that is digital and strong and safe. In addition to preparing the legislative and organizational framework to support the technology and information technology. And Egypt has been successful in increasing the fixed internet eight times to be the first in Africa and has launched connecting internet services that are of high speed for 850 million citizens who are living in 5,000 Egyptian villages within a project of dignified life.

We have also ended connecting 20,000 buildings in a project to connect the governmental buildings with the optical fiber network and we are preparing a plan for building 6,000 smart cities and the city of knowledge as a technological advancement to support invention and attract investment.

We are wanting to build a person to achieve the digital knowledge and we have 65 more trainers to have about a quarter of a million trainers. And the budget has been increased 26-time fold during four years only.

And the great efforts to build the digital Egypt had a positive impact on the ICT sector, which is the most developed amongst all the governmental sectors during four consecutive years with a growth average and our exports have also increased by 10%.

Dear participants, Egypt is looking forward to the support of the ITU where the regional office is hosted by Egypt or the Arab region and we have also hosted in 2019, and we will also host the -- in 2030 an event where we look forward to your participation. And Egypt is always mindful to continue in putting climate change amongst the priorities of the ITU. And in this context, it gives me honour to invite you to participate in the 27th COP, which will be hosted by the city of Sharm El Sheikh, and we wish you all much success and fruitful deliberations. Thank you, Mr. President.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, your Excellency.

I'm inviting now Malaysia, His Excellency Mr. Annuar Musa, Minister of Communications and Multimedia. Please, you have the floor.

>> ANNUAR MUSA: Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, yesterday during the opening ceremony, we were introduced to a beautifully composed song entitled "Connect and Unite." In Malaysia, being a multiracial and multireligious country, all citizens are considered as one family under the philosophy of the law of Malaysia, irrespective of race, religion, culture, socioeconomic status or even geographical identities.

Indeed, connectivity is not only important to unite the entire Malaysian family but also now should be considered as part of human rights, connecting people all over the globe or global family or (non-English language). Please allow me to share with you Malaysia journey to achieving universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation for our people. Last year, Malaysia launched three national plans. The Malaysia digital economy blueprint, the national force industrial revolution policy, and the 12 Malaysia plan, which outlines Malaysia's strategy to affirm the country as a technological advanced economy.

The blueprint is a national initiative to transform Malaysia into digitally driven, high-income nation and original leader in the digital economy. The national fourth industrial revolution policy, on the other hand, is a broad, comprehensive, national policy that drives coherence in transforming the socioeconomic development of the country through ethical use of fourth industrial revolution technologies.

Meanwhile, the 12th Malaysia plan puts forward a comprehensive policy response to the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and acceleration of technology adoption for inclusive development and aligning research and development towards commercialization, wealth generation and economic growth. The three national plans will unify the Malaysia digital economy ecosystem.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the government of Malaysia has the honour of presenting its candidature for IT Council one against. It reflects our firm commitment to jointly work together in the spirit of collaboration, consultation, inclusion and multilateralism towards achieving the United Nations sustainable development goal.

Malaysia since dependence has been an active participant of many of the unions' activities, we are committing in submitting IT's goal and aspiration in bringing meaningful connectivity and spreading the benefit of digital innovation to all. Connect and unite as a global family or (non-English language).

I thank you, Mr. President.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Minister, for your statement.

I'm inviting Ghana, Her Excellency, Ms. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful, Minister of Communications and Digitalization, to take the floor. The floor is yours.

>> URSULA OWUSU-EKUFUL: Mr. President, Secretary-General, Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues, on behalf of the government and people of the republic of Ghana, I extend our sincere appreciation to the government of Romania for hosting this conference and for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival in the beautiful city of Bucharest. Your spectacular reception last night made it difficult for some delegates to be on time this morning.

Mr. President, accept our heartfelt congratulations on your election, and we trust in your capabilities to steer this conference to a successful end.

Ghana is fully committed to the strategic directions set by the ITU to ensure the universal connectivity that will propel the media global transformation. Closing the digital divide to facilitate equitable connectivity, which is vital to support the economic transformation of Ghana is our primary objective. We believe that we can transform COVID-19 from a global crisis to an opportunity through digital technology.

And in this respect, under President Akufo-Addo, a firm belief in the technology to drive social economic development, we are actively implementing our digital Ghana agenda which is intended to position Ghana as a digital gateway to the African continent. Indeed, the creation of the African continental free trade area with its headquarters is a point out to the African continent wide market and strategy which is powered by the digitalization. We are therefore extending our digital infrastructure to our borders, to enable seamless connection to our neighbors.

We have also introduced initiatives to narrow the digital divide and empower citizens to embrace the use of ICT and implementing a rural telephonic project to connect over 3 million people. And these previously unconnected people now have access to the innovations introduced by the government in our digital transformation journey, which includes interoperability which has brought over 15 million persons onto the financial digital platform and EID for digital transactions to prevent identity theft and cyber fraud, skills development through a nationwide network of digital transformation centers. And focus interventions to reduce the gender digital divide and create opportunities for the youth through the girls and ICT programme and natural of new businesses, a digital incubation centers.

So, ensure a secure and resilient cyberspace for sustained transformation, utilizing ITU guidelines, Ghana is actively promoting cybersecurity not only for our benefit, but for the subregion as a whole and our ranking on the 2021 ITU global cybersecurity index improved from 32.6% in 2017 to 86.6% in 2021. We seek partnerships and international cooperation to do even better for the entire subregion.

So, President, Ghana remains an active member of the ITU, fully committed to the work of the Council, and we will continue to align our goals with the Strategic Plan which we adopted here in Bucharest. Ghana considers the collaborative platforms initiated by the ITU and the regional and global partnerships essential to the growth of not only the Africa region but all member states for our collective benefit. And to this end, as we seek re-election to the Council, we are counting on your vote and support to retain Ghana as a Council member and to vote for Mr. Edmond fee African o, our candidate for the regular regulations bureau to continue serving you diligently. I wish the Plenipotentiary Conference every success. Thank you.

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

Now it's time for Azerbaijan to present the policy statement by His Excellency Mr. Rashad Nabiyev, Minister of Digital Development and Transport.

>> RASHAD NABIYEV: Thank you, your Excellency, Secretary-General, honorable ministers, distinguished guests. It's a great honor and pleasure to meet, address the Plenipotentiary Conference of ITU on behalf of the Government of Azerbaijan.

And the ITU Secretariat for all the efforts into organization of such a wonderful conference. Despite decades of efforts put in the ITU sector development, the COVID pandemic has revealed a wide digital divide across geographical and social worldwide. Four out of the 10 people in the world still have no access to the internet. Moreover, those who are connected open the quality that would allow them to use the internet's most powerful features.

As a member of ITU since 1992, Azerbaijan has been working on IT in the country, strengthen cooperation with ITU as well as actively participating in activity of the Council. National priorities for socioeconomic development outlines the country's vision for the creative and innovative society. We believe this vision can only be achieved through digital transformation.

We have adapted and current with developing a number of government programmes aimed at accelerating digital transformation. We continue investing in the country's broadband infrastructure. Our aim is to ensure accessibility and affordability as well as full home broadband internet coverage by 2024.

On a regional level we initiated the fiberoptic project, constructed fiberoptic fiber along the line. This initiative will create opportunities for the emergence of digital services in the countries of the (?) Middle East, Central Asia and Southeast Asia.

This projects are high importance to us and we have pull our resources together and built synergies in order to bring the power wise to all nations and to all segments of society.

It is in the same spirit as we put forward our candidacy once again its member to the counsel next term. We look forward to helping the ITU to promote and strengthen, collaboration and application of ICT to address the challenges.

We present the candidacy to be re-elected to the membership on the regulation board. We therefore call for your support for both of our candidacies during the forthcoming elections. In closing I would like to express my sincere wishes for the success of the CWIC Plenipotentiary Conference and invite you to the coffee break hosted by Azerbaijan right after this session. Thank you very much for your attention.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, your Excellency. Thank you for the invitation in your coffee break and also spending time with you on the (audio fading in and out) have been allocated.

Now I am inviting Ukraine to take the floor by His Excellency, Mr. Yurii Shchyhol, chairman of the State Service of Special Communications and Information Protection. You have the floor.

>> YURII SHCHYHOL: Honorable Chairman, distinguished Secretary-General, Excellencies, colleagues. It is an honour for me to be present as a Plenipotentiary Conference on behalf of the government of Ukraine, I would like to express my gratitude to the union and the government of Romania for their hospitality and excellent preparation of the conference.

January 24 this year, Ukraine was at the forefront of progress in the interest of citizens. On January 24, internal technologies, all these began to work with the battlefield. The Russian Federation has turned into a weapon even the communication that should work in the interest of development. Instead of technical statistical piece, let me give statistics on how Russia see progress. Over 4000 based station of communication operators. Over 60,000 kilometers are damaged fiberoptic communication lines. 18 destroy infrastructures provide (?) in Ukraine. On the night before February 24th, cyberattacks was carried out on the satellite, as a result, European users were left without communication.

I will not talk about the body attacks on citizens and tortures of my fellow citizens in a temporary occupied by Russia territories. I will only give some express of violation of the -- you and I have permit to protect in the interest of progress. Frequent seep server. Russia is using Ukraine frequency to broadcast its propaganda. The equipment has been used to provide internet services to Russian providers.

The Russian Federation is only using part of its numbers for networks in the south and east of Ukraine. Although still can't decent international response. Obvious violation of the preambles and (?) of the ICT.

We are grateful to the Secretary-General and all the ITU staff for its support as well as the ITU Council members that supported resolution 1408 on assistance and support to Ukraine for a billion communication sectors. Undermines the business of global security and stability not only in Ukraine. This is a threat to the world, to the use of technology in the name of these in prosperity.

The word community can do is to prevent representatives of Russia from holding leadership position in the union. The word community must be strong and united in matters related to the condemnation of fire and to support of the various of the United Nations and ITU.

As far as not possible to introduce user proof of damage of telecommunication infrastructure is a big scream, urgency event. We welcome you out place to demonstrate them on photos. Stop the aggression. Stop the killers. Stand with Ukraine. Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Ukraine.

I am inviting now Bahrain by His Excellency, Mr. Mohamed bin Thamir Alkaabi, to have the floor.

>> MOHAMED BIN THAMIR ALKAABI: Thank you, President, Excellencies, members of delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen. May the grace of God be with you at the outset. Please allow me to express all our appreciation and thanks to the government of Romania for the organization of this conference and for your welcome. Let me also thank the secretary to the ITU. We are delighted to participate in the works of this such important conference. The kingdom of Bahrain has always been a pioneer in regional and world plans in the area of telecommunications. We have created cutting edge infrastructure and the kingdom has also been able to cover the entire team of its territory with 5G. And we have 80% broadband penetration, 100% of our citizens have access to internet at prices that are well below the global average.

This, nevertheless, was put to test during the COVID-19 pandemic and we have been able to test the robustness of our telecommunications infrastructure. And indeed, we have been able to adapt to the consequences of COVID.

The public and private sectors have both been able to continue to provide their services without interruption. And we never closed our borders. All of our citizens were able to continue to maintain their regular daily lives: That is our philosophy in the kingdom of Bahrain. We are always committed to developing our national skills. More than 23% of students in Bahrain are enrolled in university for high-level diplomas and over 50% of those students are women.

In terms of our workforce, women make up more than 40% of our workforce, which is more than double the global average. And we have continued to develop innovative skills among our workforce. And this has enabled us to set up digital programmes and digital centers that have enabled Bahrain to provide services to Kindred and friendly countries to help them to achieve a high level of development.

And we are continuing to support the development of our partners in the region. That is our commitment. And we are working with our partners and our friends to continuously and sustainably develop our infrastructure and our human resources with a view to achieving sustainable development. Thus, we are delighted to announce our candidacy to the ITU Council. And we are determined to continue to work in the Council to help bring about consensus in the interest of our people and our citizens, so that the advantages of the digital sphere reach everyone.

Thank you again, and we wish you every success in this conference. May the peace and blessing of God be with you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Bahrain.

I am inviting now Guinea-Bissau by His Excellency Aristides Da Silva, Minister of Telecommunications and Transport. Your Excellence, please.

>> ARISTIDES DA SILVA: President of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, Mr. Secretary-General of the ITU, heads of delegation, participants. At the outset, please allow me to thank, on behalf of the government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and the delegation here with me in this important telecommunications and ITU event, the government and the people of Romania for the quality of the welcome that was extended to us since our arrival here in this beautiful city of Bucharest.

I also wish to congratulate the organizers of this conference for the high quality of organization that certainly will enable us to deliver successful work.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Guinea-Bissau is closely following the evolution of the implementation of the strategic goals of the ITU, in particular when it comes to universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation within the framework of the 2030 agenda.

To this end, Guinea-Bissau has just benefited in partnership with the World Bank Group from a diagnostic of our digital economy with a view to establishing a digital transformation strategy on the medium and long term.

The digital economy, indeed, seeks to develop, based on five fundamental pillars, digital infrastructure, digital platforms, digital financial inclusion, digital enterprises, and digital skills. I would be remiss to conclude without expressing our wish for this conference to deliver elections of new members who seek to breathe fresh air into the different bodies of the ITU, which, I'm sure, will give a high level of dynamism to our organization in the pursuit of its objectives, based on the concepts that nobody should be left behind.

In other words, not leaving anyone by the wayside. Thank you very much for your attention.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much.

I am inviting now India by His Excellency, Mr. Devusinh Chauhan, Honorable Minister of State of Communications. Your Excellency. Thank you.

>> DEVUSINH CHAUHAN: Excellencies, imminent dignitaries, Ladies and Gentlemen, my greetings and namaste to all of you. At the outset, I would like to congratulate ITU and government of Romania for successfully hosting this session on the theme connect and unite.

India, with 1.4 billion people, represents one-fifth of the world's population. We have reached diversity, which has been a source of strength for the nation. The government of India, under the prime minister Mr. Narendra Modi's believes in the pillars, which means that no one is left behind. The connectivity plays a key role in fulfilling this vision. We have provided 94% of 640,000 with the mobile services. Remaining will be covered by 2023. And all will also have optical fiber by 2025.

India has also developed a set of standard two facilitated faster rollout of 5G mobile services in the rural area. I am happy to state this these standards been approved by (?) and ITU and has become global standards.

India has a long experience in spreading ICTs in remote and rural areas. We are always willing to share our best practices with the world. India, as part of its digital initiatives, has created a robust digital infrastructure, with not only city centric E governance, but also in charge financial inclusion of every citizen. India, through their witnesses, highest realtime digital financial transaction in the world. Which is a shining example of India's digital initiatives.

Considering India's long stand contributions and commitment towards the goal of ITU an area office and innovation inner has been approved by ITU in India at New Guinea. It is going to be open very soon. India will assume the presidency of G241 year from December this year. During our G20 presidency, ICTs will occupy the place of permanence. With this, India is committed to work with all countries to connect and unite the world.

Thank you all once again. Namaste.

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

The next country is Spain. So, I'm inviting His Excellency, Mr. Roberto Sanchez, Secretary of State of Minister of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation. Excellency, you have the floor.

>> ROBERTO SANCHEZ: Good morning, Secretary-General to the communications union, members, Excellencies, distinguished counselors. Please allow me at the outset to thank the government of Romania on behalf of the Government of Spain for the fantastic organization of this relevant and necessary conference. We also extend our thanks to the city of Bucharest for the warm welcome and to the international telecommunication union, not just for their organization, but, above all, for their work, encouraging the universalization and connectivity of sustainable digitalization.

Logically, I wish to begin by emphasizing the strategic role that telecommunications networks play. We already knew that they were important but since the pandemic, it's become obvious that they are essential in the current digital transformation process where we face great challenges, access to high-quality and accessible networks remains fundamental because they are the door that opens access to digital society.

The government of Spain believes that it's a priority to ramp up the deployment of networks. Digitalization is fundamental when it comes to closing digital gaps, alongside accessibility and digital literacy. Spain is aligned with the objectives of the ITU, implementing programmes that help to deploy broadband networks to reach all of our citizens.

In this regard, I wish to underscore the close cooperation between the public and private sector in Spain that is contributing to help us reach the objective of achieving capacity connectivity to 100% of our population by 2025.

And Spanish plans included in the 2026 Spanish digital agenda to ramp up an inclusive digitalization process are aligned with those of the union lay down in 2030.

Networks are not sufficient to achieving sustainable digital transformation. We share with the union the fact that it is essential to put into place policies that bring about sustainable digitalization that empowers people without any distinction based on gender or class. Spain is pushing forward a transformation with a humanist perspective that places people at the very heart of the process, and in this regard, I wish to mention the charter of digital rights that has been put into place by the Spanish governments to guarantee the protection of our citizens in the digital realm.

Before I conclude, I wish to reiterate the commitment of Spain to be the strategic goals of the union and our wish to continue participating fully in its activities and priorities. To this end, we have put forward a Spanish candidacy to the Council of the organization and another one to the radio regulation board, Antonio, as founding members and close collaborators in the organization since its very first steps, we wish to continue to encourage the development of communications on the universalization from these positions.

By way of conclusion, I wish to ask if you will trust and support so that we can continue to work with the union and its member states and work together for a more prosperous safe, fair, and inclusive future.

Thank you very much, President.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much your Excellency, gracias.

I'm inviting now China to take the floor by His Excellency, Mr. Yunming Zhang, Vice Minister of Information and Technology, to deliver the policy statement.

>> YUNMING ZHANG: Distinguished President, delegates, good morning. We are delighted to attend the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 in the beautiful city Bucharest. On behalf of the Chinese delegation, I would like to sincerely thank the Romanian government for its warm and thoughtful arrangements.

We are heartened to see that under the leadership of Secretary-General, Mr. Ciao Ho Ling, the ITU has contributed to the prosperous development of the global information and communication sector and achieved fruitful results over the past eight years. Against the back drop of ongoing digital divide, the ITU set universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation as its paramount strategic goals for the coming four years, which is a visionary step.

The Chinese government adheres to the peoples and to the development of philosophy attaches great importance to and actively promotes the development of the information and communication sector and has seen remarkable success.

First, we insist on shared development. We continue to strengthen the construction of communication infrastructure that benefits all people. The number of 5G network base stations has exceeded 2.1 million and the gigabit optical network is able to cover 400 million households.

Second, we insist on integration and innovation by encouraging enterprises to innovate and develop, we step up the digital transformation of traditional industries. The scale of China's industrial digitalization has reached 37.2 trillion MBUN, accounting for 32.5% of China's GDP.

Third, we add here to mutual benefits and win-win results. We expand and deepen international cooperation and information and communications and actively support developing countries in ITU capacity building and sustainable development.

Mr. President, dear delegates, China is ready to work with the rest of the world to strengthen standard development and industrial cooperation in emerging technologies, such as 5G. We are ready to jointly advance the inclusive development of the global digital industry for the purpose of benefiting more people with the dividends of the digital economy.

The Chinese government will maintain its 20 contributory units in order to provide the ITU with continuous financial support.

Meanwhile, the Chinese government has signed a cooperation agreement with the ITU, through which 4 million U.S. dollars of donation will be used to carry out cooperation projects in helping developing countries improve their ICT capacities.

After this conference, China has presented its candidature for re-election of the ITU Council and has nominated Mr. Ting Chung to sit on the RVB. We call on your continuous support of China for both candidates.

To conclude, I wish you every success in the conference. Thank you again, Mr. President. I also would like to thank all delegates.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, China.

The next country is Turkiye, and I am inviting Omer Sayan, Deputy Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, to take the floor.

>> OMER SAYAN: On behalf of government of Turkiye, I would like to congratulate and to thank the government of Romania for hospitality and excellent organization of the conference. We also take Romania we (audio fading in and out) 16 years since (audio fading in and out).

Also, I wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Secretary-General, Mr. Houlin Zhou, and his team for the hard work during the past four years.

Distinguished Colleagues, our world is changing really fast and the information and communication technologies play a crucial role for sustainable growth and development.

While connectivity creates new opportunities for digital transformation, digital divide still remains the issue in which the (audio fading in and out). In achieving strategy goals of connectivity and sustainable digital transformation, we all appreciate tireless efforts of ITU that provide our strength support.

Dear colleagues, in Turkiye, with the strong ICT all structures remarkable detail I had (audio fading in and out). We implement policies to realize the necessary structural transformation of technology. We are mobilizing all our resources for the development of domestic and national initiative, technologies in a way that address all institutions and individuals in our country. And in this context, in creating 5G and beyond ecosystem in our country, we want to implement these technologies (audio fading in and out) to the highest possible extent, especially of 6G. In our national broadband connect plan, we aim broadband for everyone everywhere.

Today (audio fading in and out). 89.5 million. And for increasing internet connection, we have initiated several projects for affordable internet packages in cooperation with the service providers. These projects have significantly accelerated six broadband (audio fading in and out) and new subscribers continue to enjoy being connected by upgrading internet packages to higher speeds. In order to help universal access within the country, we are using universal service effectively. Approximately more than 3000 (?) have gained access to broadband services and we will be adding 1000 additional until 2023.

We believe that human capacity the most valuable investment decision and we provide notification ICT trainings free of charge to age groups in academia.

Distinguished Colleagues, in completing, I would like to ask you a valuable our candidate for the host member from region B being one of the members of the union, Turkiye is always ready to provide its huge potential for ITU for better connected work. Expressing my pleasure, the beautiful city of Bucharest and Plenipotentiary Conference, I wish very successful outcomes for all of us. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much.

I am inviting now sigh rose by His Excellency Dr. Stelios Himonas, Deputy Minister of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy. Your Excellency, please.

>> STELIOS HIMONAS: Mr. Chairman, Honorable Ministers, Mr. Secretary-General, Distinguished Delegates. It is with great pleasure and it is my privilege to be here with you in Bucharest for the 2022 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference. On behalf of the government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Cyprus delegation, I would like to thank the ITU and our hosts for their wonderful hospitality and congratulate Mr. Chairman on your election.

Cyprus highly values the work of the ITU and I would like to reaffirm our strong commitment to work towards our shared vision of universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation.

To deliver a government that is digital to its core and to boost the digital transformation, Cyprus has set forth an aspirational vision for becoming a fit for the future society and the knowledge-based economy, enabled by digital technologies and a data-driven culture. Embarking towards this ambitious vision, we have crafted a transformational strategy and action plan in the domains of e-government, digital skills, activity, cybersecurity, communications and space technologies.

More specifically, we are rebuilding the government IT infrastructure. We have industrialized the delivery of digital services for citizens and businesses using agile methodologies, and we have established a single government proposal to host all government websites and services.

With regard to telecoms infrastructures, our new plan provides for targeted government interventions to ensure gigabit connectivity, fixed and mobile for all socioeconomic drivers and all premises and organized communities there upon who are rural.

Our financial digital schemes action plan focuses on reskilling, upskilling and, of course, skilling interventions to strengthen digital fitness at all levels of society, including ITU specialists.

It is clear, dear delegates, that the digital transformation we are aiming for is by no means an easy task, but, rather, a complex one that requires reductions across a wide range of areas that need to come to. It is about networks, services and people and businesses being able to use them. It is therefore imperative to promote and adopt common international approaches that will help us unlock the full potential of digital technologies.

Our national plan is fully in line with the EU2030 policy programme path to the digital decade, the ITU connect 2070 agenda and the UN Sustainable Development Goals covering a wide range of technological, economic and societal elevations. It is a holistic plan for a real policy and action agenda that will enhance our well-being and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to stay ahead of developments to ensure the just, inclusive and prosperous future for all.

In closing, let me take this opportunity to wish this conference successful deliberations. Thank you very much for your attention.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Cyprus.

I am inviting now Vietnam by His Excellency, Dr. Phan Tam, the Deputy Minister of Information and Communications, to take the floor.

>> PHAN TAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Secretary-General of the ITU, Excellency, Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. Connect and unit, the theme of this year's conference is consistent both with the ITU historical mission of building global telecommunication network for all and nowadays consistent with the ITU holding, let's say a better, enriched mission of shipping and building together a better digital future forward.

We would like to highlight three key points. Number one, advancing the development of digital platform in order to quickly bring all people and businesses into the digital world.

Number two, providing all people with digital skills through massive open online courses so that they could get new chance in a new development space.

Number three, strengthening the ITU role in cooperating initiative toward the establishment of global digital infrastructure.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in this connection, I would like to share with you two important measures Vietnam is carrying out. Firstly, transforming the telecom ID infrastructure into digital infrastructure. Focus is put on digital and data infrastructure, namely, digital platform and cloud computing. They are considered key to the success of digital transformation, because open data and open digital infrastructure could make access to digital world more affordable, more easier, and provide marketplace for all businesses, particularly SME to benefit from and to contribute to the development of digital ecosystem.

Secondly, developing local digital industry under spirit of making it come. Digital products and services are more and more personalized and customized to local needs. Cybersecurity also requires strong local competency and capacity.

So that is a big opportunity in a large market for local industry to grow. The key to this is making Vietnam, which means research, designing, planning, prototyping, costing and digitization in Vietnam and mostly by Vietnamese businesses.

Ladies and Gentlemen, with a vision to a better digital call forward, I would like to highlight the important role of the ITU, the historic responsibility of the ITU at this pivot moment of transformation. I am convinced that the ITU is ready and committed to engage more proactively in building global digital infrastructure. We already changed to digital world two years ago. And now I believe our PP22 will adopt resolutions, deliberations, so necessary for the successful realization of our mission as reflected in our theme, connect and unite in the digital world. Thank you for your kind attention. And I wish our PP-22 a great success. Thank you.

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

Ministers, your Excellencies, thank you for being with us here in Romania and presenting your vision plans and actions for ITU and Secretary-General.

I am inviting to you have a coffee break of 25 minutes offered by Azerbaijan in the hall, and we will be here at 15 past 11:00. Thank you very much.

>> Recording stopped

(Break)

>> CHAIR: Dear Colleagues, please take your seat so we can start the second part of our plenary meeting.

>> Recording in progress.

>> CHAIR: It is clear that (?) far away from here and taking some time for our colleagues to join us. We will think about longer coffee breaks when we use the same hall in the future.

I thank you for being back. We will continue with our agenda with general policy statements. And I have the pleasure and the honour to invite Republic of Korea, His Excellency Mr. Won Ki Min, from the Ambassador of Science and Technology and Chair of Plenipotentiary Conference 2014. Welcome in Romania. The floor is yours.

>> WON KI MIN: Chairman, Secretary-General, Excellencies, delegates. Before starting my policy statement, I would like to deliver my deep appreciation to the government of Romania for its warm hospitality to all delegations and giving us a chance to enjoy the beautiful city of Bucharest.

I also would like to congratulate Chairman so much on being elected as chair of the PP-22.

The rapid development of digital technologies gives us a chance to enjoy things that were not available to accomplish things that were not possible and to tackle the problems that were not solvable.

However, 2.7 billion people are still not connected to the internet and the benefits of digital revolution are not shared equally among nations, genders, generations and have notes.

The title of the Bucharest declaration is building a better future for all. As a dedicated member of ITU, Korea wants to make a meaningful contribution to achieving this goal. At the 77th UN General Assembly meeting held last week, our president made a statement that in the era of digital revolution, one of the most global tasks of global community is permitting global cooperation to narrow digital divide among nations. Countries at the forefront of digital revolution are asked to offer project assistance for digital education and technology transfer.

In this respect, Korea will enhance its cooperation with other ITU member countries through the verse ICT or DA projects. Along with the international policy, Korea is pushing forward to build the detailed platform government. Recent ambitious initiative to upgrade public services and social worker through digital technologies.

The initiative aims to enhance people's digital skills and provide marginalized groups with greater digital access. In particular, this priority goes to foster inclusive technologies and services supporting underprivileged populations. By enhancing digital cooperation with ITU member countries and building the detail platform government, Korea intends to contribute to making a digital economy that benefits all nations and people.

To this end, we are asking your support on Korea's re-election at the Council and the candidature on Deputy Secretary-General. Our candidate Dr. Chaesub Lee has proven his leadership and capacity for last eight years as director of TSB.

I would like to conclude my policy statement by wishing the great success of PP-22 and confirming Korea's unwavering commitment to building a better future for all. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, your Excellency. There are -- and thank you for all the support you provided me and my team in the transitionary process. There is not many things better than experience from you, Chairman. And thank you very much.

Now it is my pleasure to invite state of Palestine, the Minister on Transport, to take the floor and address the policy statement.

>> PALESTINE: Good morning. In the name of (?) the most merciful and the most compassionate chair of the Plenipotentiary Conference, Excellencies, ministers, heads of delegations, Secretary-General of the ITU, Deputy Secretary-General, directors of the three sectors, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to convey to you the greetings of Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, the President of Palestine, as well as those of Mr. Mohammad Shtayyeh, the Prime Minister. I would like to greet you on behalf of the Palestinian people, the courageous people which continues to resist in East Jerusalem.

I would like to thank the government and people of Romania at the outset for the warm welcome received as well as for the excellent arrangements of the PP. At this platform I reaffirm the extremely important role of the ITU and allowing that we can all have a fair and equitable access to technologies, as well as internet services, which is an absolute necessity for all today.

We would also like to reaffirm that it's important that cooperation continue between the various brotherly nations. Excellencies, chair Ladies and Gentlemen, the state of Palestine wishes to follow developments seen throughout the world and we have adopted a national policy for digital transformation in order to bolster development socioeconomically.

We also wish to ensure that various work throughout differences of the economy can continue. Our policy for digital transformation aims to provide e-government services. We have got 17 such services currently. These concern various spheres including the minister of the interior, territorial management, as well as health. We are working to digitalize and automize 104 different -- or, rather, 1400 different services. This will be completed recently or as swiftly as possible if God wishes.

We are transforming the post office in Palestine to ensure access by creating 100 different post offices with such services.

Digital transformation will allow us to bolster innovation. To that end, we have launched an initiative of allowing 1 million children to have access to ICTs. This will allow us to improve employment, to reduce unemployment and to bolster the skills of young people. Our policy has also allowed us to strengthen the economy and to ensure that we are opening up to new markets, thanks to e-trade.

We also are doing with digitalization of our postal services, as you said. Currently we are working on a bilateral agreement in order to implement 4G and 5G services and we have done this through ensuring that there are frequency assignments between Israel and Palestine and we hope that soon we will come to an agreement which will allow us to set up these services.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Palestine has the 108th ranking globally in terms of the speed of a development of fixed internet services. We have also shown competitiveness. Various companies compete in order to provide internet services through FTTH fiber services. And this has had a positive impact on economic development.

Currently we have over 8000 kilometers of fiberoptic cable linking together the various sectors. Palestinian companies have all the competencies they need in infrastructure in order to develop internet and telecommunication services. Unfortunately, as you know, the COVID pandemic has changed the situation throughout the world, and ICT is a key here. We have lost ground when it comes to certain services for emergencies. But we have been able to create an emergency response service, as well as a telephone line.

We have a project with the World Bank Group to strengthen human resources in order to improve the digital skills of our staff in the private and public sectors. We have also got a project with the World Bank to develop digital services in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. That's to strengthen the economy throughout Palestine. This will be done via our TRA, the authoritative telecommunications, as well the CEA, our committee on this matter.

In inclusion, we would like to just reaffirm that success and progress can only be done through your efforts and with your help, and we express our trust in the key role of the ITU, which has a great value that we all appreciate, in particular, in ensuring connectivity for all.

We would like you to visit Palestine so you can meet the young people and see their creativity and resources for yourself, as well as witnessing our will to achieve real development when it comes to telecommunications. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, State of Palestine.

I am inviting now the representative of Canada, Dr. Mark Schaan, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister of Strategy and Innovation Sectors.

>> MARK SCHAAN: First of all, let me express Canada's deep appreciation and gratitude for the Government of Romania for hosting this Plenipotentiary Conference in this beautiful city and magnificent palace. Over many years of the ITU we have witnessed Romania's great contribution to the work of the union. Through SME -- more recently, Mr. President, we have seen how your bright team and yourself have participated with diligence and success in a multitude of meetings of regional telecommunications organizations like ours in the Americas, the Interamerican Telecommunications Commission.

Generated an environment of friendship and open communication for which we are very grateful. Let me pause here to remind everyone that we recently participated in the World Telecommunication Conference held in Kigali, Rwanda. I would like to express our sincere gratitude and congratulations to the government of Rwanda and, particularly, for the Minister for hosting such a successful conference, the first ITU Development Conference on the African continent.

I would be remiss to not also extend our congratulations to the Government of Rwanda and to the EDT or the ITU for the World Youth Summit that was organized as part of the Generation Connect initiative that took place just before the World Telecommunication Development Conference. As all the participants said this was a very stimulating and energizing event that brought together more than 450 young people in Kigali and more than 4,000 participants remotely. From everywhere in the world that were in Kigali and to those listening today, Canada congratulates you. Rest assured that we will continue supporting your efforts and your rights for a meaningful engagement in the decision-making processes on your digital future. The digital future is now and you have a meaningful role in shaping it.

Certainly, youth require and we hope for them a world of peace and so in the context of the war on Ukraine, we must reaffirm our commitment to the UN charter.

Mr. Chair, at the beginning of the three weeks, please allow me to underscore some of the main priorities of Canada regarding the fundamental role that this conference will play, this Plenipotentiary Conference in guiding the next four years of the ITU.

Radio communication, telecommunication standardization or development matters our collective priority of the ITU should continue to be on connecting the unconnected, bridging the digital divide, including the gender divide, empowering youth, all with a particular emphasis on the needs of developing and Least Developed Countries. As we discussed during the ministerial roundtable on building a better future for all held in these beautiful problems September 25th and best reflected by the Bucharest declaration, connectivity is at the center of sustainable digital transformation. We need to redouble our efforts to deliver prompt and tangible results. We need to take additional steps to ensure no one is left behind.

As a key enabler of innovation, competitiveness and economic and social prosperity, digitalization needs to be premised by fundamental principles of universality, equity, affordability and trust and confidence in the use of ICTs.

All of this is possible if we join our forces with those of the private sector, civil society and academia, and if we adopt regulatory frameworks that include competitive, investment and -- policymakers, citizens, businesses and civil society organizations all in the understanding that our telecommunication and ICT future lies not with state centric, top-down decisions, but with a collective, multistakeholder decision making process that includes the voices of all, including youth and particularly women.

Mr. Chair, despite all of our efforts and our collective successes, 3.6 billion people are still not connected and the majority of them are in developing countries and the Least Developed Countries. The majority of them are women. And this is quite simply unacceptable. We must take the measures required so that at the end of this Plenipotentiary Conference, we all go home with the spirits of renewed consensus and a sense of a better and more radiant future.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Canada, for your statement, both -- a statement both in English and French. You challenged our interpreters. I'm sure of that.

Now I'm inviting the representative of Poland, His Excellency, Mr. Pawel Lewandowski, Undersecretary of State at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister.

>> PAWEL LEWANDOWSKI: Thank you very much. Secretary-General, distinguished directors, Distinguished Ministers, ambassadors and delegates, on behalf of the Republic of Poland, I am pleased to congratulate and express our gratitude to the ITU's management for delivering such an impressive progress to the union. We recognize that many objectives of the ITU has been met and so many nations made an incredible progress towards Sustainable Development Goals, very often by efficient usage of digital means that were established under ITU's framework.

We have to trust that the ITU's management are ITU Council has led us efficiently towards fruitful and remarkable Plenipotentiary Conference.

At the same time, Poland expressed gratitudes towards government of Romania for hosting this important summit. This comes with high regard for sharing so much space for an extraordinary palace of parliament in such challenging times.

As we have gathered here not only to express gratitude, but to continue to collaborate on policymaking decisions, I am pleased to see so many delegates on site in Bucharest. Poland is looking forward to contribute towards achieving consensus within so many proposal and the adjustments.

As policymakers and regulators, we have responsibility to create investment and development friendly environment with respect to the best interest of the public. ICTs and telecommunications are key factor towards establishing our goal of a gigabit society. Polish governments recognize the importance of ICTs and benefits that comes with it.

We are paying particular attention to activities of the union that address the needs of those that were the most affected by the recent crisis. Whether it comes to those affected by COVID-19 pandemic, natural disaster, domestic conflicts or war.

On behalf of the Republic of Poland, I am pleased to congratulate BDT director Secretariat and all stakeholders on establishing an effective and efficient approach providing a unique value to digital development worldwide.

The number of pledges submitted to Partner2Connect proved the interest of global community and effectiveness of the mechanisms. Despite initial intentions to have P2C focusing on developing countries, Partner2Connect also proves to -- special assistance in rolling out the meaningful connectivity.

At this point I am pleased to confirm that the value of the pledge from Poland and Partner2Connect has increased since June 2022 from $14 million, to 20,7 million American dollars. We are going to keep Secretariat posted on updates that most certainly we are going to have.

We also congratulate African Group for bringing the strategic resolution to the table. Taking into account how many decided to provide the pledge under Partner2Connect, I wish to express our full support to programme. Please accept my highest regards and I am looking forward to the results of the summit. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Poland.

I am inviting now Qatar by His Excellency Mr. Hussain Salatt, Director of Communications within the Ministry of -- please, you have the floor.

>> HUSSAIN SALATT: Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. I would like to first thank the government of Romania for hosting this beautiful event in the beautiful Romania and to congratulate the ITU for the excellent preparation. We have come here, united, and common cause to set ITU's digital agenda for the next four years, and an agenda that benefits the planet and humanity.

We do indeed live in interesting times since we assembled four years ago. We have all been challenged with a global pandemic and uncertain economic times that has truly tested our resolve.

But our experience in Qatar has shown us with the commitment and investment by leadership and rigorous planning process and partnership with stakeholders and international technology providers, progress is possible.

Digital transformation is a fundamental to achieving Qatar's 2030 in advanced high society with high standard of living of people of Qatar today and generations to come. Therefore, we pledge our support for the ITU's proposed 2024-2027 strategic goals and starting. Why as a nation we need broadband coverage access to every household, 5G coverage and nearly 100% usage of internet for individuals. We have a lot more work to do.

One of Qatar's strategic priorities is to increase the IT sector by 50% by 2024. However, one of the major challenges we face is accomplishing that is growing our talent of pool.

In order to accelerate our digital transformation and the minister of communications and information technology recently announced a collaboration with technology providers to train 50,000 people by the year 2025 with advanced digital skills. This programme was for innovation and contribute to Qatar's connectiveness. In addition, we are having an assessment to the digital economy ecosystem -- diversification and dependence of hydrocarbons. ICT will play a major role in Qatar's commitment to reduce carbon emission by 20% by 2030.

In fact, although millions will visit Qatar for World Cup 2022 later this year, advanced technologies will allow this tournament to be carbon neural for the first time ever. Plus, we developed special air-cooling technology inside the stadiums to ensure the health and safety of all involved.

Other key initiatives of note include Qatar's cloud first policy that will strengthen the presence and regional reach of international cloud providers. And the renewed focus on protecting and securing our state-of-the-art infrastructure from cyberattacks with the establishment of an independent agency for cybersecurity, anticipating the future during these uncertain times will test our imagination and creativity. Qatar is committed to working with ITU and all the member states assembled here today to achieve our individual and mutual goals. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Qatar.

The next country is Bangladesh, and I am inviting His Excellency Mr. Dowell Duli, the Ambassador of Bangladesh in Venia. Welcome. The floor is yours.

>> BANGLEDESH: Mr. Chair, Secretary-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon. At the outset, I would like to thank the government of Romania for hosting the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022. The Secretary-General and his team specific mention for the reports and successfully organizing the event.

The team of the conference connect and unite -- theme of the conference connect and unit, along with the goals universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation has well our course for assuming the target of the SDGs of the Agenda 2030.

We see rapid innovation of new technologies in the telecommunication sector that have advancement. At the same time in this evolution when inequality and creates a digital divide among the societies. Their August gathering, we need to create a level playing field for affordable, interoperatable and secure technical communication and ICT infrastructure services and application for all.

Place high confidence in the ITU to play in that pursuit. In the same vein, the members need sincere commitment, cooperation and readiness to eliminate the digital divide and materialize the digital transformation across the globe.

Bangladesh has made remarkable success in the telecommunication sector in the last decade and that division, I believe, that leadership Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the way to realizing the deem of the follow-up the nation of (?), widely recognized by the global community. Now I would like to shed light on a few of our recent success in the telecommunication sector, mobile penetration is 105.83%. The density rate has 160.22%, Bangladesh is going to launch the second (?) satellite soon.

Currently the revenue earning from our telecommunication industry stands to be U.S. dollar 3.8 billion. We are optimistic that it will grow by 34% in the next five years. Bangladesh is now the eighth largest mobile market in the world in terms of unit subscriber base. The (?) for this sector is about 1.8% of our total GDP. We visualize that the telecom sector has the potential to be the key player for our economy within a forcible future. I wish the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference successes. I thank you, Mr. Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Bangladesh.

I'm inviting Madagascar, His Excellency, Mr. Tahena Rasafindramalo, Digital Transformation. Your Excellency, please.

>> MADAGASCAR: President, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union, Ministers, Heads of Delegation, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. On behalf of the Madagascan delegation, please allow me at the outset to thank and congratulate the Romania Government for organizing this conference and for their warm welcome.

The current global context has brought a new approach and a radical change in the way we work and exchange. We have seen an extraordinary increase in the use of new technologies in the daily lives of all countries.

We are meeting here to reflect together on issues to do with connectivity to all and the digital transformation in order to promote a more inclusive society globally. Over recent years, Madagascar has focused on the development of the telecommunications sector with a view to serving the commitment of our precedent setting Mr. Aims as well in order to make our country a key actor in the realm in the Indian ocean region and the African context. Thanks to our current undersea telecommunications infrastructure, we have one of the fastest connections in the region and the continent. We are looking at digitalization services in customer relations and engineering services in ICT.

We intend to improve this effort and we are currently implementing our digital transformation objectives based around three different goals to resolve the issue to do with the digital gap and to improve the digital ecosystem, also to modernize our administration by bolstering e-governance and access to information.

Finally, by reducing corruption through the digitalization of administrative procedures with key stakeholders in our public services. We have started to restructure the digital ecosystem of the country, currently updating the regulatory framework in order to improve competition and respond to the rapid evolution in the telecommunications and digital sectors.

In order to widely disseminate the use of internal in rural areas, we have developed the concept of smart connected buses and also setting up hot spots that enable people the most remote areas to benefit from free access to the internet.

We are also continuing to bolster our e-governance system by ramping up the reform of civil service on setting up single log-in for our citizens. We are working with the relevant ministries to accompany them in that digitalization initiatives.

Secretary-General, dear friends, in order to succeed in this ambitious goal to become a key actor in the digital sphere, it is important to develop long lasting partnerships with the private sector and traditional stakeholders and we are constantly working with telecommunications operators in order to cover 90% of our islands that is the fifth largest island in the world by 2038 in Madagascar. We are putting human development at the very heart of our concerns and striving to address the future challenges, ensuring that Madagascan youth, which is over 20% of the population, are digitalized.

Secretary-General, better living in the digital era represents a major challenge not just for Madagascar but for all in order to reduce the digital gap and not further widen the development gap between countries in this regard, the International Telecommunication Union is playing a key role in harmonization between countries through the notion for connectivity for rural and digital transformation for sustainable development.

Connect and unite is the slogan of this addition so let us join our forces in order to connect the world. Thank you for your attention, and once again, I really hope that this conference will bring about concrete outcomes for all. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Minister.

I invite now the representative of Guyana, His Excellency, Minister Hami McCoy. Your Excellency.

>> GUYANA: Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. President. And congratulations on your election. Mr. Secretary-General of the ITU and other distinguished ITU officials, Elected Officials, Excellencies, Partners in Development, all, I would like to, from the outset, express our profound appreciate to the Romanian Government for hosting such an important event at this time of our history and for the hospitality shown so far, and I have no doubt will continue throughout our time in Romania.

It gives me much honour to affirm the policy positions and the commitments of the people of Guyana and the Government of Guyana at this watershed moment for the ITU and our global and digital future. Our government has been working and continues to work on promoting a governance policies that fully are committed and the energies that goes towards significant potion and our significant potion of our country's resources is reflected in our national budgets. The words transforming the telecommunication landscape of Guyana. And for building a technology, knowledge-based society locally. While we persevere at home with localized programmes and projects that will impact our national transformation outlook, we are commonly engaged in bilateral cooperation and collective global efforts to build and promote common digital platforms for the benefit of all humanity.

In this regard we fully subscribe to the Bucharest declaration to be issued more fulsomely upon conclusion of our deliberations here in this beautiful city.

Accordingly, we affirm our unwavering commitment to achieving universal, secure, inclusive, and affordable access to the internet for all citizens, residents and visitors alike to Guyana. We strengthen our efforts in the design and the implementation of future oriented policies to aid sustainable development of our country. And we have been, as a government, working to develop and adapt strategies and policies to address the ongoing future digital challenges impacting our development paradigm.

Mr. Chair, Guyana has prioritized policies that work towards building sustainable digital ecosystems to empower and benefit all our people equally. We continue to engage our partners with multisectoral stakeholders at home and abroad to achieve and maintain social inclusiveness in innovation pathways and employment across the industry continuum.

We will continue actively to highlight issues and contribute solutions in industry financing that impact our citizens' ability to directly engage and benefit from the digital economy.

We remain, of course, fully committed to promoting and enabling the digital content, literacy and social services that will build a future-based knowledge society. We, the government of Guyana, continue to look forward to the support of the ITU and other partners as we reaffirm our political will and commitment to leveraging technological innovations in the climate change fight and efforts to mitigate its impact on societies.

Guyana, of course, is committed to applying these principles at national, regional and global levels through mutual respect and in keeping with our legal and moral obligations to build frameworks that will support an all-inclusive and sustainable digital future for citizens and all humanity.

With these highlighted policy position which will form part of the Bucharest declaration, the government of the republic of Guyana stands squarely with all the efforts to contribute universally for the development of the ITU connect 2030 Agenda and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

On behalf of President Mohamed Irfaan Ali, the government and the people of Guyana, I thank you for the opportunity to share this platform. And I wish to extend very best wishes to all the delegates and the ITU for successful outcomes. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Guyana.

Your Excellencies, Ministers, thank you very much. I am very pleased to see such an openness and willingness to collaborate among the countries, to see such a commitment from your side in building universal connectivity and better infrastructure, better ICT infrastructure that is clear for your people so we can have a better future.

Thank you for your statements. The list of the countries that registered for today is closed now. So, we can move to our third point. Not for today. For this morning, to be more precise, we have another plenary. We all know that.

But we can move to our third point on our agenda, which is other businesses. I guess no requests from the floor. So, thank you to all the Ministers and Your Excellencies for providing your statements today.

We will have now a break. We will have a lunch, which is offered by UK. And also -- actually, there are a few lunches provided by UK, by Bulgaria and by Egypt as well. Lunch is offered by three countries. Thank you very much to all of you.

And we will meet back here at second plenary of the day at 2:30.

>> SECRETARY: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I just would like also to let you know there are gifts available for all participants, a gift from Romania and Côte d'Ivoire, as well as gift from head of delegation. Thank you. People, the gift distribution at the desk.

>> CHAIR: With this, I'm declaring the plenary meeting closed.

>> Recording stopped.

(Session was concluded at 12:33 EEST)

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