RUSH FINISHED FILE

PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2022

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

PLENARY

SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

9:30 AM EEST

Services provided by:

Caption First, Inc.

Monument, CO  80132

+0017194819835

www.captionfirst.com

\*\*\*

This text is being provided in a rough draft format. Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings. This text, document, or file is not to be distributed or used in any way that may violate copyright law.

\*\*\*

>> CHAIR: Good morning, everyone. Can you please take your seats so we can start our meeting for today, please. We are on time, I know. It's good to be on time and stay so.

I kindly ask all of you, dear delegates, to take your seats so we can proceed with the Plenary Meeting. If you thought we missed to much in Rwanda, we brought Rwanda to you. Thank you so much for that, the amazing host you have been for the WTDC.

(Applause).

It's a great day to the Union. We are starting the elections today. We have seen in the last year campaigns in the ITU Conferences all around the world. All the candidates have put considerable efforts in their campaign, presenting us with the future of the Union as they see it, trying to convince us that they are ready to lead the Union. A round of applause for all the candidates who campaigned in the last year for the high official position of the ITU.

(Applause).

You did incredibly well and this is coming from a politician who did a lot of campaigns, believe me, so you were great and thank you for that.

The draft agenda for today's meeting was published, ADM Document 19, so I'm seeking for approval for the agenda for today.

Approved. I see a request for the floor but I think it's a mistake, so please if you could withdraw your request. Thank you. Our second point on our agenda is election of the Secretary‑General of the ITU. As was decided at the first plenary, the list of choice of class contributions has been published in Information Document 3 this morning. It is displayed.

We will now proceed to the elections of the post of the Secretary‑General of the ITU. I will now pass the floor to the Secretary of the Plenary to explain the election process.

>> SECRETARY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning it all. The room has been divided into 5 blocks, numbered 1 to 5. Each block has a voting station. Document 110 lists all Member States having the right to vote within each block. Please look at the floor plan on the screen to find your voting station.

Regarding transfer of powers, the Secretariat has received this morning, four transfers of power. I refer you to Document 98, 99, 100, and 102 of our conference. The Member States who have a transfer of power will therefore cast 2 ballots and requested to cast each ballot of the voting station of the respective Member State. Please listen carefully when each Member State will be called so that each ballot is deposited in the correct box.

All delegates who are depositing a ballot must bring their badge to the voting station, your badge. The badge will be verified and scanned. The 5 tellers who will oversee this election are already in place. The teller representing Region A is at ballot Box 1. The teller for Region B is at ballot box 2. Region C at box 3, Region D at box 4, and Region E at box 5.

In accordance with No. 131 of our General Rules, once the voting has begun, it cannot be interrupted, unless a point of order has been raised in connection with the way in which the vote is being taken. The election will begin as soon as the Chair announces it and will end when the Chair announces the result of the vote. Security, could you please close the doors to the Plenary room?

Security, can you please confirm that the doors are closed? Yes? Okay. The doors are closed.

I will now check the quorum, and confirm that the quorum is met. The doors of this meeting room will remain closed and will be opened again once the casting of the ballots has been completed and the ballot boxes are moved to the Green Room for counting. You may not leave or enter the room.

I will now ask the ushers to start handing out the ballot papers together with a pen to all delegations having a right to vote and present in the room. Ushers, could you please start distributing the ballot papers and the pens.

Delegations who have received a transfer of power from another delegation will receive two ballot papers and are requested to complete them both at the same time.

>> CHAIR: There is a point of order. You have the floor.

>> MEMBER STATE: Thank you, Mr. Secretary, could you please explain how we should fill out the ballot papers so that people don't mark their boxes incorrectly. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: The Secretary of the Plenary will explain.

>> SECRETARY: Once the ballot papers have been distributed, I will explain how they need to be filled in.

Regarding the ballot papers you have received. You will see they have a computer identification box in the lower right‑hand corner which permits the papers to be identified as being used in a specific round for a specific election, so the box is identical on all ballot papers in this specific round. It is not possible to use the box to identify any specific ballot papers, so please note that the voting procedure requires that delegates mark their ballots with an X, and only with an X, in the appropriate box to indicate their choice.

If delegates make a mistake when completing a ballot paper once the vote has started, the delegate should raise the point of order paddle. So just to remind you, the point of order paddle is the yellow one with the block square.

So, if you have any problem with your ballot papers, the Secretariat will collect it and destroy the ballot paper and provide you with a new one.

I'm going to explain how it will work. I will call out the French short name of the Member States having the right to vote by group of 15 for each voting station. So, if you do not hear your fame in the first batch, please stay calm and wait to me to call your name in one of the next batches.

I will call all the Member States having the right to vote once, and then a second call for those who have not yet voted. Following this last call, the Chair will declare the casting of the ballot closed; and also, I would request all delegates to regain their seats when they have cast their votes.

So, before we start with the vote, all delegations who have a right to vote should now have a ballot paper. If not, please identify yourself and the delegations who have received a transfer of power should have two ballot papers.

>> CHAIR: Thank you Secretary of the Plenary. Are there any questions? Please, you have the floor.

>> ECUADOR: Thank you so much. I would like to request a replacement of the ballot paper because I made a mistake. Thank you.

>> SECRETARY: Please, usher, could you give a new ballot paper to Ecuador and destroy the first one. We have also a request from Madagascar.

>> CHAIR: The ballot paper from Ecuador should be replaced by destroying the old one. I see another request from Madagascar. Please, Madagascar, you have the floor.

>> MADAGASCAR: Thank you, Chair. We haven't had a ballot slip yet. We don't yet have a ballot slip. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Can you please repeat again what you said, please, Madagascar? You have the floor again.

>> MADAGASCAR: Thank you, Chair. We don't have our ballot paper yet. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Please provide a ballot paper to Madagascar. We'll wait for the countries being present here in the room to have a ballot paper. Any other questions?

I now declare the vote has begun and I'm giving the floor back to the Secretariat of the Plenary.

>> SECRETARY: Thank you, Mr. are Chairman. The delegations can see where the 5 voting stations are located. I will now ask for the ballot boxes are there 1 through 5. You will see that the ballot boxes are transparent and that they are empty. I will start with Box 1.

>> CHAIR: As I said, as the vote has started, I cannot give you the floor anymore except in a point of order related to the procedure regarding the vote. I see a request for the floor but I cannot give anymore the floor except in point of order.

>> SECRETARY: Could I ask the staff at Voting Station 1 to the blot box, please. Yes, voting station 1. Now, voting station 2, please. Voting station 2 at the end of the room. Voting station 3? In the middle here. Voting station 4? And voting station 5. Just here.

So, when you arrive at the voting station, your badge will be scanned and then you may deposit your ballot in the ballot box.

I will now start calling Member States for voting station 1.

Afghanistan.

Albania.

Algeria.

When I call your country name, please move to the voting station.

Algeria.

Germany.

Andorra.

Angola.

Argentina.

Australia.

Austria.

Azerbaijan.

Bahamas.

Brazil.

Brunei Darussalam.

Bulgaria.

Burkina Faso.

I now move to voting station 2 for the first batch, Micronesia.

Moldova.

Monaco.

Mongolia.

Montenegro.

Mozambique.

Myanmar.

Namibia.

Republic of Nepal.

Uzbekistan.

Pakistan.

Panama.

Papua New Guinea.

Paraguay.

Qatar.

I now move to voting station 3.

Guinea Bissau.

Indonesia.

Kenya.

Lao.

Lesotho.

Mauritius.

Mauritania.

Mexico.

Oman.

Uganda.

Peru.

Poland.

Portugal.

Syrian Arab Republic.

Turkiye.

I now move to voting station 4.

Comoros.

Croatia.

Cuba.

Denmark.

Djibouti.

Dominican Republic.

Dominica.

Egypt.

United Arab Emirates.

Russian Federation.

Fiji.

Fin.

Guatemala.

Guinea.

Guyana.

I will now move to voting station 5.

Saudi Arabia.

Armenia.

Bahrain.

Bangladesh.

Barbados.

Belarus.

Belgium.

Belize.

Benin.

Bhutan.

Plurinational State of Bolivia, Bosnia Herzegovina.

Botswana.

Cambodia.

I am now moving back to station 1 with the second batch.

Burundi.

Colombia.

Republic of Congo.

Republic of Korea.

Costa Rica.

Cote d'Ivoire.

Eswatini.

United States.

Ethiopia.

Gambia.

Ghana.

Greece.

Grenada.

Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iraq.

I will now move to voting station 2 for the second batch.

Democratic Republic of Congo.

Kyrgyzstan.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Slovakia.

Czech Republic.

Saint Lucia.

St. Kitts and Nevis.

San Marino.

Saint Vincent and Grenadines.

Solomon Islands.

Samoa.

Sao Tome and Principe.

Senegal, Switzerland.

Suriname.

I will now continue with voting station 3 for the second batch.

Romania.

United Kingdom.

Rwanda.

Serbia.

Seychelles.

Singapore.

Slovenia.

Somalia.

Sudan.

South Sudan.

Sri Lanka.

South Africa.

Sweden.

Thailand.

Tonga.

Let's continue with voting station 4 for the second batch.

Honduras.

Hungary.

India.

Italy.

Jamaica.

Japan.

Kazakhstan.

Kiribati.

Madagascar.

Malaysia.

Malawi.

Maldives.

Mali.

Malta.

Let's continue with voting station 4 for the second batch.

Cameroon.

Canada.

Chile.

China.

Cyprus.

Vatican.

El Salvador.

Ecuador.

Eritrea.

Spain.

Estonia.

France.

Georgia.

I will now start the call for the third batch for voting station 1.

Ireland.

Iceland.

Israel.

Jordan.

Kuwait.

Latvia.

Lebanon.

Liberia.

Libya.

Liechtenstein.

Lithuania.

Luxembourg.

North Macedonia.

So, he will continue with voting station 2 for the third batch. I will start with:

Tanzania.

Tajikistan

Tanzania

Togo.

Uruguay.

Vanuatu.

Viet Nam.

Yemen.

Zambia.

Zimbabwe.

For voting station 3, third call.

Trinidad and Tobago.

Tunisia.

Turkmenistan.

Tuvalu.

Ukraine.

For voting station 4.

Morocco.

Marshall Islands.

Nicaragua.

Niger.

Nigeria.

Norway.

New Zealand.

Netherlands.

Philippines.

I will now proceed to a second and last call for the Member States having the right to vote who have not yet voted.

For voting station 2.

Pakistan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

For voting station 3.

Peru.

For voting station 4.

Comoros and Haiti.

For voting station 5.

Plurinational State of Bolivia.

>> SECRETARY: Mr. Chairman, I have now completed my list and I pass the floor back to you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you Secretary of the plenary. I now declare the casting of ballots closed. For you the tellers and ITU Staff please proceed to the Green Room with the ballot boxes.

Coffee and water, please for the ITU staff in the green room.

Under the supervision of the tellers in the green room the ballot boxes will be opened and ballots counted. The results will be announced as soon as they're available.

Security, you may open the doors now.

While the tellers are counting the votes, we will have a coffee break in the waiting hall over by Senegal which will last 45 minutes, so we'll be here back at 11:00 sharp when the results will be announced. Thank you, Senegal, for the coffee break.

(Applause).

(coffee break).

>> CHAIR: Distinguished delegates, can you please take your seat so we can continue the Plenary Meeting. Thank you.

Again, can I ask all of you to take your seats.

Last call, please. Take your seats so we can continue with the meeting and announcements and election of the Secretary‑General of the ITU.

I have the pleasure to announce that the tellers have finished their work and I am waiting for the results. As soon as I have them, I will announce the results of the elections.

>> CHAIR: I would like to thank the tellers for their great work. I have received the teller's report and I should proceed to the announcement of the results. As you will see, Doreen Bogdan‑Martin from USA has obtained the required majority, and I declare her enacted to the Secretary‑General of ITU.

(Applause).

I will read the reports so you know the numbers as well. Ballot papers deposited, 172, invalid papers, 4, absentee, 4, delegation present at voting, 164. Required majority 83. So, the official number of the results, Doreen Bogdan‑Martin, 139 votes.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Congratulations. Would you like to take the floor and say a few words.

>> DOREEN BOGDAN-MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I am deeply, deeply humbled and filled with emotion. Let me start by expressing my appreciation and my gratitude. First, let me recognize my fellow candidate and all of those running for elected office.

The large number of candidates is a true testament to how much countries value the ITU. I also want to pay respects to Secretary‑General Houlin Zhao and his leadership of ITU. Secretary‑General Zhao, Deputy Secretary‑General Johnson, Director Maniewicz, Director Bereaux, thank you for the close collaboration and friendship.

(audio).

I thank you. I thank you for believing in me and putting me forward as candidate for this immensely important position. It was a whole of government effort. I'm grateful for your support, your dedication, and all of that hard work.

I also want to recognize the private sector for their continuous backing. It was a real team effort. I want to recognize my husband, Jesus, my daughter Cecilia, Santiago, Alejandro. I thank you for being my rock, my biggest supporters, and always being so, so patient. To my friends and colleagues from around the world that have given me so much encouragement throughout this process, I thank you.

That brings me to you, the Member States. I want to thank you for putting your trust in me to lead this great organization. It's an honor for me and for my country. I arrived at the ITU as a young 20‑something with still much to learn, but I knew two things. I wanted to do good and I wanted to serve the international community.

At that point, I never imagined that one day I would lead this organization. I've worked for this moment for more than three decades, pioneering impactful initiatives to advance digital inclusion for all from giga to equals, our village work, Broadband Commission, Generation Connect, and much more. I fully believe in the power and potential that connectivity brings to economies, health care, education, employment, women, and youth empowerment.

Four years ago, you elected me as your Director of development. Our team had ambitious plans. We came together to create a BDT that was fit for purpose. It was not an easy task. Change never is. But we leveraged the commitment, the passion, and the talent of the amazing BDT Team, coupled, of course, with your cooperation, your support, and we made a difference. We delivered on our mandate with a successful World Telecommunications Development Conference.

It's been a tremendous privilege to serve as your Director and I look forward to your support as we take the ITU to the next level.

Ladies and gentlemen, I recognize that I take up this mantal had a very challenging time for the world, escalating food insecurity, gender insecurity, and SDGs falling further and further behind.

Yet, for us as ITU and its Members, it provides an opportunity, an opportunity to make a transformational contribution. Our sector is one of continuous innovation that can and will be a key enabler to facilitating resolution to many of these issues.

I also bring a special skill set to this work. I'm the proud mother of four. They are my drive to create a better world, to be determined, creative, and to find solutions. As Secretary‑General, I will continue to drive this organization, this institution to be innovative, increasingly relevant for Member States, and better positioned for all of us to better embrace digital development if our digital environment. What we do now affects generations to come. We are riding on a powerful wave of innovation and growth, and we must use this opportunity to improve people's lives, especially those that are excluded. Whether it's today's children or our children's children, we need to provide them with a strong and a stable foundation for growth. Our success depends on a united effort. The ITU is a union. It's a union of members. Each of you represents countries, companies, universities, and other institutions, and together we are united. We are united in our hope and in our conviction that we can work collectively to make a better connected world for our communities and future generations.

At this Plenipotentiary, we will jointly develop our vision for the next four years in our Strategic Plan, and that will reflect our unity of purpose. When talking about unity, we must also recognize and respect diverse views, those differences enrich us, yet there is so much that unites us. We can all agree on the need to invest every bit of our energy in connecting the unconnected. It's no longer a want. It's a must.

We can all agree on the need for partnerships like Partner to Connect that mobilized millions in commitments demonstrating our ability to collaborate. We can all agree on the need to raise ITU's performance, to make us more transparent, more accountable to you, our members.

We may have our differences, but the beauty of our organization is our process, where together we search for unity and resolution. We have much to do, and to do it we will need you, our members. We will need you to be involved. We need your energy. We need your ideas, and we need your together commitment, and you have my total commitment.

Many of you have heard me speak about my father and his many life lessons. My dad encouraged me in my studies, in my career choices, always making it clear that girls can do just as much as boys can, and I was the only girl and I have three brothers.

(Applause).

He was my greatest supporter, and he would have been so proud today. But my mom has always been a huge champion throughout this process. She is filled with more energy than me and Julene you often say I have too much energy, and she has more energy than me and she gets full credit for teaching me the art of multitasking. I know she's probably remote from our home town in New Jersey and probably do three other things at the same time, so hi, mom.

(Applause).

Mothers, daughters, sisters, fathers, brothers, sons, today we made history. After 157 years, we shattered the glass ceiling!

(Applause).

Thank you.

I am so very grateful to all of you for your support, and I hope this day will be an inspiration for other women to follow, and I do look forward to that.

As the UN Secretary‑General has said, we, the leaders, must deliver for we the peoples. We need to deliver affordable, trusted, and meaningful connectivity to all. The world is counting on us and I am counting on all of you.

Growing up in New Jersey, it may not surprise you to know that I'm a big Bruce Springsteen fan. In one of his songs, Bruce says, talk about a dream, try to make it real. Universal connectivity has been a dream for far too many years. Let's unite and make it real. Connect and unite. Thank you, everyone.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Congratulations, Doreen, again for your success. You have set high standards during your campaign, and even now in your speech I'm confident and sure at that you will meet all of them and you will successfully continue the work and legacy of the Secretary‑General of ITU, Mr. Houlin Zhao. Rashid, congratulations for your campaign and being part of this competition and spirit of fair play as well.

I give now the floor to the ‑‑ I'm sorry. It's another one. I give the floor to the Host Country, I'm more nervous than Doreen at this point, I think. So, the United States of America for their statement. You asked, please, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Good morning. Good morning. It's my great pleasure to congratulate Doreen Bogdan‑Martin on her historic election to serve as the next Secretary‑General of the International Telecommunications Union.

Doreen, you are the first woman to be elected as Secretary‑General of this organization in its 157‑year history. I know that I speak for many when I say that it's inspiring to be part of this historic, and yes, overdo moment. It's a testament to your campaign, your qualifications, and your vision. But you know that this election is more than about you. It's also reflecting a broad endorsement by Member States of an agenda for universal connectivity, digital empowerment, and an innovative and inclusive ITU that excels with integrity, and with accountability.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the ITU Members for their work, and particularly the Government of Romania for its generosity in hosting this Plenipotentiary Conference and for this momentous occasion. I commend the host for the inclusiveness and leadership in ICT. It's fitting that this election occurs here in Romania where there is such broad alignment and partnership in support of Doreen's vision.

The United States strongly supports that vision and looks forward to working with the Secretary‑General‑elect and all Member States to close the digital divide, to connect the 2.5 to almost 3‑billion people who remain without reliable access to the Internet and to chart a new course for the ITU that expands cooperation between all stakeholders.

Doreen, your past work at the ITU to connect the unconnected has made a real difference, and has empowered people with new opportunities. Your impact will only grow in your new role, and I know firsthand from our work together, what an outstanding leader you will be.

We wish you all ‑‑ we wish you the best as you assume your duties as Secretary‑General, and personally, I can't wait ‑‑ I can't wait to come back to the next Plenipotentiary to celebrate the accomplishments of the ITU under your leadership. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you, United States of America. I pass now the floor to Russian Federation.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: I am very happy to congratulate Doreen Bogdan‑Martin on her victory. I'm very happy that she's won and I wish her every success. I'm sure that she will be an excellent Secretary‑General. Thank you very much to all of those who supported me and also to those who did not support me. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: I would like now to pass the floor to the Secretary‑General of ITU, Mr. Houlin Zhao.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can see the long list to want to take the floor to congratulate our newly‑elected Secretary‑General, Madam Doreen Bogdan‑Martin. I would just like to take this moment very shortly to express my sincere congratulations to Doreen for your election, a wonderful election.

I think that this wonderful election is not a simple election, that this is a result of a wonderful development and wonderful for women and wonderful for ICT in the world. I think that Doreen just mentioned that I often told was full of energy and I also would like to add that she is full of initiatives and these kind of things also keep our organizations, you know, with very relevant operations to address this in a pragmatic way to address the digital divide and address other challenges. Of course, Doreen's election as many of you expressed; and also, we heard a lot that it marks the beginning of the new 157 years of ITU in the future and that we will have more women to join our leadership positions. So, this is an inspiration for our ladies, for our girls to try to also make their contributions to our business. So I once again, very much like to on behalf of all the other elected officials, to express our sincere congratulations to Doreen's election.

I also would like to take this opportunity to also pay my tribute to the other candidate, my dear friend, Rashit Ismailov. He was not strange to us. He has been in ITU PP 2018 preparations because that year he was the Chairman of ITU Council, and before that role, he has a lot of ‑‑ he had a lot of experiences in ICT businesses and with industries, with the government as Vice‑Minister and with some private roles to engage with the ICT promotions. So, I really appreciate his volunteer to present himself as a candidate.

This election is sometimes, if I could say that, my Deputy often told me that your election is very boring and for the much very exciting. And he under that election, that you have some competition and then this election, I think that it gives us opportunities to see how can we have a new management to lead the ITU in the future with better qualified, and highly‑qualified candidate for this election.

Let me also congratulate you, my dear friend, Rashit, for your participation of this election. Of course, dear friends, dear colleagues, we are very happy to have a new Secretary‑General elected, a woman Secretary‑General for the first time in the ITU history. I'm very confident that the ITU will go further and higher with the newly‑elected Secretary‑General who is very competent to lead this organization. I thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Secretary‑General. I open now the floor to any country wishing to take the floor and congratulate our newly‑elected Secretary‑General of ITU. Please keep in mind that there is ‑‑ to keep your speeches to a minimum, which is half a minute. Please do so.

I will start by inviting Romania to take the floor.

Romania: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I want to address to thank all candidates for the election happening these days that we are host here in Romania. I pay tribute to Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary‑General, for all that you have done for the Union throughout your career.

Dear, Madam elected Secretary‑General. Today 29 September, 2022, in Bucharest, Romania, the ITU is making history, electing the first woman for the position of SG. It is such an honor for me to say, on behalf of Europe, heartfelt congratulations, Madam Secretary‑General.

(Applause).

It was only four years ago I was saying for the first time, congratulations, dear Madam Director and you have years done a tremendous job of Director of BDT. Personally, dear Doreen, you know you are a role model for all of us and you are paving the way for all of us. You have our full trust and support. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Romania. I am giving the floor to Canada now.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Mr. President. Huge congratulations to Doreen, not just upon your election but as for the support in your work toward advancing the cause of women, of young people, with your progressive agenda particularly to connect the unconnected and also for the immense work you have done to advance the role of women, particularly young women in the ITU, and we look forward to continuing to support you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Canada. The next invited to take the floor is United Arab Emirates.

>> UAE: Good morning, dear colleagues. On behalf of the Arab Group, Chair, I would like to congratulate Doreen Bogdan‑Martin, a very good friend of ours. We would like to congratulate her on her election to the Secretary‑General position today. We note that she's the first woman to have been elected to lead this organization. We would like to sincerely congratulate her, and we assure her of the support of the Arab Group during her tenure. We are ready to support you, Madam, to ensure that we have every success as you lead our organization.

We'd also like to congratulate the region on the election of Madam Secretary‑General. Over the last four years, we have been able to note the efforts, the great efforts that have been made by Ms. Bogdan‑Martin and all that she's done to develop the BDT. We are quite sure that we will see much more progress in the next cycle.

We would also like to congratulate Mr. Ismailov and thank him for presenting himself at this election and we wish him every success next time. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you, UAE. Giving the floor now to Azerbaijan.

>> AZERBIJAN: Thank you very much. On behalf of the Azerbaijan, we congratulate distinguished Ms. Bogdan‑Martin with election of first‑time ever as woman leader of ITU. As it was mentioned that Ms. Bogdan‑Martin is a real leader with her activity in the BDT she brought real vision. She initiated a lot of programs, supported women, supported youth, and her vision is in favor of entire ITU community. We congratulate and wish her all the best in implementation of her ideas in new level as the Secretary‑General of the ITU.

I also congratulate our distinguished candidate, Rashid, for his bravery and initiative and wish him also success. I believe that ITU is family of the ICT community, and together all of the Member Countries will work to support the Secretary‑General for achieving new achievements in the ICT development. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I give now the floor to Republic of Korea.

>> REPUBLIC OF KOREA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to convey our congratulations to Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin, and also the U.S. Delegation. I can assure you that Korea will provide full support to your leadership, and we are looking forward to working together with you to connect and unite all.

I also would like to say thanks be to the outgoing Secretary‑General, Mr. Houlin Zhao, and we really appreciate your more than three‑decades contribution to the ITU. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Republic of Korea. I pass the floor to Saudi Arabia.

>> INTERPRETER: Microphone for the distinguished speaker.

>> CHAIR: I think we still have an issue with the mic, so please if you can give the floor to Saudi Arabia. Maybe turn off and on the mic, please. It seems that it is not working.

I'll go to China and if you allow me ‑‑ now it's working. It's working. Now it's working.

>> SAUDI ARABIA: Now working? Okay. Thank you very much, Chair. I would like to wish every success to Ms. Bogdan‑Martin. We congratulate her, and would like to say that we are ready to cooperate with her in order to achieve ITU goals. We would also like to thank Mr. Houlin Zhao, Mr. Secretary‑General for the remarkable four years you have had that allowed us to make much progress. We also stand ready to cooperate with the ITU community so that we can move forward. Thank you very much, Chair.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Saudi Arabia. I invite now China to take the floor.

>> CHINA: Mr. President, the Chinese delegation wishes to congratulate, Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin on her election as the Secretary‑General. We hope that she will continue to promote cooperation among Member States of the ITU to facilitate the ICT for the benefit of all mankind.

Taking this opportunity, I wish also to thank Secretary‑General Mr. Houlin Zhao for his leadership over the past 8 years. Under his leadership, the family of the ITU has been promoting significant results. In this regard, with regard to the support of Member States for Mr. Houlin Zhao, we wish to express our appreciation. China will as always, support all work of the ITU, and wish to work with all other Member States to achieve SDGs and making more contributions in this regard. I thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, China. I invite now India to take the floor.

>> INDIA: Thank you, Chair. On behalf of the Government of India and personal behalf, we extend sincere and heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Doreen. We extend full support, cooperation, and collaboration in the days coming in her tenure as the Secretary‑General.

We, together, has moved one step ahead to have the balance on the gender equality. I believe we were talking of the different resolutions for quite some time. Now we have the first‑ever woman leader as the Secretary‑General of the ITU.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to outgoing Secretary‑General, Mr. Houlin Zhao, who had very ably led during his entire period, the ITU, and could reach to have wonderful programs under his guidance.

Losing an election is always a process, so hard luck to our good friend, personally, Mr. Rashid. I'm sure he will continue to work with his rich experience in the ITU in other capacities. Thank you. Thanks a lot.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you, India. I give the floor now to Czech Republic.

>> CZECH REPUBLIC: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. This is not only the Czech Republic. I take the opportunity to speak on behalf of all the 27 Member States of the European Union and fully concur with the words provided by Cristiana from Romania, the Chair of CEPT. All congratulations to the newly‑elected Secretary‑General, Madam Secretary‑General. This is where we change the history at this moment, and we fully stand at your side and hope for a very fruitful cooperation over the four years to come. Thank you very much, and congratulations from the European Union.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Czech Republic. I pass the floor now to Bahamas.

>> BAHAMAS: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and the people, I extend congratulations to the Secretary‑General‑elect of the ITU, Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin. Over the past years, the Bahamas has been fully supportive of her exemplary leadership of the telecommunications Development Bureau and we're confident of her ability to take it to the next level as Secretary‑General. In the Bahamas we're grateful for the support given by Ms. Bogdan‑Martin in helping us recover from hurricane in 2018 and it's a great pleasure the ITU elected the best person for SG but the best person for the job. Congratulations.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Bahamas. I pass now the floor to Brazil.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you, Chair. On behalf of the Brazil delegation, I would like to congratulate Doreen for her election, especially for being the first woman to become Secretary‑General in the history of ITU. Brazil's decision of raising our contribution is a sign of the support that we wish that we will give Doreen and her administration and we are also looking forward to work together.

I would like also to congratulate Mr. Rashid for his fair play and also congratulate SG Zhao for his leadership. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I give the floor now to Nigeria.

>> NIGERIA:

>> INTERPRETER: Microphone to the distinguished speaker.

>> CHAIR: I say Nigeria, but not anymore on the list.

>> NIGERIA: Can you hear me, please. Okay. Permit me on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria to congratulate the outgoing Secretary‑General, his Excellency, Houlin Zhao, on the way and manner he leads the ITU, and also his team members from the SDG to all the directors in the Union.

Furthermore, I also want to take the opportunity to extend our good will and prayers to the incoming Secretary‑General, Doreen, particularly on her success during the election.

Furthermore, we also want to use the opportunity to wish her a very successful tenure, particularly, we strongly agree that Africa is going to be among the major beneficiaries of her leadership in connecting the unconnected and banking the unbank. I believe this something that will bring many more achievements to Africa. And for the other candidate, Mr. Rashid, we wish him good luck in his future endeavors, and I do hope that ITU will remain very united and we work together to take ITU to greater heights.

Finally, I want to present the 100% support of the Federal Government of Nigeria to all the activities of ITU under the leadership of the incoming Secretary‑General, Doreen. Congratulations, iron lady.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Nigeria. I now give the floor to Russian Federation.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you very much, Chair. On behalf of the Russian Federation, we would like to congratulate Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin on her election as the Secretary‑General of ITU. Russia stands ready to cooperate with the new Secretary‑General of the Union based on mutual respect and equality, and our country will continue to make an intellectual and financial contribution to the Union in order to strengthen it ensuring that there is no discrimination in providing the benefits of ICTs for all countries, in particular, developing countries.

We would like to thank our friends who have supported us in support of Russia, having done so as long as the Union has existed. And we would also like to thank Mr. Houlin Zhao for his great contribution over the last four year' to the ITU. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Russian Federation. I'm passing now the floor to Argentina.

>> ARGENTINA: Thank you, Chair. The Argentina Delegation wishes to congratulate Secretary‑General, Doreen. We know that we can count on her to continue to work together with the Latin America Region. I wish to share a brief anecdote. We had a first meeting with Doreen in Barcelona almost three years ago now and in that context we shared with her a digitalization campaign for boys and girls in Latin America and Argentina, and we were able to meet again later in another city in the world, and we shared all of the documents that we intended to work on and coordinate this within the ITU, and I think that her commitment and her continuity, in addition to the capacity that she has to guide policies in order to improve connectivity for all, especially in developing countries and to implement connectivity and reduce gaps. We thus then wish to applaud the outgoing Secretary‑General and Russian Council and we do hope to continue to work together very much. Congratulations.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I now invite Mexico to take the floor.

>> MEXICO: On behalf of the Delegation of Mexico, I wish to thank Secretary‑General Zhao for his work over all of these years.

Dear, Doreen, you are an example of work done well and a vision of the future in order to benefit all, carried out with passion and leadership, and you'll always be rewarded for this. I'm proud to extend my congratulations to you, Madam Secretary‑General of the International Telecommunications Union. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you. The next country invited to take the floor is Papua New Guinea.

>> PAPUA NEW GUINEA: As Chair of the PP process for PP‑22, I would like to offer congratulations on behalf of all of the APT. We certainly appreciated Doreen's competence, drive, and passion as Director of the BDT and we know that she will now bring those great qualities to bear as the Head Secretary‑General of the ITU.

We've appreciated the strength and the commitment that she's shown to the issues of gender equity, and she's are also issues of the APT as seen in our contributions to this conference.

I would also like to say that as a region, we have been very proud to have one of our own, Mr. Houlin Zhao, the Secretary‑General of the ITU for the past two terms. In some ways, we've been very sorry to see him go, but we know that he's leaving behind something very strong that Doreen will be able to carry forward.

I would also like to offer congratulations to Doreen on behalf of the delegation who will be very much looking forward to working with you to strengthen the ITU. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, the next country invited to take the floor is Philippines.

>> PHILIPPINES: On behalf of the Philippine Delegation, I would like to congratulate our Secretary‑General‑Elect, Doreen. You have been an inspiration for many of us with your leadership. We look forward to your inspired leadership as we navigate many of the challenges that face the world today.

We would also like to acknowledge Secretary‑General, Houlin Zhao, for ably and very effectively shepherding the organization over the past four years. Indeed, you have brought great achievements to the ITU and we do look forward to Doreen continuing forward with her new directions and policies regarding our efforts in pushing for gender equality. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I now pass the floor to Jordan.

>> JORDAN: Thank you, Chairman. I would like to express our sincere congratulations to Doreen for winning the elections, and we express our commitment to working with you in the future, and we are sure under your leadership you will take the ITU to more success. At the same time, I would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to witness history in the making today. And I also would like to thank Mr. Zhao for the marvelous job at that he's done during his career at the ITU, and thank Mr. Rashid for running for the position of Secretary‑General. We thank everybody for their efforts, and we are committed to cooperate and work along with the ITU to advance the ICT globally and connect the unconnected. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Jordan. I now give the floor to Japan.

>> JAPAN: Thank you, Chair. On behalf of the Delegation of Japan, I would also like to extend our congratulations to Secretary‑General‑elect, Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin. Japan is looking forward to working with you.

I would also like to thank Mr. Houlin Zhao for your contributions for the years with the ITU and development of the world. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you. The next country invited to take the floor is Switzerland.

>> SWITZERLAND: Switzerland as the host country of the ITU would like to warmly congratulate Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin on her election. We wish you good luck and every success in the future. We particularly are glad that a woman has been elected for the first time to lead the ITU, and we are so glad to be able to continue our good cooperation with you in Geneva.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Secretary‑General, Mr. Houlin Zhao, and thank you for the success with which he has directed the organization. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now pass the floor to Pakistan.

>> PAKISTAN: Thank you, Chair. On behalf of the Pakistan Delegation and Government of Pakistan, we would like to offer our warm congratulations to Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin for her remarkable election victory. This election speaks to her competence, her passion, and the years of international public service that she brought to the ITU.

I would also like to acknowledge and recognize the valuable leadership that Secretary‑General, Houlin Zhao provided to the ITU. We wish him well and we look forward to working very closely with the incoming Secretary‑General who we think will be an excellent leader for the ITU to navigate the challenges and opportunities that we all face going forward. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Pakistan. I now invite Australia to take the floor.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chair. On behalf of the Australian Government, I would firstly like to thank Houlin Zhao for his years of dedicated service to the ITU.

Also, on behalf of the Australian Government, we would like to most sincerely congratulate Doreen Bogdan‑Martin to becoming the Secretary‑General of the ITU. It's genuinely an absolute privilege to be here in this historical moment, a real privilege in my position in the Australian Government. You absolutely have our unwavering support for your agenda and your qualities and the fact that you're the right person for this job.

Your qualities are abundantly clear for everyone to see in everything that you do. Your integrity is absolute. Your deep knowledge of the issues is obvious, and you're an agent of change. You're a breaker of glass ceilings, 157‑‑year‑old glass ceilings. As Kamala Harris said, everyone make sure to wear your shoes, there is glass everywhere. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Australia. The next country invited to take the floor is Thailand.

>> THAILAND: Thank you very much, Chair. Today is the day that we celebrate not only in history for the making that we have for the first lady Madam Secretary‑General in the history of ITU, but we would as well celebrate the high integrity and the fair play of our elections, and with that I have to thank as well Rashid from Russian Federation for having proved that our election is high integrity transparency, and also as I mentioned fair played.

I would think also another reason to celebrate is to celebrate the successful lead of Mr. Houlin Zhao for his marvelous and fantastic leadership throughout the eight years. And Thailand stands ready to work with the new Secretary‑General, and we are looking forward to the bright future.

If I remember correctly, Madam Secretary‑General, has ‑‑ Madam Secretary‑General‑elect has said that we would connect united and may I add two more words to that which is compromise and leave no one behind. With that, congratulations, and thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I now give the floor to Rwanda.

>> RWANDA: Thank you, Chair. Madam Secretary‑General, what a good time to be alive. Our heartfelt congratulations as the new Secretary-General for the ITU. Rwanda commits the unwavering support to the ITU leadership and family as we continue the mandate of connecting the unconnected.

To the outgoing Secretary‑General, Houlin Zhao, thank you for your contribution to ITU and we wish you the very best in the next chapter of your life. And to Rashid, thank you for your participation and all the best. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Rwanda. I now give the floor to Ghana.

>> GHANA: Madam, Secretary‑General. It's such a delight to be able to use these words. The Ghana Delegations is delighted to congratulate you. You have championed gender and youth empowerment and it's a fitting tribute to her tireless efforts that she's the first woman to lead this 157‑year‑old organization, and this is yet another first after becoming the first female‑elected Director of the ITU in 2018. Ghana assures you of our utmost collaboration and support at all times. Our sincere congratulations and appreciation goes to the outgoing Secretary‑General, Houlin Zhao. You've left a strong legacy behind and will be missed. To Rashid, able competitor from the Russian Federation. We say well fought, and we hope we can count on your rich experience for the benefit of all Member States.

Once again, congratulations, Madam Secretary‑General.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Ghana. The next country to take the floor is Egypt.

>> EGYPT: Thank you, Chair. On behalf of Egypt, we would like to warmly congratulate, Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin on her election to become the next ITU Secretary‑General and we would also like to commend and thank Secretary‑General Zhao for his contribution. We wish him good health and all of our best wishes for the future. We would also like to wish good luck to Mr. Rashid Ismailov. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Egypt. I invite now Colombia to take the floor.

>> COLOMBIA: Thank you, President. On behalf of the Government of Colombia, I have the honor of extending our most sincere congratulations to Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin on her election as Secretary‑General of ITU. We wish to underscore the huge symbolic importance of her election as the first woman Secretary‑General of this organization. We have experienced her work firsthand in terms of gender, equality, connecting youth, and we trust in her experience and capacity to lead the ITU diligently. We wish her every success in the implementation of her ambitious program of work, and she can always count on Colombia's support. Thank you very much, President.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I now give the floor to the State of Palestine.

>> STATE of PALESTINE: Allow me on behalf of the delegation of the State of Palestine to allow outgoing thanks to Secretary‑General Houlin Zhao and thanks to the candidates, and congratulations to Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin and wishes her all the success in her new task as we have known her in her past position. We have had many successful experiences together in many projects. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I now give the floor to South Africa.

>> SOUTH AFRICA: 157 years later, Madam Secretary‑General, our heartfelt and sincere congratulations to your election on the position of Secretary‑General. It is indeed a true inspiration to the girl children across the world that it is possible that every woman can stand and be a leader in every forum. You've got a commitment of the delegation of South Africa and Republic of South Africa for utmost support of advancing your agenda of a connected world and united world. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the outgoing Secretary‑General, Houlin Zhao, for the work that you did for your leadership and keeping the Union alive. And to Rashid for the spirit of competitiveness, and also to the Government of the United States and also for the Republic of Russia for fair play with your candidates. Didn't feel pressure to do anything but to choose the best amongst the best of us.

To you the ITU family, you have the commitment of South Africa to remain an active partner and meaningful partner and useful partner to the agenda of the ITU as we advance the digital economy. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, South Africa. I give now the floor to Senegal.

>> SENEGAL: Thank you very much, President. We would like to thank you for the excellent way that you have stayed our work. On behalf of the Government of Senegal and all the Members of our Delegation present here, I wish to join my voice to those that took the floor before me to congratulate Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin upon her fantastic election to the position of ITU Secretary‑General.

Senegal will stand shoulder to shoulder with you to support you in the achievement of your vision, a vision that we fully share, in particular when it comes to connecting rural areas. In the same vein, we would like to thank the outgoing Secretary‑General, Mr. Zhao, for all of the work and success that he has been able to achieve throughout his two terms at the head of our organization. We wish to applaud all of his efforts to help to reduce the digital gap, in particular in developing countries. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Senegal. The next country invited to take the floor is Uzbekistan.

>> UZBEKISTAN: Thank you very much, Chair. We would like on behalf of the Republic of Uzbekistan to congratulate Ms. Bogdan‑Martin to become the next Secretary‑General. This event, I'm quite sure, has inspired all women amongst the delegations of the Member States of the ITU because this is the first time when a woman has become the Secretary‑General of our Union.

We do hope that in her tenure, she will be able to achieve all of her vision and be able to accomplish the great mission that stands before the ITU in connecting all of the people on this planet. We would like to say that both candidates were indeed worthy candidates, and that the elections have shown the trend of the time as well as the new events that are in our world. We would like to wish Mr. Rashid Ismailov every success in the future. We would also like to thank Mr. Houlin Zhao for his great contribution and openness in working towards development and in accomplishing the ITU's goals.

We would also like to express the fact that we have seen the energy for Ms. Bogdan‑Martin, the energy of her family and energy of the ITU Member States and we do hope that this will help us accomplish the tasks before the ITU and make it more accessible for all of the people on this planet. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I now invite Gambia to take the floor.

>> GAMBIA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Happy as foreign Minister to join our colleague as Minister of digital economy of being here since the beginning. I'm happy to witness a historic moment that culminated in the election of Madam Doreen Bogdan‑Martin as the first woman to be at the helm of this organization. Congratulations, Madam, you can count on the support of Gambia.

I also commend the outgoing Secretary‑General for the leadership. I would be remiss to conclude without congratulating Romania for all of the efforts made to make this conference a success. Our most heartfelt congratulations to the success with which you have led our work. Thank you very much. Congratulations, Madam.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now invite Turkiye.

>> TURKIYE: I congratulate Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin as Secretary‑General and we strongly trust her leadership. We hope ITU will be a leader in the next few years under her leadership. We hope that Mr. Rashid will continue with his deep experience and excellent career. I would also like to express our appreciation to Mr. Houlin Zhao for his outstanding and efficient leadership and all the hard work he put into his career during the ITU. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now invite Belize to take the floor.

>> BELIZE: Thank you. Thank you, Chair. On behalf of the Government of Belize and the Belize Delegation, we also wish to join in congratulating Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin on her election. As a small island development state, we look forward with hope to your term in office. We are proud to have witnessed and participated in breaking that 157‑year‑old ceiling. Congratulations Madam Secretary‑General. Equality, particularly gender equality is so critical for the advancement of our societies. We hear also in your belief in the value that universal connectivity offers for all of our people. Thank you and congratulations again.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now invite Paraguay to take the floor.

>> PARAGUAY: Thank you, Mr. President. On behalf of the Republic of Paraguay, we wish to express our gratitude to Mr. Houlin Zhao for his work as Secretary‑General of ITU. We thank Mr. Rashid Ismailov for having run as candidate for these elections, and at the same time we wish to extend our congratulations to Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin for her election as Secretary‑General of the Union.

Dear Doreen, you can certainly count on the commitment of Paraguay in all of your undertakings, and we invite you to visit Paraguay once again, this time as ITU Secretary‑General. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now pass the floor to Mauritius.

>> MAURITIUS: On behalf of the Republic of Mauritius I wish to congratulate Doreen and we know for sure she will be an excellent Secretary‑General. She has made history by being the first woman to occupy this post and we look forward to working with her. We also seize this opportunity to thank Mr. Houlin Zhao for his excellent contribution to the ITU. We thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now invite Uganda to take the floor.

>> UGANDA: Thank you, President. On behalf of Uganda, I take this opportunity to thank Doreen for the success you have achieved in attaining the position of Secretary‑General. Uganda prides in woman empowerment and leadership, and we pledge our support to having you succeed in the role you have taken. I also take this opportunity to thank Mr. Zhao for the leadership you have given ITU in the past two terms you have steered the ship, and therefore we thank you for the platform you have given Doreen to steward the ship further.

I also take this opportunity to thank Rashid for having participated in these elections, and given us an opportunity to see how we stand as the global world in IT. I thank you very much. Doreen, congratulations once again, and we look forward to our participation and collaboration as a country. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Uganda. I now invite Burundi to take the floor.

>> BURUNDI: Madam Secretary‑General, on behalf of the Burundi delegation, we sincerely congratulate you on your election. We also thank Russia for having campaigned to serve the world through their candidacy for ITU Secretary‑General. We reiterate our commitment to work arduously by your side to help achieve your vision, which is also our vision, connection for all. You are a real model for so many women and girls. You have just changed history by becoming the first woman to head up the ITU. We're very aware of the objectives to be achieved because we were part of the projects when you were at the head of the BDT, so a warm congratulations and we wish you every success. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now pass the floor to Ukraine.

>> UKRAINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On behalf of the Ukraine Delegation and whole of Ukraine People we would like to congratulate you, Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin on her persuasive win for the election for the post of Secretary‑General. We wish you all the best in endeavors in ITU goals as you mention in the challenging time for the world. You have all of our support on this and we look forward to continue our further cooperation with you. Once more, please accept our sincere congratulation. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Ukraine. I now invite Somalia to take the floor.

>> SOMALIA: On behalf of Somalia, Republic and my delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate, Secretary‑General‑elect, Doreen Bogdan‑Martin for her historic success. As new Secretary, Madam Doreen, Somalia supports you and we know that you will bring good things to the table.

I would also like to commend Former Secretary‑General Houlin Zhao for his dedication and leadership. When I met him here, a courageous man. We would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate and commend Mr. Rashid Ismailov for his courage. We wish you continue fighting hard and supporting the ITU Union.

I would also like to finally take an opportunity to congratulate and commend the Romanian Government for their great hospitality and welcome and bringing all of these beautiful people in their beautiful country. I thank you very much and have a wonderful afternoon.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I kindly ask you again to stay within half a minute because we have to end this meeting in 15 minutes and we have a list of countries that would like to take the floor, and I'm inviting now Bolivia to take the floor.

>> BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA: Thank you very much, President. On behalf of the government and people of the Plurinational State of Bolivia I express our congratulations to the new Secretary‑General of the organization, the first woman in the 157 years of history, this is without a doubt an inspiration for so many women and girls throughout the world. We wish every success and to show her the support of our country in her role and ensure that we will achieve many things together. We congratulate Russia's candidate for his participation in the election and wish him success in other activities and in addition to the outgoing Secretary‑General, Houlin Zhao, for the excellent work over the past years. Thank you, Mr. President.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, I now invite Ecuador.

>> ECUADOR: Thank you, President. On behalf of the Delegation of Ecuador, I wish to join those who congratulated, Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin for her election as Secretary‑General of the ITU and also reiterate to her the full support and cooperation of Ecuador in the success of her role. We also applaud the candidate, Mr. Rashid Ismailov for participating this this progress. We also wish to extend congratulations and thanks to the outgoing Secretary‑General, Mr. Houlin Zhao, for his fantastic work at the head of this organization. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you so much. I now invite Algeria to take the floor.

>> ALGERIA: Thank you, Chair. On behalf of the Algeria Delegation but as the current President of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the African Union of Telecommunications, I would like to congratulate you, dear Madam Doreen Bogdan‑Martin, congratulate you on the well‑deserved election and ensure you as you probably noticed through the previous declarations from my colleagues in Africa, ensure you of our full support in the accomplishment of your mission. I would like also to extend our thanks to Mr. Rashid Ismailov for his valuable campaign, and also express our thanks and gratitude to Mr. Houlin Zhao for the great achievements and contributions under his excellent leadership.

Madam, this election is a very good step forward of enforcing and confirming diversity and equality on the ground. And as you know, equality and diversity is not only about gender, it is also about making sure to have this step forward ensuring more geographical balance and fair development of all regions, especially Africa. With the engagements made with the elected Secretary‑General in accordance with these engagements we look forward to collaborate with you in order to meet diversity and equality from all sides on top of gender equality. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Algeria. I invite now Trinidad and Tobago to take the floor.

>> TRINIDAD: On behalf of the community, we extend heartfelt congratulations to Doreen Bogdan‑Martin on the historic position of Secretary‑General. Madam SG, we look forward to working collaboratively with you in the rollout of your ambitious human‑centric digital agenda and anticipate continued support from the ITU in advancing the digital development. We expect it to be quite all right. We commend Mr. Ismailov for efforts and extend thanks to Mr. Houlin Zhao for the stewardship over the past eight years. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you Trinidad and Tobago. I invite now Iraq to take the floor.

>> IRAQ: Thank you very much, Mr. President. On behalf of the Iraqi Government, I wish to most sincerely congratulate Madam Doreen Bogdan‑Martin on her election to the Office of ITU Secretary‑General.

President, I also wish every success to Mr. Rashid Ismailov in his future endeavors. We wish to congratulate, madam Bogdan‑Martin who is the first woman to be ITU Secretary‑General, and we to hope that ITU will see a radical and positive transformation under the stewardship of Madam Bogdan‑Martin. She is a real example to follow, and we really hope that we'll be able to achieve all of our projects and that she'll support us in Iraq to help us to succeed in our projects and strengthen our telecommunications infrastructure in Iraq.

We also wish to thank the outgoing Secretary‑General, Mr. Houlin Zhao for all of his achievements throughout his term. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I would like to announce that I have to close the list of the countries that registered for taking the floor with Kenya, so Kenya is going to be the last country that will take the floor in this Plenary. Now I give the floor to Canada.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Chair. I'm taking the floor as Chairman of the Inter‑American Telecommunications Working Group for the Plenipotentiary Conference and work of the Telecommunications Development Conference. Dear Doreen, echoing words of friends and colleagues, Ghana and Rwanda, I can't imagine the pleasure of using the term, Madam Secretary‑General. Our most sincere congratulations not only for achieving this historic moment in the history of the ITU, but as for the extraordinary work that you have done over the last four years as Director of the BDT.

Dear Doreen, on behalf of all of my colleagues at the Inter‑American Telecommunications Commission, I extend our most strong support in all of our endeavors to connect the unconnected, to empower youth, and to achieve gender equality in all of the work of the Union. Thank you very much and I do hope you'll have the opportunity to see us at a CETIL meet meeting so we can embrace you and give you a round of applause.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. And I give the floor to Vanuatu.

>> VANUATU: Thank you, Chairman. Moments ago, we elected Doreen Bogdan‑Martin as the new Secretary‑General and she's from the United States of America. On behalf of the people of Vanuatu, I wish to convey our most sincere and warmest congratulations. The power of the example of the whole of government approach must not be understated. The first SG woman in the ITU in 157 years of history, and women are not limited in their dreams, and let us have their place if the world. Let us celebrate this accomplish am, an accomplishment for ITU for women and for connectivity for all.

Dear Doreen, we look forward to your leadership of the ITU which will be filled with advancements and technology, innovation management, and new challenges. We look forward to seeing you at some stage in our country of Vanuatu. Best wishes and full support to you. Thank you, Madam SG.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now give the floor to Samoa.

>> SAMOA: Thank you Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the people of Samoa, we congratulate Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin for her role in our organization. Samoa offers full support to your leadership, and I'm sure all the Pacific islands are happy that we look forward to the new development interventions in the near future.

Also, Samoa would like to thank Houlin Zhao for his contributions to the ITU and the world. Congratulations and good luck. God bless.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now invite to take the floor, Uruguay.

>> URUGUAY: We celebrate the election of Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin. It was an honor to support you and a real milestone since this is the first time a woman is heading up the Secretary‑General of the ITU, breaking the glass ceiling. Over your years at the ITU you have shown great commitment to development am, diversity, equality, connecting everyone to youth, reducing gaps, and always seeking to work together and seeking international cooperation.

Further, we have witnessed how you have been so innovative in ensuring everyone can participate, ensuring that those that are unconnected can connect, and reducing gaps and not leaving anybody behind.

We're absolutely delighted and we intend to help you to continue to achieve what you have been achieving, and we wish to work with more coordination and more collaboration to ensure that we leave nobody behind and we can reduce all of the many gaps. Finally, we wish to applaud and thank the work of the outgoing Secretary‑General for his contributions over and all of the years he's been dedicated to the ITU. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you, again, and out of respect for all the countries registered to take the floor, please keep your speech up to 30 seconds. Thank you so much. Now I'm inviting ‑‑ 30 seconds as we said at the beginning. 30 seconds.

Tunisia, please, you have the floor.

>> TUNISIA: Thank you, Chairman. We wish to express our thanks to the outgoing Secretary‑General, Mr. Houlin Zhao, and also of course our most heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin and we're delighted to see a woman in this office for the first time in the history of ITU. We also congratulation Mr. Ismailov. You have our full support, Madam and look forward to experience and geographically balanced team with you and this is important for the success of your mandate. Congratulations Madam and we wish you every success at the head of the ITU. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: I now ask the interpreters for 10 more minutes, if possible, to complete the list.

>> INTERPRETER: Yes, sir, you may have 10 further minutes.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I invite now Indonesia to take the floor. Indonesia, the floor is yours.

>> INDONESIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of Indonesia Delegation, I would like to convey our sincere appreciation to Mr. Houlin Zhao for the guidance and fine leadership in serving all of the Member States of the Union.

I would like to also congratulates and also for showing the spirit of the fairness during the election. I also want to ‑‑ I also would like to congratulate the newly elected Secretary‑General, Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin as the first woman to lead the Union. We look forward to work with the ITU under your leadership, Ms. Bogdan‑Martin, especially in regard to the agenda of connectivity, digital literacy, and woman empowerment. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now invite Peru to take the floor.

>> PERU: Thank you, President. It's an honor and privilege to congratulate the new Secretary‑General on her election. She is the first woman Secretary‑General of ITU and we're making history. I'd also like to underscore the particular thanks to my country to the outgoing Secretary‑General, and we also wish to thank the Russian candidate for his participation and his fair play.

Doreen, as you very appropriately mentioned, we are one whole family, one union, and our goal is to improve connectivity, digital connectivity and reduce gaps. We thank you for your commitment, and we support you in everything. Thus, we wish to reiterate that in our country, you can count on a strong ally. We wish to thank Romania for the organization and President in terms of procedure, something to improve on the voting, and we wish to have a word with you in present and the Secretary. Thank you for your support. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I now mass the floor to Malaysia.

>> MALAYSIA: Thank you, Chair. Malaysia would like to express the gratitude to Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary‑General, for his work to ITU. Also, we would like to also commend Mr. Ismailov in his candidate. Congratulations to Secretary‑General Doreen, I'm personally touched in your dedication to your family and ITU. I especially also like your opening of the lyrics in the meeting.

Family and societal is very important in Malaysia and hopefully Malaysia will be contributing more to the ITU family, and also to add, Malaysia will be hosting lunch in the hall today and please join us as Malaysia in the hall. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Malaysia. Thank you for your announcement as well. I invite now Syria to take the floor.

SYRIA: We would like to warmly congratulate Ms. Bogdan‑Martin to her election to the Office of Secretary‑General. She's a very warm woman and we hope that we will be able to work together with you over the next few years. We'd also like to commend Mr. Ismailov for his spirit and his great productivity. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I invite now North Macedonia to take the floor.

>> NORTH MACEDONIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the Government of North Macedonia, I want to congratulate Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin on becoming Secretary‑General of the ITU. I think this is a historic day for the ITU, but as for women, and specifically for women in technology. We wish all the best to Ms. Bogdan‑Martin and the ITU in the next four years, especially decreasing the digital divide in our countries. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now invite Botswana to take the floor.

>> BOTSWANA: Mr. Chairman, the delegation of Botswana wishes to congratulate and thank you very much for the leadership of Mr. Houlin Zhao for the leadership over the past four years. We commend the candidacy of Rashid Ismailov of Russia. Most importantly, Mr. Chairman, we wish to really sincerely congratulate Doreen upon her success. The Chairman, Mr. Chairman, constituted about 50% of women at that that and I have no doubt that the election of Doreen inspires them and that they will follow in her footsteps. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now pass the floor to Republic of Guinea.

>> GUINEA: On behalf of the people and Government of Guinea, we would like to express our warm congratulations to Doreen for her election to the Office of Secretary‑General to the ITU. We believe that this is the end of a long and very rich path in the role of the work that you've already done. The Republic of Guinea has decided to increase eight‑fold the contribution to the ITU and in this we express the fact that we'll stand shoulder to shoulder with you to tackle the challenges related to connectivity, and to ensure that technologies continue to be growing in our economies and to provide employment. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now pass the floor to Namibia.

>> NAMIBIA: Chairman, we join the rest of the congratulations to Doreen as Secretary‑General. She has made history after 157 years of ITU existence as the first woman Secretary‑General. We would like to assure her of our support. We also want to congratulate, Rashid for having put up his campaign and making this process a democratic one. We would like to thank the current Secretary‑General for the leadership that he has provided to the Union over the past years. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now give the floor to Israel.

>> ISRAEL: On behalf of the Israel Delegation, congratulations to you, Doreen, on your election to Secretary‑General. We have worked together for many years and we truly appreciate your contributions to the work of the Union. We share your vision and look forward to working with you towards the digital inclusion.

Personally, I'm so happy it's a woman. I'm so happy it's you, Doreen. It will take ‑‑ I would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere gratitude to the outstanding and exceptional Secretary‑General, Mr. Houlin Zhao. We would like also to warmly cherish Mr. Malcolm Johnson for his 16 years of service and great work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now pass the floor to Chad.

>> CHAD: Thank you, Chair. Chad and our delegation would like to congratulate Doreen on her wonderful election, and we would also like to wish good luck to Rashid and his endeavors. Chad would also like to thank the outgoing Secretary‑General for all of the remarkable work he has to know with his team over his tenure.

Doreen, as a woman, we are so proud of you, and my country Chad remains strongly committed to promoting women. We know and we are quite certain that through your life, your experience, through your experience as a young woman, a woman, a mother, and a wife, through all of your experience, the world will manage to be connected and no one will be left behind. Thank you so much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: We have five more countries to reach Kenya. I'm asking the interpreters again for 5 more minutes and apologize for this.

>> INTERPRETR: Yes, Chairman, we can give 5 more minutes.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, again. The next country to take the floor is Burkina Faso.

>> BURKINA FASO: Thank you very much, Chair. On behalf of the Government of Burkina Faso, I would like to sincerely congratulate our new Secretary‑General, Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin. This is a historic moment for the ITU but as for all women in our large family. Bravo, Doreen, for your inspiring path and for all of the doors that you are opening for all women.

Dear Doreen, Burkina Faso assures you of its full support to achieve with you the goal of connectivity and unity, connectivity for all. I would like to also take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Zhao, outgoing Secretary‑General for his mandate and success he's achieved. I also would like to thank Mr. Rashid Ismailov and congratulating him in his participation in this important election and for his fair play. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now invite Fiji to take the floor.

>> FIJI: On behalf of Fiji we reaching digital divide, reaching unconnected and other initiatives. Fiji also thanks the outgoing Secretary‑General Mr. Houlin Zhao for dedication and commitment to ITU for the past two terms. Thank you so much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I now invite Liberia to take the floor.

>> LIBERIA: Thank you, Mr. President. On behalf of the Liberia Delegation, we congratulate Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin for her election as Secretary‑General of the ITU. Four years ago, when she put herself out to contest the Deputy Secretary‑General position we predicted that there was a beginning of a new era within the ITU. That has been proven right. So, Madam Doreen, Madam Secretary‑General, we would like to congratulate you and wish best for you. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I invite now South Sudan to take the floor.

>> SOUTH SUDAN: On behalf of my delegation and Government of South Sudan I express my great congratulations to Madam Doreen for being elect as SG, Secretary-General, I wish her a great success and the Government of South Sudan extends unwavering support for leadership. I extend appreciation for Mr. Houlin Zhao for work and commitment and leadership. Thank you very much.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you. I now invite the last country on our list, which is Kenya, to take the floor.

>> KENYA: Mr. Chair, on behalf of the Kenya delegation, I wish to congratulate Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin for her election. We wish Doreen the very best as is he leads the ITU for the next four years. We reiterate Kenya's commitment to working with Doreen to transform the way ICTs impact the world‑being of humanity. Madam SG best wishes as you inspire many girls and women across the world to believe that they too can step forward and lead. To Rashid Ismailov, thank you for being a worthy competitor to Doreen. All the best in your new endeavors. To the outgoing Secretary‑General, Mr. Houlin Zhao, thank you for serving the Union in the best way possible. We are forever grateful to your service. Long live ITU, long live the Union. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. I now have to make a few very important announcements. We will start the next Plenary at 2:30 with policy statements, and after that the elections for Deputy SG of ITU. Please be on time here.

Also, we are going to have the Working Group of Plenary which will start at 2:00 in Cuza Room for 45 minutes so from 2:00 to 2:45, so for the members attending the Working Group of Plenary will be in time here for the election of Deputy SG of ITU as well.

The last announcement is that I think Bahamas wants to take the floor and to make an announcement for lunch as well. Bahamas, please, you have the floor.

>> BAHAMAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Delegation of the Bahamas, Commonwealth of the Bahamas would like to invite all the delegates to the luncheon in support of our two candidates Mr. Stephen Bereaux for BDT and Council position. Dear Doreen, the Bahamas would be very privileged if you in your first act as Madam Secretary‑General would attend our reception and honor us. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

(Applause).

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Thank you very much, delegates. Congratulations, Doreen. I now close the Plenary.

(session completed at 12:45 p.m. EEST).

\*\*\*

This text is being provided in a rough draft format. Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings. This text,

document, or file is not to be distributed or used in any way that may violate copyright law.

\*\*\*