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>> CHAIR: Good morning, everyone.

Let's take our seats so we can start.

I kindly ask you again to take your seats. We will proceed to the Plenary meeting.

I would like to start by thanking Germany and Thailand for the beautiful reception they hosted yesterday. Thank you very much for this.

Also to Australia for the event organized this morning for the women and also for providing training for more than 100 women that attended the Plenipotentiary Conference. Thank you very much for this.

At today's intermission, let's give a round of applause for the translators that are hard working for us here today at the Conference.

Thank you.

We have another big day today. In front of us, so let's proceed forward.

The draft agenda of the meeting is published, ADM/22 document. Seeking your approval.

The agenda was approved.

We'll start with general policy statements.

I invite the representative of Algeria, Mr. Karim BIBI TRIKI., Minister of Post and Telecommunications, MinistÃ¨re de la Poste et des TÃ©lÃ©communications.

>> ALGERIA: Mr. Secretary‑General, Madam Elected Secretary‑General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, good morning, everyone. It is a great pleasure and honor for me to be able to address this august assembly made up of pioneers in charge of developing and implementing policies that promote ICTs and their use around the world. I'm happy to be able to do this in the setting offered by the ITU.

At the outset I would like to greet all members present at this august assembly and I would like to thank Romania for their excellent welcome extended to us and the excellent preparation for this Conference.

Ladies and gentlemen, within the framework of geo strategic. Climate and technological transformations that are becoming increasingly serious, humanity is called upon to tackle challenges that are becoming more and more complex in terms of development because of limited resources, the financial or natural resources, the needs of users are growing and users are more demanding of the services offered to them, this event is is a unique opportunity for us to take advantage of everyone's experience and exchange best practices. I would take this opportunity to give you a brief overview of the achievements of Algeria.

Within the framework of integrated approach adopted to respond to the needs of our citizens and the requirements of international cooperation, as part of this approach we have relied on developing the ICT sector in order for it to become the driver of the development model identified by the President of the Algerian republic, the model based on the human being and the wellbeing of humanity and based also on the SDGs. Algeria is making every effort to connect our citizens, these individuals are economic agents, we seek to connect them in order for each citizen to be able to take advantage of the benefits offered by digital technology and become part of Information Society and the economy of knowledge. And thereby, benefit from and contribute to the collective development outline we have.

We had significant investment which are bearing fruit and we seek to have a significant breakthrough in terms of quality and access. We're seeking to connect two‑thirds of Algeria families to fixed high speed and very high speed networks by 2024. This would account for 6 million people, families rather that are connected thanks to fiberoptic technology. These ambitious objectives and excellent results achieved by Algeria which include 4.5 million internet users connected to the fixed network, we can mention achievements of Algeria in terms of mobile networks. Results are exceeding the global medium because the number of internet users benefit from ‑‑ benefiting from 3 and 4G technologies are exceeding 4 million which is 90% of Algerian citizens.

Ladies and gentlemen, Algeria is considered as the door of Africa thanks to the geographic location and its commitment to the African continent. Therefore, we're trying to develop the broadband capacities that have doubled in the last few years. Our capacities account for 15% of broadband which connects Africa to Europe. Algeria has deployed more than 2,000 kilometers of fiberoptic which connects Algeria to Niger and a connection going to another province on the border with Mauritania and we're looking for inclusion in the African countries. Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you have a short overview of the achievements of Algeria in terms of strengthening telecommunication infrastructure.

I wish every success to this Conference and I thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Minister.

I would like to remind you that we'll have this morning 14 policy statements and after that, we'll start with the elections for today.

I invite now to take the floor the representative from Malawi, Malawi (Speaker) Mr. Chairman, Heads of Delegations, all protocols observed:

Chairman, let me firstly convey warm greetings from the Government and the people of the Republic of Malawi.

As we are taking the floor for the first time, let me also congratulate, you Mr. Chairperson on your appointment as Chairperson of this Plenipotentiary Conference and be assured that you have our full support as you discharge your duties.

Congratulations to Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin for being elected as the next Secretary General and of course our dear Brother, Tomas Lamanauskas, for being elected the Deputy Secretary General of ITU. I wish you both a successful term.

Malawi with a GDP of 625 USD per capita, is probably one of the least‑developed countries on earth, but our strong belief in the power of digital transformation and digital economy, gives us hope and is an answer to uplifting the livelihoods of our people in a connected world whilst bridging the current digital divide that COVID‑19 pandemic has further widened. The 625 U.S. dollars per capita does not hold us down, because we know that when you're down, the next turn is to go up. You

The theme of this conference, ‘Connect and Unite’ is a reminder that despite our differences in the levels of development, the internet is a global network for which we all have a shared responsibility and where we stand as strong as our weakest link. Uniting and working together for the good of all nations is not an option, it is a must.

Malawi is determined not to be left behind in this digital age, we are here to be counted and to be a formidable partner in current fourth industrial revolution.

Malawi’s digital transformation journey has been well defined in our agenda 2063 plan, which aligns with Africa union 2063 as well as SADC 2027 digital transformation strategy.

As a landlocked country, Malawi is spearheading the formation of diplomatic data corridors with its neighboring countries in a bid to reduce the cost of data, from $35 per MB towards the preferred $5 per MB price point, and increase internet penetration from 18% to 60% within the next 4 yours. The diplomatic data corridors will enable Malawi, and other landlocked countries to have affordable and meaningful connectivity.

Malawi seeks to improve its broadband coverage, from the current 38% to 75% in 24 months through deliberate efforts that empower local participation through the licensing of over 30 community broadband operators.

Speaking of the youth, we are rolling out a targeted Innovation and Research Fund, in partnership with the private sector, to the tune of $350,000.00 per year to ensure secure and sustainable funding for young innovators in Malawi. Deepening their matters in these matters.

Digital literacy is a risk that we have identified at this early stage in our digital transformation agenda, to this effect, we are currently reviewing, the primary and secondary school syllabus to fully embrace digital elements.

Our young people should be taught these issues at a young age.

We are not competing for any position in this conference, but rest assured that in 4 years’ time, Malawi shall be a formidable candidate for a seat at the ITU table.

Thank you.

We are so determined. Thank you very much for your attention.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Minister.

I now invite the representative of Belize,

Mr. Michel Chebat, Minister, ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics & E‑Governance.

>> BELIZE: Chairman, Excellency, Ministers, delegates, partners of the ITU, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the government and people of Belize, allow me to extend warm greetings and sincere gratitude to our host, the Government of Romania and the ITU for their hospitality and facilitation of the Plenipotentiary Conference 2022.

As I stand here today, I see colleagues, partners, visionaries working together to forge a shared vision of universal connectivity and sustainable Digital Transformation regardless of circumstantial differences. We each represent a commitment to achieving the shared prosperity of our people and the global community. It is without saying that this forward vision cannot be achieved without aligned, sustainable action, recognizing our role and importance of chartering a sustainable digital future.

In 2021 Belize launched the first ever digital agenda 2021, 2025, a four‑year modernization and transformation roadmap with citizen‑centric design, inclusivity, closing gap, innovation as some of the core guiding principles. Our national digital agenda represents our unwavering commitment and contribution towards sustainable Digital Transformation to build trust in government services. Trust is the foundation upon which our partners and societies, including the public can jointly explore and solve global challenges. One such global challenge is the digital divide. While it is critical to promote and facilitate the use of ICT as an instrument for on‑line government services delivery and sectorial transformation we must not overlook the growing digital gap limiting our citizens' opportunities from meaningful involvement in the digital economy. Our national digital inclusion program supported by UN development program and the Republic of China, Taiwan will address key issues from the digital gender skill gap, connectivity, inclusion and open government with the establishment of digital connect centres in rural areas and the launch of digital skills programmes targeting women and elderly, we aim to build a robust and empowered digital society where no one is left behind.

These efforts are complemented by the investments of our national telecommunication provider in launching a national expansion program to increase internet coverage to marginalized communities. We are confident that these among other country level initiatives will contribute to the goals of the ITU Connect 2030 Agenda. The further ‑‑ to further integrate digital technologies in our national Development Goals, we took the bold move of establishing the first of its kind digital government act with the support of the UNDP and this reenforces the fundamental principles and tenants to promote and facilitate the digitalization of public services and utilization of ICT. It further institutionalizes the tenants of supporting legislations such as the Data Protection Act, Electronic Transaction Act, the Public Sector Data Sharing Act and the Cybercrime Act. Together these legislations strengthen the enabling environment for the overall sustainable national digital transportation. Our experience over the last two years has highlighted the need to build partnership and cooperation, a robust legal environment and governance to support our adaptability and resilience to meet the needs of our citizens and create meaningful change that could impact all.

On behalf of the Government of Belize, I renew our commitment to the Connect 2030 Agenda, together we must become a platform to spur innovation, adaptation and partnership or sustainable Digital Transformation.

I wish to congratulate Doreen and Tomas and to recall the fact that both Belize and the world wish to receive universal connection, and we're looking forward to seeing you soon in Belize.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much.

Please stay within the 3 minutes allocated for each country. Thank you for that.

It is my pleasure now to invite you to take the floor, Saint Kitts and Nevis.

>> SAINT KITTS and NEVIS: Mr. Chair, Excellency, delegates, firstly, we wish to express strong commendation to the ITU for an exceptionally well organized Plenipotentiary and for the work the Union does to connect the world. Congratulations to Doreen Bogdan‑Martin and Tomas Lamanauskas on the election to Secretary‑General and Deputy Secretary‑General. We wish them every success.

We also wish to express our gratitude to the government and people of Romania who have been amazing hosts.

Saint Kitts and Nevis is the smallest nation in the western hemisphere with a population of 50,000. However, despite our size and in fact because of our size ‑‑ my apologies, my screen has gone.

Despite our size and in fact because of our size we aim to be a model of Digital Transformation. The government started its eGovernment journey in 2006 with a national Information and Communications technology Strategic Plan, which impact led to the establishment of the national ICT centre. The result in technology department facilitated the deployment of technology solutions across various ministry, department, agencies, although there was a slowdown in the transformation in the years just prior to COVID pandemic like other countries, the pandemic highlighted the need to improve and expand our ICT infrastructure and its accessibility to enable and foster universal affordable, secure, efficient, high speed internet access and ICT services. Our digital transformation journey as we start the implementation of the government strategy has resulted so far in the following: About 85% mobile and internet penetration, digital application for financial assistance during the pandemic, on‑line vehicle registration and licensing, creating an immunization database, on‑line immigration, customs portal eliminating the need for paper and improving entry processing speeds, local internet providers to engage in Partner2Connect initiatives to improve connectivity around the island, high speed internet provided for free to local community centres around the island to enable the unconnected citizens the opportunity to connect.

The government is going to lay the groundwork and physical equipment and infrastructure to create G1, the government wide network to facilitate seamless communication across the whole of government. While we have achieved individual milestones to achieve full Digital Transformation it is now necessary to fully embrace the whole of government strategy, however due to our limits associated with being a small island developing state such as our, the all of government strategy requires us to collaborate with the best ICT industry practitioners to aid in the capacity building of the local, technical talent and access to affordable, concessionary capital investment. In closing, we give the commitment to leave no one unconnected and achieve universal affordable broadband connection to 100% of our residents and citizens before 2030.

We will continue our collaboration with the ITU and other Member States so that we can provide a real dream of a digital economy and a full eGovernment service to all the people in the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

I now invite to take the floor representative of Dominica.

Dr. Nelson Arroyo Perdomo, Presidente del Consejo Directivo del Instituto Dominicano de las TelecomunicacionesIndotel.

>> DOMINICA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Secretary‑General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, I offer you warm greetings from the government and people of the Commonwealth of Dominica, a small majestic Island State situated in the heart of the world's most wonderful region, the Caribbean. I congratulate the Secretary‑General elect, Doreen Bogdan‑Martin and her deputy Tomas Lamanauskas for being elected to lead the ITU for the next four years. I believe that with the combined competence, experience and most importantly the vision, this is what is required to drive the ITU in the right direction. I can assure you, Madam Chair in general that you have our unwavering support as you seek to implement the vision that resonates so well with us. Allow me to also offer my deepest appreciation to the government and people of Romania, for being such an exceptional host for this very important event. It is indeed a pleasure to participate in this forum, held in this beautiful, historic city of Bucharest.

This conference is of great significance, especially for small developing states like Dominica. The long‑lasting effects of the current pandemic, the constant threats of natural disasters, and the ever‑changing technological landscape, all amplify the need for decisive action. No longer can access to services be a hindrance to social and economic empowerment. This fundamental principle has been elevated to top priority in the formulation of our national policy, in conformity with the UN sustainable development goals.

Your Excellencies, Dominica shares the view that telecommunications/ICTs are critical in accelerating growth and increasing productivity. Therefore, we are pursuing a vigorous agenda in which every single citizen will be impacted positively through the use of ICT’s.

Significant progress has been made towards achieving universal broadband connectivity by making strategic use of the Universal Service Funds. This initiative provides highly subsidized broadband services which ensures that student households have quality access, and are able to afford connectivity. Importantly, we have implemented programs to enhance the digital capacity of our youth to nurture the competencies needed for the jobs of the future.

Progress is being made towards transitioning to an E‑government, where public services will be administered online, thereby reducing the need for in‑person transaction costs, while increasing efficiency. Through the support from the ITU, we were able to improve our post‑disaster communications mechanisms, which have enhanced our overall level of resilience, as well as strengthened our early warning capabilities.

Your excellency, strategic partnerships are key in achieving our goals, these partnerships should aim to integrate transformative technologies in all aspects of the lives of our citizens. In the administration of public and private services in expanding commerce, and importantly, to add value to our productive sectors.

In that regard, the Government Dominica commends the Secretary General and the leadership of the ITU, for the significant progress made over the years. As we strive to look past the pandemic, and to overcome the many global challenges facing our economies, it is critical to maximize the role of the ITU in launching recovery and stimulating growth. Our commitment to maintain and improve the excellent record of collaboration with the ITU, has been well articulated by our Prime Minister, Honorable Roosevelt Skerrit, who is, and continues to be, a strong proponent of transformation through the use of telecommunications/ ICTs.

Your Excellency, Dominica affirms its commitment to the Connect 2030 Agenda, an agenda to connect the unconnected through partnership and long‑term collaboration.

Before I leave, I also want to seek your support for the Bahamas candidate for the position of Director of DBT. Stephen Bereaux represents exactly what the ITU is, what the ITU should be, and what we all expect from the ITU. I also want to endorse the candidacy of Cuba to the ITU Council. Cuba’s commitment to the sector has been nothing short of remarkable. Your kind support will be greatly appreciated..

I thank you, Mr. Chair.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

The next country to take the floor is Senegal, Mr. Moussa Bocar Thiam, Ministre de la Communication, des TÃ©lÃ©communications et de l'Economie NumÃ©riqueMinistere de l'Economie numÃ©rique et des TÃ©lÃ©communications.

>> SENEGAL: Ministers, Secretary‑General of the ITU, Distinguished Delegates, it is a real pleasure for me to take the floor before this august assembly to renew the commitments of the President of the Republic, and the whole of his government to always support the International Telecommunication Union and its work in order to achieve the common objectives that we have all established for ourselves.

As a member of this August organization since 1960 Senegal has always focused policies and strategies on the recommendations, principles, values of the Union. In this regard, since this is a fundamental tool for development, it is today a priority in the emerging Senegal plan which is a flagship policy of His Excellency, the President of the republic. To this end, my country has drafted a digital Senegal strategy 2025 with the vision being digital access for all, for all uses by 2025 in Senegal with a dynamic, innovative private sector in this ecosystem. The strategic objectives of the ITU, such as universal connectivity and sustainable Digital Transformation perfectly encompass our ambitions. More specifically, in terms of infrastructure, our country has seriously committed to implementing its national high speed and very high speed plan with more than 15,000 kilometers of fiberoptics and also the laying of five undersea cables which are key for ensuring good international connectivity. In terms reforms, we have reduced by 40% the cost of radio frequencies negotiated with tariffs over successive years. These efforts have enabled Senegal among other things to make progress in digital inclusion with an increase in mobile ‑‑ the mobile penetration rates with internet and a lowering of the access cost for communication services.

More importantly, and again, drawing lessons from the past, Senegal has been placing a vast universal access program to cover the most poorly served areas with an innovative economic model using the universal telecommunications service fund and getting on board with public and private actors.

As regards to the sustainable Digital Transformation, one of our priorities, Chairman, is to ensure that our citizens enter the digital sphere through procedures to make administration procedures paperless through developing digital skills and boosting employability of youth and women. Specifically speaking, the women's entrepreneurship, women's digital entrepreneur project has enabled us to train more than 27,000 entrepreneurs to nurture them and fund them.

Further, Senegal has a start‑up promotion act that enables us to put into place regulatory frameworks that encourage the innovation and entrepreneurship of young people. In the area of education, Senegal has put into place remote learning programmes and has boosted connectivity in schools and universities. Threes initiatives to make this universal and sustainable.

Regarding Cybersecurity, protection of children on‑line, it is a priority to fight against the addiction that is so threatening the harmonious development of young generations.

Also to fight against social exclusion of vulnerable groups, Senegal has put into place a centre for Persons with Disabilities in the workplace, and has refurbished computers and electronic devices. The idea of this, it is to encourage the hiring of persons living with a disability.

Senegal today align was ITU's mission to connect the world. We are working to ensure that our country, but also Africa and the world as a whole benefits from an inclusive digital economy. With a view to participate actively in the achievements of the goals of the Union and in reference to Document C18/47 on the sponsorship of new rooms in ITU headquarter, Senegal is delighted to inform you of its decision to sponsor the breastfeeding room with 100,000 Swiss francs.

Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Delegation of My country, I wish to extend my most sincere thanks and sincere congratulations to the Government of Romania for the warm welcome, hospitality and the fantastic conditions that have been provided to us and also for the quality of the organization of this great Conference.

We also extend this thanks to the ITU for their successful organization of this important telecommunications Conference.

Chair, by way of conclusion, I wish to renew my congratulations to the candidates who have already been elected, Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin and Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas respectively for their positions as Secretary‑General and Deputy Secretary‑General of the ITU. I wish to use this opportunity to launch an appeal to all Member States to support Senegal's candidacy which is approved by the African Union already in order to renew our term at the ITU Council for the 2023/2026 period as representative of the African region, Region D of ITU.

We're already very much looking forward to collaborating with all of the member countries in order to contribute to making our organization shine. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Your Excellency, as they will have elections.

I kindly remind you, we have only 3 minutes allocated for each country for the speeches.

Thank you very much for your understanding.

Now I invite the representative from Vanuatu.

>> VANUATU: Thank you, Chairman.

Ladies and gentlemen, I bring you warm greetings from the people of Vanuatu and we congratulate and applaud the government and the people of Romania for being a great host.

I take this occasion to congratulate the appointment as we know yesterday of the Deputy Director General and Secretary‑General, congratulations.

Connect and Unite is the theme of this Conference, it is very fitting as the world rebuilds from the COVID period, a period of disruption, a period of innovation, a period that the world can recognize the powerful role that ICT plays. This has proven that ICTs is essential to their lives. It is a period that we have demonstrated the power values and capabilities of a connected society and that we can achieve a lot. As you know, we all know, this Plenipotentiary Conference will look into the next four years to establish a direction of the ITU in ways that contribute to the prosperity of human ‑‑ humanity. I believe we share the views of the current challenges and policy experiences, strengthening the mutual understanding and joint efforts to mitigate this experiences. Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, since the Plenipotentiary was in 18, Vanuatu made strides in the sector development, of course, many have fond memories and the event in 2019. Thank you, ITU family, for giving us the opportunity to be the host of that event.

We recognize that ICTs through our national sustainability plan of 2030 and the increasing of use of and access to ICTs, including all non‑government service, one of the indicators for this objective is the percentage of population having access to meaningful, appropriate broadband connectivity. On average, over the four year, this pilot challenges, there are event, and COVID‑19, we have seen a positive growth in mobile prescription, mobile data subscription and mobile data downloads resulting in positive growth in revenue and total market revenue with a well‑designed, resilient infrastructure with robust regulatory frameworks that create for enabling environments and innovative service providers with improved speed and value in terms of this.

We are currently in the process of making a domestic subsea cable that will connect more than 10 kilometers of Vanuatu. This cable will improve the distribution of the international capacity and we believe this will develop meaningful and affordable broadband connectivity.

Thank you to the ITU, to our office in Bangkok, for the development of the digital government master plan and strategy. In the area of Cybersecurity, we delivered and established Child Online Protection policy, and we have a response team and in 2021 the cybercrime act was passed by parliament.

We are excited to be a part of the Partner2Connect during WTDC this year and we're committed to our pledges.

Mr. Chairman, today we call on ITU members to support the call for a process to establish a subregional offers for the Pacific. Mr. Chairman, it is important for all of us to increase and expand support to countries such as Vanuatu and small Pacific Island states to increase investment on infrastructure and standards and efficiency and our Human Resources and to continue to voice assistance to the small Island States. Friends and developing partners in this regard, we call on you to increase your level of support to establish and support a special trust fund for SIDS within the ITU for the utilization by SIDS.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: The next country to take the floor is the Democratic Republic of Korea

H.E. Mr. Pyong Du Ridprk, Ambassador to Romania, Embassy of the DPR Korea to Romania.

>> REPUBLIC OF KOREA: I thank the ITU and the government for successful holding of this Plenipotentiary Conference despite the global pandemic. Information and technology play as leading role in the work involving the economic social development and the role becoming all the more important today ‑‑ when the pandemic is sweeping all over the world.

The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea(DPRK) hopes that this Conference will become a significant occasion to deliberate on the Strategic Plan 2024~2027 of the ITU on the basis of the past experiences and lessons and to set a clear roadmap for the development of ICT that is more inclusive and popular.

Mr. Chairman, under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Jong Un, President of the State Affairs of the DPRK, the goal of modernizing the ICT field by 2025 has been set and its implementation work is now pushed ahead at full swing in our country, by holding fast to science and technology as the lifeline for socio‑economic development.

We have built the optical fiber network which covers even the smallest administrative units, thus providing reliable infrastructure for successful fixed broadband services. The mobile broadband network has been established throughout the country, making mobile services and their various applications available to all the people.

Thanks to the digital TV broadcasting network, everybody has a full access to high‑definition TV services and the dynamic development of fixed and mobile broadband has given much room for expansion to digital application services such as digitalization of government work, remote education and tele‑medicine, e‑commerce and e‑payment.

In the face of the current global health crisis caused by COVID‑19, the work of connecting all schools throughout the country to the national e‑database network is vigorously pushed forward to expand e‑education system nationwide.

The government of the DPRK will develop and introduce advanced cutting edge high‑tech including the next generation mobile communications technology and further perfect the IT infrastructure, so as to upgrade the level of modernization of ICT still higher to ensure all the people benefit from it.

At the same time, our government will continue to promote international exchanges and cooperation within the framework of the Two Strategic Goals of Comprehensive Universal Connectivity and Sustainable Digital Transformation reflected in the new ITU strategic plan.

As I extend my warm greetings to all participants here, I would like to conclude by reaffirming my conviction that the current Conference will serve as a meaningful occasion for sharing experiences gained in implementing the Strategic Plan adopted in 2018 and contributing to drawing up the future Strategic Plan.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

I now invite Greece to take the floor, Dr Athanasios Staveris‑Polykalas, Secretary General of Telecommunications and Post, Ministry of Digital Governance.

>> GREECE: Thank you.

Good morning.

Secretary‑General, Mr. Houlin Zhao, Honorable Ministers, Your Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen: First of all, I would like to congratulate Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin for her election as new Secretary‑General of ITU and Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas as a new Deputy Secretary‑General.

I would also like to convey my deep appreciation to Mr. Houlin Zhao for his excellent leadership as Secretary‑General for two consecutive terms. Last but not least, I would like to transfer the warm greetings of the Greek government to all participants and to take this opportunity to convey my appreciation to the Romania government for the warm hospitality and the excellent organization of this very important Conference that takes place in the beautiful City of Bucharest.

It is my great pleasure and privilege to take this post today in the 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference of ITU where important decisions will be taken that influences the development of ICTs at the global level and will contribute to the improvement of the prosperity of all humanity. Greece recognizes that universal connectivity and broadband for all will not only cat listen the achievement of our Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations, but will help with an inclusive digital society for Sustainable Development. The achievement of the SDGs is a major part of the national strategy, and it is also a global call, consequently we greatly appreciate the joint efforts of ITU and Member States for providing guidance with the challenges of promoting universal and affordable broadband for all.

In this context, Greece is engaged in the broadband activity and sustainable Digital Transformation. The Greek Ministry of Digital governance is the competent authority for our economy which is reflected in our national strategy 2020 to 2030 ‑‑ 2035. Named as Digital Transformation strategy. It is describing 400 projects outlining the basic principle, framework, governance model and the Digital Transformation of the country. It focuses on connectivity, digital skills, digital government, digital business, digital innovation, and integration of technology all developed in 17 areas of our economy as for example in interventions. Additionally, the international coalition for digital skills and jobs which was established in 2018 is seeking to promote the skills in the Greek society, focused in four established groups, education, training, ICT professionals and citizens.

During the pandemic this proved to be a benefit to the citizens for the strategy for the government and administrative barriers creating and enhancing digital governance. Moreover, from June of 2019 to August of 2021 the four National Action Plan was developed in cooperation with the Civil Society organizations with three main strategic objective, modernization of the state, public administration, recognition with the citizens with the state and public coordination and the policy in public administration. Greece introduced the national resilience plan Greece 2 it.0 including 106 investments and reforms using investment resources of more than 30 billion euro and mobilizing a total of 60 billion euros in investments in the countries in the next five years. The reforms will effect apart from the economic activity technologies, institutions paving the way for transformation aligned with the action lines there.

Is no doubt that the ability to all of the above, it is the broadband activity, high quality and the broadband environment able to support the economic development that is affordable for all. In this context, Greece developed policies and regulations promoting digital inclusion of People with Specific Needs, indigenous people, people living in rural areas, women, girls with disability, others. It was a challenging procedure for my ministry considering our population distribution, specifically a series of measures are described in the national broadband plan over a period of 7 year was a total investment of 2.5 billion euro including high broadband activity across the country and 5G and installation of cables to the Greek islands. The expanse of this activity is collaborated with large skill projects implemented with public‑private partnerships like the 160 million euro Global Project that offers broadband connectivity to 5,000 villages with over 10,000 kilometers of fiberoptic cables installed.

Greece is a country of 10 million citizens situated in the southern part of Europe. The strategic geographical position in this area serves as a pathway to Europe, Africa, Asia, and Greece is a remarkable location for establishing a strong international business in the humanitarian area. Greece is on the top list of nations having a value of over 400 billion U.S. dollar was our biggest market share coming and according to 2021, the trust fund from the United States Conference of Trade and Development, as of January 1, 2021, the top three country, in gateway and commercial value, we were in the list. Greece in the framework of the international organization also persistently contribute to the improvement of the coprosperity of human kind within and outside of our borders.

Greece as a founding member of ITU and member of the three consecutive periods for Council is seeking reelection to the ITU Council in Region B and are engaged in our commitment to work with all of the delegates towards a common vision. We greatly appreciate your support and your confidence.

Thank you very much for your attention.

>> CHAIR: It is my pleasure to call on Australia.

>> It is my honor to be here in Bucharest. I thank our hosts for showing us such warm hospitality. I would also like to express the election of Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin, a historic day and we pledge our support to your leadership.

We know the communications and information communication technologies can be incredibly empowering supporting economic prosperity, wellbeing, health, education and social inclusion.

Yet, in recent times our world has faced unprecedented and significant global challenges and disruptions. We commend the work in the response of ITU to COVID‑19. We also commend the ITU's work to support the recovery of telecommunication infrastructure in Ukraine and Australia is steadfast in our support of Ukraine.

We firmly believe the ITU's digital development objectives should prioritize providing those who remain unconnected with accessible, affordable and resilient connectivity. Now is the time for action.

Australia is proud of the longstanding involvement and heritage with the ITU. Working in partnership to deliver practical digital capacity building and development projects, particularly in the Asia‑Pacific region. These projects make a real and tangible difference. Australia's development projects address issues such as the development of emergency communication response plans, strengthening the digital skills and Cybersecurity capabilities, safe use of on‑line services and affordable access to ICTs. We are particularly proud to support the ITU's smart island and smart village initiatives in the Pacific. Activities that will improve access to key digital services such as health and education. We are acutely aware of the importance of the ITU's presence in the Pacific region. Reflecting on Australia's own situation, ours is a vast country with many remote and isolated communities.

Our reality means that the challenge to connect the unconnected, particularly the aboriginal and other communities is front of mind in the Australian government. By sharing our experience, building telecommunication capacity within the international community we can pave the way for better communications for rural, regional and remote populations globally. Australia has a strong record of supporting good governance in the ITU and we'll continue to promote accountability, transparency, inclusion, in the work of the Union.

We are committed to bridging the gender divide and amplifying the voices of women in ICT decision making processes, and ensuring that everyone can take advantage of the benefits of the Digital Transformation. As a top ten financial contribute tore the ITU, we place strong emphasis on efficient financial management and administrative processes across the Union activities. Accountable efficient use of resources assists to maximize funds available for capacity building activities and improving access to telecommunications.

Australia is committed to continuing the longstanding relationship with the ITU and working together in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration towards achieving universal, meaningful connectivity.

We hope that we can count on your support for reelection to the ITU Council. Thank you.

>> CHAIR:

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. We only have four countries that will make statements during this Plenary.

Make sure you'll be in the Plenary hall as we'll start after the elections.

You know the door will be closed.

I now invite to take the floor the representative of Paraguay, Mr. Victor Martinez, DirectorComisiÃ³n Nacional de Telecomunicaciones (CONATEL).

>> PARAGUAY: Chair of the Conference, Secretary‑General, Deputy Secretary‑General, Secretary‑General elect, Deputy Secretary‑General elect, Distinguished Delegates of Member States of the ITU, ladies and gentlemen, at the outset I wish to thank the Government of Romania for the hospitality and the ITU for the organization of this fantastic Plenipotentiary Conference. I wish to thank Mr. Houlin Zhao, Malcolm Johnson, Directors of the ITU for their efforts for global telecommunications.

As with all momentous events in human history, the COVID health crisis opened up new possibilities and made the essential role that telecommunications and ICTs have obvious. In this regard, Paraguay launched the national telecommunication plan 2021 to 2025 which is a benchmark instrument to define the objectives and goals of the telecommunications in the ICT sector. The main goal of the plan is to provide an environment in order to make the most of the opportunities proposed by the digital economy, by expanding the coverage of ICTs and telecommunications and in particular broadband and improving quality. This plan is aligned with the two strategic goals of the Union, which are universal connectivity and sustainable Digital Transformation and are aligned with goals 9 and 17 of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda.

In ITU, Paraguay has been working actively and has even played roles such as the regional chairmanship of Study Group 3 of ITU and the Vice‑Chairmanship of Study Group 1 of ITU‑D and the Vice‑Chairmanship of the Council of the Americas region. As a country, we're highly interested in continuing to support the Union and continuing to look after the interest of states, in particular landlocked developing countries and small Island States.

We invite you to continue to invest your trust in Paraguay through your vote so that we can remain in our seat in the ITU Council.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

I invite Chad to take the floor.

>> CHAD: Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, Heads of States and government, ladies and gentlemen, all protocols observed at the outset.

On behalf of the Delegation of Chad I would sincerely thank the government and the great people of Romania for their warm welcome and hospitality since our arrival in this beautiful City of Bucharest.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate you and your Bureau on your brilliant election as Chair of this Conference. I assure you of the support and the permanent availability of my delegation.

I take this opportunity also to congratulate and thank the ITU through its Secretary‑General Mr. Houlin Zhao and his colleagues for the successful organization of this Conference.

I would like to once again congratulate Madam Doreen Bogdan‑Martin on her brilliant and historical election as Secretary‑General of our Union. Yes, for the first time our Union will be led by a woman and Chad assures you of its permanent support throughout your term in office.

I would like to also congratulate the Deputy Secretary‑General Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas. I wish you every success in your new post.

The theme of this new Plenipotentiary Conference Connect and Unite is perfectly in line with the vision of His Excellency, the President of the interim monetary Council, President of the Republic of Chad who after having launched the Strategic Plan for the development of the digital sector and postal sector for 2030, the aim of which is to ensure safe and secure connectability open on the 20th of August of 2022, a national dialogue seeking to unite our people around one ideal, building a new Chad.

Ladies and gentlemen, at the end of the Plenipotentiary 2018 Chad immediately undertook to play its part in creating an Information Society on the basis of an interconnected world where telecommunications and ICTs allow and speed up growth and socioeconomic growth which is also sustainable.

This allowed us to achieve the following results, a national fiberoptic backbone of 307 kilometers, implementing the Trans Sahara fiberoptic backbone of 503 kilometers, 3G, 4G mobile network and 86% of Telecom coverage and so on.

Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, we all know that the Plenipotentiary Conference is a privilege platform offered to the Member States in order to express their visions on the new telecommunication ICT development. This is a very important debate in a sector that's constantly changing. In order to speed up the transformations, during the next several years, my country Chad plans to strengthen actions aimed to improve ICTs to create adequate conditions for the sustainable economic growth based on digital sector. We'll implement projects, in particular, broadband fiberoptic infrastructure will extend the coverage of high‑speed access networks and will strengthen Human Resources in terms of quantity and quality. These actions allow us to achieve the following objectives.

The contribution of digital economy to GDP of 10%, creation of 1,000 innovative companies in the sector of ‑‑ in the digital sector, the digitalization of 80% of the administrative procedures opened and secure access to ICTs for 80% of the population, reduction of poverty by 50% thanks to ICTs and the digital works of Chad's goods and services accounting for 2% of shared works in Africa.

Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, in the extraordinary progress in the sectors of ICTs in the last ten years thanks to the work of the ITU, my delegation has great hope was regard to the results of our work which will determine the future of our organization and beyond that of our economies and populations which will be all interconnected and united.

Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, to conclude, I would like to stress here that my country reiterates its support for the consensus‑base aid approach which has always prevailed in the high‑level meetings of the ITU. With this, I wish every success for the work of the Plenipotentiary Conference and I thank you for your kind attention.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

I now invite Ethiopia.

>> ETHIOPIA: Mr. Chair, Chairman, Mr. Secretary‑General, Excellency, Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honor for me to deliver the statement at this Conference today.

On behalf of the people and Government of Ethiopia I would like to join others in thanking the government and people of Romania for hosting this ITU Plenipotentiary Conference and for the warm welcome extended to us.

In the same way, I would like to commend the ITU Secretariat for the excellent work with the necessary preparations for this Conference.

I express sincere congratulates to the Chairman, Mr. Sarmas, elected as Chairperson of this Conference and also to Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin, the first female Secretary‑General to lead our global Union in its 157‑year history and Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas for being elected as Deputy Secretary‑General of the ITU. I would like to assure you all of the cooperation and support of my country during your tenure.

Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, we thank the organizers of the work done thus far by the ITU. Over the years, Ethiopia's membership of ITU dates back to 1932 which makes the cooperation and partnership between ITU and my country over 90 years. The ITU regional office for Africa is also in the diplomatic capital City of Africa. Since 1972 Ethiopia has been strongly dedicated to support the achievements and the goals of the organization.

It will continue to fully commit itself to the strategy, direction set by the ITU to ensure universal connectivity, promoting the much‑needed digital accessibility to narrow the digital divide.

In the last four year, major reforms took place in Ethiopia, among this is the home grown agenda with telecommunication ICT sector. The telecommunication industry in Ethiopia generated an opportunity for various Telecom players. In 2021 Ethiopia had a consortium with many and with the cooperations of others and the international investment to the Telecom operator in the country. This was operationalized in August of 2022. Preparations are also underway to launch the second new licensed tool to bring onboard a third Telecom operator. The privatization and the national Telecom operator is also well underway recognizing the need for a strong regulatory body, my government established the Ethiopian communication authority to carry out the regulations and to oversee the sector liberalization and the privatization effort in line with the universal connectivity strategy goal, Ethiopia established the Universal Access Fund, and that service framework was also developed and put into action.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ethiopia has been also making tremendous change in the digital space in June 2020 Ethiopia developed a Digital Transformation strategy, digital Ethiopia, 2025 with objective to build an inclusive digital economy that leave not one behind. The strategy aims at developing the infrastructure mainly for connectivity and power, enabling systems such as digital ID, digital entertainment, Cybersecurity, data interaction among government private sector and citizen sectors, eGovernance and eCommerce and the digital ecosystem including finance regulatory framework and the people digital skills.

We believe that digital ICT is a critical sector for the promotion of jobs and the utilization is expected to leapfrog the nation from its current state to a knowledge‑driven Information Society and economy. This is having legal frameworks to enable this framework that's being developed. The transaction program, the personal data proclamation, the national Idaho proclamation, other key frameworks, they will play key roles in enabling the ecosystem, initiatives such as the digital ID, eCommerce, eGovernment, digital skills and literacy are expected to become fully operational in the next four years.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to conclude by expressing my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the outgoing Secretary‑General Mr. Houlin Zhao for his assistant and committed service of 24 years in leadership as Director of Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Deputy Secretary‑General, secretary, and Secretary‑General of the ITU. We appreciate your hard work and determination and the achievements during your terms of office. We are very much grateful for your service.

Ethiopia will be hosting the upcoming IGF from 28 November to December, 2022. On behalf of my government, I would like to invite you all to come and enjoy our hospitality. Looking forward to closely working with the newly‑elected officials, and offering congratulations in advance, I wish all of us a successful deliberation at the Plenipotentiary Conference 2022.

I thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

Last but definitely not least, I ask Mali,

Mr. Harouna Mamadou Toureh, Ministre, MinistÃ¨re de la Communication, de l'Economie NumÃ©rique et de la Modernisation de l'Administration.

>> MALI: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, Minister, respected delegations:

On behalf of the Government of Mali, I would like to thank the highest authorities of Romania for the warm welcome extended to us and for the organization of this Conference.

I would also like to, just like my predecessors to congratulate Madam Doreen Bogdan‑Martin of the United States and Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas from Lithuania, elected respectfully to Secretary‑General and Deputy Secretary‑General of the ITU.

To our brother from the Russian Federation and the colleague from the Republic of Korea as well as other, I wish every success and a successful career.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, since 1960, Mali promoted the ITU and it believes in ITU and the comparative advantage of international cooperation. Our country is committed to the development of ICTs, in particular in the governance, education, agriculture, health, security, trade posts and access to universal telecommunication services. To bring this together for users and to improve the transparency of public action.

I would like to mention the ambitions and achievements of our country in ICTs: To ensure the convenience of the users, we have set up a legal institutional setting to undermine ‑‑ in order to stop isolation and we have created centres and regulatory texts, information society, Cybersecurity regulations have been developed. To unite all initiative, the government adopted a document of a national policy for digital economy in order to place Mali among emerging countries in ICTs. The Government of Mali plans to make the country a hub in the area of ICTs by taking advantage of the territory's population diversity and the geographic position and its Human Resources so draw up a strategy for Smart Cities, to set up measures against cybercriming and to develop a virtual lending point and make ICTs not only a tool effort developing economy but ensure that it provides jobs. To implement all of these projects, the government in partnership with international financial institutions, it will operational rise more than 3,000 kilometers of fiberoptic in addition to the 6,000 that already exists. This investment allows Mali to be connected, to have broadband connection to 5 of 6 neighbors.

There is a growth, there is more than 10 million subscribers and in 2021, in order to continue broadening access, we have extended existing 4G operator licenses, and we have set up an internet exchange point.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to congratulate the ITU staff on the efforts they're making towards helping Developing Countries providing multifaceted assistance in telecommunications and ICTs. My country will continue to make contributions for the success of our organization and for the development of ICTs and telecommunications.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, to conclude, Mali will continue to ensure, to contribute to the ICTs and I remain convinced that only the synergy of the actions of all members of the ITU will allow to achieve the objectives of our organization in line with the shared vision of the new team whose Secretary‑General, Deputy Secretary‑General were welcomed yesterday. Let's continue our efforts in our respective countries.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, thank you, Ministers, thank you, Excellencies, for your statements, thank you Distinguished Delegates for your attention.

I give now the floor, I invite to take the floor the Secretary‑General of ITU, Mr. Houlin Zhao.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Excellencies, Minister, Ambassador, dear colleagues, I would like to take this important moment before our election of Director of the Bureaus started to provide my certificate to all standing Chairman of the Council Working Groups on internet related issues, my friend, my brother,

His Excellency Mr. Majed Al Mazyed, recognizing his important contribution to the work and the knowledge to the accessibility and the importance of this issue within the ITU family and it is very good leadership that guided this group through all of these periods since 2009 up to 2022 and also his very nice, wonderful personality that helps us to have this important issues be debated, be managed up until now.

He was promoted by his government to be the Minister of national Cybersecurity authority last year. I was pleased to hear, this normally when we have an expert to work with ITU with the international activities, the national government does not really provide another kind of promotion for them to be at the ministry level. This is a wonderful achievement of his career, and also I think that it is a recognition of his value for not only solidarity but for the world.

We are very pleased to have here and very fortunate to have him here now. Let me invite His Excellency to come to the stage and let's provide a symbolic recognition from my certificate and the coordinator.

Excellency.

Thank you and I give you the best, let me give the floor with your permission, Chairman, to say a few words, please.

Majed Al Mazyed.

>> Secretary‑General of the International Telecommunication Union, Minister, Heads of Delegation, Excellencies, President of the Plenipotentiary Conference, Delegates, participants, ladies and gentlemen, may the peace and blessing of God be with you.

At the outset, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to the Government of Romania for the excellent organization of our work making this an extremely efficient Conference and making our stay very pleasant. I would also like to thank the ITU headed up by Mr. Secretary‑General Mr. Houlin Zhao and I wish to thank the elected officials for this gesture which is really touching to me.

At the same time, I thank all Heads of Delegation, the members of the delegations who I have had the honor of working alongside over recent years and I also want to thank colleagues from the ITU. I have learned so much over my years at the ITU and thanks to my work here, my skills have been boosted. Especially colleagues, the delegation, especially youth. I call on them to invest in ITU because this organization brings together elites, experts from the whole world in the areas that we work on and it can really help them to boost their knowledge and their professional skills.

I wish to applaud most particularly the Government of My country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and especially the Holy Place, the Crown Prince, his Royal Highness, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and they have really supported me so much. I thank all of the colleagues who supported me in my work at ITU, and I really hope that the work of our Conference will be crowned with success for the good of humanity and the people of the world. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you and congratulations for your work as well. We will continue with the third point on our agenda, the elections of the Directors of the Bureau. I will pass the floor to the Secretary of The Plenary to explain the procedures which are similar to what we have had yesterday

>> SECRETARIAT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman..

As was the case yesterday,

the room has been divided into 5 blocks, numbered 1 to 5. Each block has a voting station. Document 110(Rev.2) 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 transfers of powers and transfers of votes, the secretariat has received 4 transfers of powers and 1 transfer of vote. I refer you all to documents 98, 99, 100, 102, and 113 of our Conference.

The Member States who have a transfer of powers or vote and who will therefore cast six ballots, so two for each election, are requested to cast the ballots at the voting station of the respective Member State. Please listen carefully when each Member State will be called so that the ballots are deposited in the correct box.

All delegates who are depositing ballot papers must bring their badge to the voting station for verification and scanning.

The 5 tellers who will oversee this election are already in place.

The teller representing Region A is at ballot box 1;

Region B at 2;

Region C at 3;

Region D at 4;

Region E at 5.

In accordance with No. 131 of the 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 results of the vote.

Security, could you please close the doors to the Plenary room?

Thank you. The doors are now closed.

I confirm that the quorum is met.

The doors of this meeting room will remain closed and will be opened again once the casting of 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 three ballot papers to all delegations having the right to vote and present in the room. The ballot paper for the Director of Radiocommunication Bureau is white, the ballot paper for the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau is blue, and the ballot paper for the Telecommunication Development Bureau is green.

Ushers, could you please start distributing ballot papers? Delegations having received a transfer of powers or vote from another delegation will receive six ballot papers.

Regarding the ballot papers, they have a computer‑generated 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. The box is identical on all ballot papers in the specific round. It is not possible to use the box to identify who has completed any specific ballot paper..

Look carefully at the screen regarding the instruction on how to fill out the ballot paper.

Please note that the voting procedure requires that delegates mark their ballot with an "X" , and only an "X", in the appropriate boxes to indicate their choice. Please look at the examples on the screen. Do not use a check or a tick, but only an X, as you see up here.

Each delegation is requested to complete the three ballot papers at the same time so that the three ballot papers may be put in the ballot box one after the other. Please bring all three ballot papers to the box.

If a delegate makes a mistake when completing a ballot paper once the vote has started, the delegate should raise the point of order paddle.

The secretariat will collect and destroy the ballot paper in question and provide a new one. You should have received 6 ballot paper, they need to be completed at the same time.

As I did yesterday,

I will call out the French short names of the Member States having the right to vote by groups of 15 for each voting station. If you do not hear your Member State name in the first batch, please stay calm but wait for me to call one of the next batches.

For Member States who have a transfer of power or vote, again, each ballot paper should be deposited in the respective box corresponding to the Member State. So Member States who have received six ballot papers, you might have to go to two different ballot boxes.

I will call all 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 ballots closed. I would request all delegates to regain their seats when they have cast their votes.

Before starting the vote, all delegations having the right to vote should have three ballot papers, and those with a transfer of power or vote should have six. If not, please identify yourselves.

Mr. Chairman, I believe all delegations having the right to vote now have their ballot papers.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Secretary of the Plenary.

Are there any questions?

I now declare that the voting has begun and I pass the floor back to the Secretary.

>> SECRETARIAT: So that delegations can see where the 5 voting stations are located, I will ask the staff at those stations to hold the ballot boxes in the air in consecutive order from 1 to 5. The ballot boxes are transparent so that you can see that they are empty. Box 1, Box 2, Box 3, Box 4, Box 5. When you arrive at the voting station, your badge will be scanned and then you may deposit your ballots in the ballot box.

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

Afghanistan.

Albania.

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.

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.

Finland.

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.

Cabo Verde.

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 African Republic.

Sweden.

Thailand.

Tonga.

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

Haiti.

Honduras.

Hungary.

India.

Italy.

Jamaica.

Japan.

Kazakhstan.

Kiribati.

Madagascar.

Malaysia.

Malawi.

Maldives.

Mali.

Malta..

Voting station 5.

Cameroon.

Canada.

Central African Republic.

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, we will continue with voting station 2 for the third batch.

Tadjkistan.

Tanzania.

Chad.

Timor-Leste.

Togo.

Uruguay.

Vanuatu.

Viet Nam.

Yemen.

Zambia.

Zimbabwe.

For voting station 3, third call.

Trinidad 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.

Voting station 2, Montenegro.

I have now completed my list. I will pass the floor back to you.

>> CHAIR:

Thank you, Secretary of the Plenary.

I now declare that the casting of ballots is closed. Now, the Tellers and ITU staff, please proceed to the Green Room with the ballot boxes.

Under the supervision of the tellers in the Green Room, the ballot boxes will now be opened and the ballot papers will be counted. The results will be Announced in 43 minutes.

We'll be here back at 10 before 12:00. After the coffee break offered by

Burkina Faso in Brancusi hall.

After the coffee break.

Burkina Faso, you're asking for the floor.

Burkina Faso, you have the floor.

>> BURKINA FASO: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Mr. Chair, Minister of digital transmission posts and telecommunications, we have the pleasure to invite you to the coffee break that will be held in Brancusi hall in the palace of the parliament. Burkina Faso is pleased to welcome all of you to this coffee break.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Burkina Faso.

We will meet back at 10 before 12:00 again.

Thank you.

(Break).

>> CHAIR: Before starting, the tellers are still counting in the green room, I have a kind request to the interpreter, can you please give us additional time, 30 minutes, in 30 minutes we'll be able to announce all of the results and actions.

>> Chairman, yes. That will be fine. I'll check with the chief.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much.

Chairman, this is the interpreters again, to let you know, that's fine for the extra time. There is another team on its way.

>> CHAIR: Thank you for your confirmation and ability to help us.

Thank you so much.

(Break)

>> CHAIR: Dear delegates, please be patient, as long as we have the votes out ‑‑ it is taking a little bit longer. We can have some music in the room. Thank you.

The tellers have finished their work and will soon announce the results.

I would like to thank the tellers for the hard work they have done today.

I have received the reports from the tellers. Thank you. Thank you for the music. I will proceed with the announcement according to the Constitution and Convention.

In specific order, I start with Director of Radio Bureau, Director of TSB and finally the Director of BDT. So the teller report from the election of BR Director:

Ballot papers deposited, 181.

Invalid ballot paper, 2.

Abstention, 5.

Delegations present for vote, 174.

Required majority, 88.

So as you have seen, Mario Maniewicz is elected from Radio Bureau.

Congratulations, Mario, as I can declare you being reelected as Director of Radio Communication Bureau. I kindly invite you to take the floor and say a few words.

>> MARIO MANIEWICZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I will speak in Spanish.

Sir, distinguished authorities, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, I would like to start by expressing my most deep gratitude to the Member States of ITU for the confidence that they placed in me in continuing to enable me to hold the Office of Director of the BR over the next four years.

In the Plenipotentiary Conference in Dubai in 2018 you gave me the honor of granting me the opportunity to head the BR. The four years that followed on from that constituted an unexpected challenge, inevitably as a result of the onset of the COVID‑19 pandemic which, as we know, affected the entire world.

I am, however, very satisfied to note that despite those difficulties we managed by uniting the efforts of delegates and the BR staff to adapt to the way in which we were working in order to keep the activities of the sector and to continue to provide products and services traditionally provided by the office.

Today I'm very proud that the Member States have renewed their support so as to enable me to continue to be BR Director for a new cycle. This expression of trust, helping me to recommit to the Member States so that the Radiocommunication Sector here in ITU continues to be able to meet the challenge of technological development and keep up the levels of energetic work required from it by Member States and our partners in industry. During my first term of office I had the pleasure of being able to work side by side with Secretary‑General Mr. Houlin Zhao, Deputy Secretary‑General Mr. Malcolm Johnson and the TSB and BDT Director, Mr. Chaesub Lee and Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin respectively.

During my second term in office, it will be a great satisfaction for me to be able to be a member of the new Management Team led by Doreen whose vision of the role of this organization and the dedication to achieving its goals I fully share.

The advantages that I will no longer be the only elected official of the organization with issues to tackle. I would also like to thank the BR management and the rest of the staff of the BR for their tireless, dedicated work and their commitment to serving Member States in high quality, effective, efficient way.

It is an additional honor for me to be able to lead the excellent technical team and the equally excellent staff in the office. Dear friends, I would like to express my gratitude to the authorities of my own country for having given unconditional support to my candidacy, and I thank the national Director for telecommunications and other, and the Chairman of the communications regulatory authority in Uruguay and I extend my thanks to the other members of the Uruguay delegation who have been present here and also gave me unconditionable support.

Last and in order and not necessarily in order of importance, I should like to thank my family and especially my spouse Patricia who is with me here today in Bucharest, my children for all the support that they have given me during my long career in ITU and especially for the enormous patience and understanding which they have demonstrated during my very frequent absences from home.

Sir, the next four years will, I think, be a culmination of my professional life, I'm very, happy that this final this stage in my career will start here in this beautiful City of Bucharest. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mario.

Congratulations again. Congratulations for all of your work with the ITU and everything you've achieved so far.

I give now the floor to Uruguay.

>> URUGUAY: Ladies and gentlemen, delegates, everybody here in this room, Uruguay is extremely proud and would like to thank the wide ITU family for its support and reiterated trust in the excellent work done over the last four years by Mr. Mario Maniewicz as Director of the BR. We are convinced that his ability, his sense of leadership, his experience, and his relationship with the ITU team as well with the support of all of the organizations, member administrations and naturally with the financial resources available to him which will help to meet current and future challenges. The office will be able to achieve the goals set for it and do the work interested in it, promoting and making universal access to ICT and related services.

We are particularly happy in Uruguay that Mario is the first ITU BR Director coming from a developing country. In his 34 years of work in the International Telecommunications Union he has helped us to work together so that all countries irrespective of their level of development and or geographic location can develop the telecommunication networks and have access to the products and services provided by the organization. All of us know how sensitive Mario is and that that sensitivity has brought people closer while working to develop and promote new technology.

We all face major changes. We know that. In the face of them, if we continue to work together and redouble our efforts in working together, I think we'll be able to continue to make progress, come closer together and reduce the digital divide. Thank you all very much again for your trust and confidence in Mr. Mario Maniewicz. Mario, congratulations. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Congratulations.

I ask the interpreters to give us another 30 minutes.

>> Yes, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIR: Thank you.

We take at this stage now the request from the floor from other countries, but the countries of the winner, that's the case, now ‑‑ you will have the chance of expressing congratulatory messages in the Plenary we're having this afternoon. Apologize for this. We have time constraints and it is impossible otherwise.

Secretary‑General, please, you have the floor.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I'm very well happy with the reelection of my dear colleague Mario, Mario Maniewicz, Director of our Radiocommunication Bureau. Let me on behalf of our current management members, congratulations for the reelection of Mario, Mario Maniewicz, as Director of radiocommunication for the next four years. With his reelection I know we're all very sure that the radiocommunication business will be in good hands and that the Bureau, the next Conference of the BRC next year, it will be handled by his skills, his knowledge, his very good leading capacities. I'm pretty sure we'll have a very good four years radiocommunication business to be in good hands.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Secretary‑General.

Just to make sure that we're in the right order.

I now read the tellers report for the election of TSB Director.

First round, ballot papers deposited, 181.

Invalid ballot papers, 2.

Abstention, 0.

Delegations present and voting, 179.

Required majority, 90.

Announcement of results in ascending order of numbers of votes obtained.

Thomas Zielke, 21 votes.

Bilel Jamoussi, 65 votes.

Seizo Onoe, 93 votes.

Seizo Onoe from Japan has obtained the required majority and I declare him Director of Telecommunication Standardization Bureau.

Congratulations, Seizo Onoe. The floor is yours.

>> SEIZO ONOE: Thank you. Thank you.

Excellencies, Honorable Ministers, Ambassadors, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

To begin with, I would like to thank you all for your support across regions. I appreciate your votes of TSB Director elect and I commit to improving the ITU‑T sectors and making it the best it can be.

Concerning my background in the private sector, I believe being an outsider of ITU, which I humbly admit, will bring diversity into the ITU leadership with a strong sense of committed responsibility I look forward to working with Ms. Doreen Bogdan‑Martin, our next Director General, Secretary‑General, and the first woman to lead ITU in its 157‑year history and Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas, the youngest Deputy Secretary‑General, I don't know what I would be! (Laughter).

It is an honor to join such a dream team alongside with Mario Maniewicz, most competent BR Director.

During my campaign I was fortunate to be able to interact with other candidates from all corners of the world, wonderful people who inspired me and here we meet again with our interaction, encouraging me to be my best. Thank you, my friend, Dr. Thomas Zielke and Bilel Jamoussi.

I'm happy to work together to connect the unconnected anywhere in the future.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Romanian government for its warm hospitality and the leadership of the PP‑22 President and Chairman, honorable Mr. Sarmas.

It is not very Japanese to praise one's own, but I would like to thank the Japanese government led by Prime Minister and my entire campaign team for their tireless and supportive effort throughout the campaign.

Also, a big thanks to you, Secretary‑General Mr. Houlin Zhao, Deputy Secretary‑General Malcolm Johnson and TSB Director, Dr. Chaesub Lee, all for their long dedication to the ITU, all current and former TSB Directors.

The Secretary‑General Houlin Zhao had started talking me being father of 5G since Japan joined in Rwanda this last June and I'm delighted to acknowledge the further work of 5G by the ITU Secretary‑General. It is a humbling person to be called the father of FTE and the father of 5G. In my private life I'm the proud father of children, both of whom are now independent adults. I must express thank you to my wife whose support to raise good children while helping me be a better father.

Finally, I want to thank all of the members, trying to realize the commitment that I have made to the campaign and as I always say, I'm to be a Director I will hear the voices of the member countries and listen to them, with a focus in order to increase ITU‑T for all.

Thank you all, very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Seizo Onoe. Congratulations again.

I would like to invite you to take the floor, if you would like to ask for the floor, I will give it to you.

Please, Dr. Thomas Zielke, you have the floor.

>> THOMAS ZIELKE: I would like to thank the membership of the ITU for the fair treatment I have received.

I would like to congratulate my colleague from Japan for the election. I wish you every best for your office. I thank you Mr. Seizo Onoe for being a good partner in this campaign.

On behalf of the German government, thank you to all. We'll continue to have our commitment ready for the ITU, also for the election of the Council.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Dr. Thomas Zielke.

I give now the floor to Bilel Jamoussi.

>> BILEL JAMOUSSI: Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. I would start by thanking all of the con got ‑‑ congratulating Mr. Seizo Onoe for his win. I thank the membership that believed in me and voted for U those that supported me and did not vote for me and the ones that did not vote for me. Thank you very much.

I thanks my family, my loving wife and my three sons for standing by me and supporting me and enduring many days away from home campaigning for position. I thank and have gratitude to my government, Tunisia for all of the support that I have been given, and I would like to also thank the Ministry of external affairs and for all of what they have done for us in order to come here to Bucharest. I would also like to thank the team that's accompanied us here to Bucharest. I would also lake to offer my thanks and gratitude to all of the new team that's been elected to the ITU management. I wish them all the success, for all of the services that they're offering to the ITU.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Dr. Bilel Jamoussi.

I invite now to take the floor Japan.

>> JAPAN: On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would express our deep and sincere appreciation for the confidence you have placed in our candidate, Mr. Seizo Onoe.

We are grateful for each and every one of your votes and in particular permit me to express my respect and gratitude as a government to the candidates Thomas Zielke and Bilel Jamoussi for participating in this election in a fair manner.

Seizo Onoe will quickly bring the benefits of the ICT to ITU, governments and private sectors.

This team is dynamic diversity, Doreen Bogdan‑Martin, Secretary‑General elect, the first woman to lead the ITU in its 157‑year history, Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas, the Deputy Secretary‑General elect, the youngest elected, Mario Maniewicz, competent BR Director with extensive knowledge of the sector, and I take this opportunity to say congratulations to Mario.

Mr. Seizo Onoe joins with his excellent expertise from the industry, and we all know an organization with diversity is strong and flexible to respond and adapt to rapid changes which we face in the telecommunications field. Mr. Chairman, Japan is ready to support the new and die diversified ITU team. Japan is preparing the fund to promote the creation of a new system in Digital Transformation as committed to by Mr. Onoe and contributing to deploying the benefits of connectivity to all. The Government of Japan also would extend gratitude to Secretary‑General Mr. Houlin Zhao, Deputy Secretary‑General, Mr. Malcolm Johnson and TDS Director Mr. Chaesub Lee for their long service to the ITU and telecommunications world.

Japan will continue to support Mr. Seizo Onoe, TSB Director Elect to further his commitment.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Japan. Congratulations to you as well.

I pass the floor to the Secretary‑General of ITU, Houlin Zhao.

>> HOULIN ZHAO: Thank you very much.

I would like to start by my congratulations to the TSB Bureau elected, Mr. Seizo Onoe. As he mentioned, the age, the youngest, the oldest, and you have all of the previous TSB Directors here, I apparently you're not considered the youngest elected TSB Director. I was elected in 1998 and my son had not gotten married and now he has two children and we have grandchildren now. Also I think that people well recognize the competence in telecommunications.

You mention that had I recognize you as father of 5G, I was advised at the Japanese reception held in Council that you are well recognized as father of 5G, I remember that at this time at your reception, I also, you know, am pleased to see you as father of 5G.

Anyhow, I think that with this TSB's post to be headed by Mr. Seizo Onoe, we can be assured that the TSB will continue to work with industries, with the government to develop the international telecommunication technology standards and information standards. I'm very, very confident.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay my tribute to Thomas Zielke, you know, a lifetime expert and he has a lot of experiences with industry, with private sector, with the other UN agencies and with other standard setting organizations. I hope that he will continue to help us to strengthen our connection was others and wish him all of the best in his future.

Bilel Jamoussi, I know him since the year 2000, he's an expert for the ICT for IT and he was very much respected by the industry experts and has worked this year, managing the wonderful WTSA. WTSA is very much appreciated by people. That, of course, I also would like to give my best wishes for his future and wherever we can profit from his participation in our activities or to have his support from enterprises that he would like to mobilize, I wish him all the best.

Ladies and gentlemen, with this election, we have four of our new team members elected. Now we're waiting for the last one.

Let me give back the floor to our Chairman.

Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much, Secretary‑General.

I read now the teller's report for the election of BDT Director.

Ballot papers deposited, 181.

Invalid ballot papers, 1.

Abstentions, 0.

Delegations present and voting, 180.

Required majority, 91.

I'll announce the results in ascending order of numbers of votes obtained.

Jean Philemon Kissangou, 8 votes.

Alexander Ntoko, 11 votes.

Anusha Rahman Khan, 20 votes.

Muhammodou M.O. Kah, 35 votes.

Stephen Bereaux, 47 votes.

Cosmas Zavazava, 59 votes.

As no candidate has obtained the majority required for the election in the first round, we have to proceed for a second round of voting this afternoon and I need your approval for this. We start later.

We will be starting the next Plenary at 3:00 with the ceremony for signing the Host Country Agreement for WRC and from 3:30 to start the voting process. I seek for your approval to start voting for 3:30.

Any comments? I assume you know that according to the Constitution we have to have 6 hours in between, but if the Plenary decides, we have less than that, we can start immediately. But it is not possible.

Again, my proposal is to start the Plenary at 3:00 and the election at 3:30.

I see a request from the floor from China.

Please, China, you have the floor.

>> CHINA: Thank you, Mr. President.

Chinese delegation invites all members and participants to attend our reception. We call for your support in supporting us to elect as the Council member and to be elected as the RRB. Thank you.

>> CHAIR: Thank you for the invitation. We'll be there as soon as the Plenary meeting closes.

Is there any requests for the floor considering what I proposed regarding the elections? I see a request from Algeria.

>> ALGERIA: Mr. President, speaking on behalf of the Minister to offer the delegates to a coffee break offered at 15: 50. We would like for you to tell us when it will be taking place. It will be after the vote I take it?

>> CHAIR: Thank you for the invitation. I can ask you to take the floor to things related to our proposal and then we will move on with the elections.

UAE, please, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Thank you, Chairman.

Just we would like to support your proposal.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Thank you very much.

Canada.

>> CANADA: Chairman, the same topic, supporting the proposal with one question, our understanding is that all of the ad hoc meetings scheduled for today afternoon will continue and we'll still come here at the time you have indicated?

>> CHAIR: Thank you, Canada. The only meeting for today is the Working Group of the Plenary unfortunately, and the others, as you said are not. Thank you, Canada, again.

Another request for the floor from Bahrain.

>> BAHRAIN: We would like to support the suggestion we go ahead with voting as planned.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much.

As I see that the proposal we made has strong support, we will meet here back at 3:00 for the Plenary starting with a ceremony, signing the most country agreement and from 3:30 we'll start the second round of elections for BDT.

Thank you very much.

A special announcement as well, I forgot. If there is any Member State wishing to withdraw their candidature, the head of delegation must inform me no later than 2:30 at the Office of The Chair. So you can reach me. If any candidate would like to withdraw, you must inform me before 2:30 at my office.

Thank you.

Thank you so much.

Greece, you have the floor, please.

Please give the floor to Greece.

>> GREECE: Since the schedule is a bit delayed, I wanted to invite all distinguished colleagues and participants to the Greek social event that's right after the social event of China. We will be very happy to see you there to taste some Greek food and enjoy.

Thank you very much.

>> CHAIR: Thank you very much. Thank you for the invitation. We'll be there.

(Plenary concluded at 12:58 EEST)

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