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BUSAN, KOREA

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ROOM A

EIGHTEENTH PLENARY SESSION

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>> CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Could you take your seat, please? We'll soon begin our Eighteenth Plenary Meeting. Please take your seat and put your headset on.

The Eighteenth Plenary Meeting is called to order. Based on the agenda we approved in the morning, now we will address Agenda Item Number 4, which is Report from the Chairman of Committee 6 to Plenary. I'd like to invite Chairman of Committee 6 to make the report to the Plenary. Australia, you have the floor.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my pleasure to present Document PP‑14/150, the report by the Chairman of Committee 6. The Committee's Terms of Reference were to consider the draft Strategic Plan and other reports and proposals relating to the Strategic Plan. Examine relevant reports and proposals on the general management of the Union, in particular those relating to financial and human resources and relevant parts of the reports submitted by other Committees and Working Groups.

To prepare draft financial policies and a draft financial plan for 2016‑2019, and recommend to the Plenary all appropriate decisions related to the management of the Union's activities, transmit to Committee 5 matters requiring amendments to the Constitution, Convention and the General Rules.

The following management team was appointed. Myself, as Chairman, Caroline Greenway from Australia, and my very able Vice‑Chairman, Mr. Mario Canazza from the Federative Republic of Brazil. Ms. Levisa Iskhakova from the Republic of Uzbekistan. Mr. Abraham Djekou from the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, and Mr. Nasser Al Marzouqi from the United Arab Emirates.

Committee 6 held 11 meetings representing a total of 21.5 hours of discussion with full interpretation. Committee 6 established five Ad Hoc Groups to facilitate its work and coordinate various proposals and discussions from Member States and 12 drafting groups in order to consolidate Member States' contributions related to a specific topic and to propose to Committee 6 and agreed‑upon amendment.

Mr. Chairman, the work of Committee 6 resulted in the Revision of two decisions, the Revision of 23 Resolutions, the adoption of 4 new Resolutions and 2 new decisions, and revised Resolution 150 replaces Document Com 6/3, the deletion of three Resolutions that are listed in Annex 3 to this report.

The work of Committee 6 included the approval of the financial management of the Union for the years 2010‑2013, as well as the approval of the Financial Plan for 2016‑2019, and Draft Decision 5.

Concerning the Financial Plan, following the presentation of Document PP‑14/44, an Ad Hoc Group was created and chaired by the United States of America which drafted a revised text of Decision 5. Emphasis was put on a new culture of efficiency and economy at the ITU, strengthening the control of the finances of the Union, and the funding of the ASHI and long‑term liabilities of the Union. The measures for reducing expenditure contained in Annex 2 to Decision 5 were carefully reviewed in this respect.

Annex 1 to Decision 5, the Financial Plan of the Union for 2016‑2019, was reviewed and adjusted by 20.3 million Swiss francs compared with the initial draft in Document PP14/44. This resulted from a decrease by 10.5 in the number of contributory units of the Member States and the non‑inclusion of new financial resources from International Numbering Resources into the Financial Plan.

The Financial Plan was balanced on the expenses side by reductions on the Bureaux and General Secretariat Departments planned expenditure, deletion of the INR implementation costs and reduction on the planned net assets funding. In addition, cost savings amounting to 13 million Swiss francs were adopted covered by efficiency measures, a potential increase in the number of the contributory units, other revenue, including new financial resources, and possible withdrawal from the Reserve Account upon Council's decision.

Committee 6 adopted the new Financial Plan at its tenth session. Revenue and expenses are balanced and equally amount to 635.7 million Swiss francs. The amount of the contributory unit was set at 318,000 Swiss francs in the Plenary.

A revised Annex 3 to Resolution 71 is also presented in this Report which provides the updated allocation of resources of the Financial Plan to the objectives and goals of the Strategic Plan of the Union for 2016‑2019.

The revised Annex 3 to Resolution 71 is presented in Annex 2 to this Report. Delegates expressed the wish that their appreciation for the work of Mr. Ba, his team and the ITU management in achieving this outcome be noted in this report.

The following topics were also covered: Decision 12, Free online access to ITU publications. Four contributions were received and resulted in the approval by Committee 6 of a revised Decision 12, including the approval of a free download of various publications that had been approved on a trial basis by Council.

A yearly report to Council on the sales of publications ‑‑

>> CHAIRMAN: Sorry. Sorry for my interruption. With your indulgence, Chairman of Committee 6, I just would like to come back to the previous Agenda Item which we discussed this morning, and actually we approved with consensus and applause, because we had this established practice in the Union that when we made this kind of compromise, we keep give the floor to consent parties to express their view on this important matter.

So I would like to give the floor to Israel and the State of Palestine to express their view on this important decision. But I will not open the floor for discussion or any other intervention on this matter, except these two countries.

And after hearing from these two countries, we'll come back to the Chairman's report of Committee 6. Once again, sorry for the interruption to Chairman of Committee 6.

Having said that, I would like to give the floor to Israel. Israel, you have the floor.

>> ISRAEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are very much aware of the importance of the Telecommunications Sector role in promoting economic and social development for our mutual benefit. In this context, Israel is fully committed to the continued support and assistance in building the Palestinian Telecommunications Sector. Mr. Chairman, we would like to remind this distinguished forum that all matters between Israel and Palestinians are to be addressed in accordance with the Interim Agreement signed on 28th of November 1995 by Israel and the Palestinians. According to this bilateral agreement, the only platform to discuss matters is the Joint Technical Committee established by the interim agreement. We believe there is no better way to achieve progress than direct dialogue.

Mr. Chairman, before I conclude, I would like to express Israel's great appreciation to all the Delegations involved in the process. Our deepest gratitude goes to the Secretary‑General Touré, Chairman Min, Legal Advisor Guillot, and Ambassador Daniel Sepulveda of the U.S. for their immense efforts and all their hard work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Israel. Thank you very much. Now I would like to give the floor to the State of Palestine. State of Palestine, you have the floor.

>> STATE OF PALESTINE: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the State of Palestine, I should like to express to you and to this distinguished Assembly our thanks for all your efforts undertaken in order to develop telecommunications, which meet our aspirations to a better future in this critical area. The State of Palestine recognizes that prosperity can only be achieved thanks to the development of ICTs since this is the foundation of development in all areas. It is indeed the role of the international community and within that community, the ITU in particular.

We wish to use the latest technologies in Palestine in order to achieve our goals of well‑being and prosperity, and to develop our use of the spectrum without any obstacles. We need to have access to ICTs and use all those applications which may serve all citizens of Palestine on a day‑to‑day basis, and to allow them to be connected to the world at large.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, I assure you that Palestine, despite all the challenges, we are full of hope that we will achieve prosperity and well‑being for the State of Palestine. That is our absolute priority, and we hope that you will stand shoulder to shoulder with us in order to achieve our common noble goals through this Resolution.

I would like to thank all those who participated in the Conference, and the Chairman of the Conference for his leadership and wisdom which has allowed all stakeholders to achieve positive results. We should also like to express our appreciation to all those administrations which supported Palestine and our request, and have allowed us to achieve this happy outcome.

Palestine will make every effort to achieve its noble goal, and we should also like to congratulate all the elected officers, more particularly the new Secretary‑General and his Deputy. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, State of Palestine. Thank you very much. Once again, I'd like to express my deep appreciation to all concerned parties in this important matter for making compromise on this important, important issues.

Now I would like to give the floor back to the Chairman of Committee 6. Australia, you have the floor.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chairman. Committee 6 adopted a New Draft Decision on the monitoring mechanism on ITU programmes and projects which instructs the Secretary‑General to extend ITU‑D projects online database to include all Bureaux and the General Secretariat, to examine how information could be further shared with Membership, and to clearly indicate ITU programmes and project costs in all relevant budget‑related reports.

Committee 6 also endorsed revision of Resolution 157, Strengthening of the project execution function in ITU, which stresses the necessity to find sources of financing, both private and public, for development projects in the telecommunications and ICT field in general, as well as the need to reinforce cooperation with pertinent international agencies and regional organizations to support the ITU's project execution in order to avoid overlapping activities and optimize the impact of the Union's work.

Com 6 also endorsed a revised Resolution 11 on ITU Telecom events which includes recognition of the success of the ITU Telecom events held in Dubai in 2012 and Bangkok in 2013. This Resolution endorses that an ITU Telecom event should be held every year, ensuring that it does not overlap with any major ITU conferences or assemblies, the determination of the venue shall be based on competitive selection and the contract negotiation will be based on the model host‑country agreement approved by Council.

Com 6 also approved updates the Resolution 25, Strengthening the regional presence, which will strengthen the function of regional offices so that they can play a part in the implementation of programmes and projects under regional initiatives within the resources allocated, that regional offices play a key role in facilitating discussions on regional matters, and the dissemination of information and results of activities of all sectors of the ITU, while avoiding the duplication with headquarters, and that regional offices shall be fully involved in the organization of regional events, in close collaboration with the relevant Bureaux and the regional organizations in order to increase efficiency, avoid duplication, and take benefit from synergies.

The Resolution resolves, also, that regional offices shall actively engage in the realization of the outcome indicators and key performance indicators as identified by the Dubai Action Plan and by TDAG and that the objectives and outcomes identified in the Strategic Plan, the operational plans, and the evaluation criteria in the Annex, shall be used to evaluate regional presence.

Mr. Chairman, the ITU 2016‑2019 Strategic Plan has been reviewed and adopted in Committee 6, within Resolution 71 and its four Annexes. The Strategic Plan of the Union for 2016‑2019, which is Annex 2 to Resolution 71, follows the principles of the results‑based management framework and enhances the concept of working as one ITU, introducing an ITU‑wide vision, mission and values, and setting ITU‑wide strategic goals and targets to which all the three Bureaux contribute with their unique roles and expertise.

The adopted revised Resolution 71 instructs the Secretary‑General, in coordination with the Directors of the three Bureaux, to develop and implement the ITU results framework following the principles of results‑based budgeting and results‑based management and instructs Council to oversee this development and implementation of the Strategic Plan, and where necessary, adjust it on the basis of the Secretary‑General's reports.

Revised Resolution 72 on Linking strategic, financial and operational planning in ITU was approved, as part of the work of the Council Working Group on the Strategic Plan Financial Plan, to further strengthen the linkage between the planning instruments of the Union.

Resolution 151, the Implementation of results based management in ITU, was also revised as part of the work of the Council Working Group of the Strategic Plan Financial Plan focusing on the implementation of results‑based management in ITU.

Mr. Chairman, we adopted a new Resolution which was a Strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three sectors of the Union. This aims at ensuring the design of a coordination and cooperation strategy for effective and efficient efforts in areas of mutual interest to the three ITU sectors, in order to avoid duplication of effort and optimize the use of resources. Council is instructed to include the coordination of the work of the three ITU sectors on the order of business for its meetings so as to follow its evolution and take decisions to ensure its implementation.

After careful consideration of a Drafting Group, Resolutions 4 and 153, with Resolution 77, which deal with Future conferences, assemblies and forums of the Union, were merged in order to provide an overview of the scheduling and planning of conferences, forums, assemblies and Council Sessions, as well as a list of World Conferences from 2015 until 2019 and the scheduling, planning and duration of the Council and Plenipotentiary conference.

Resolution 111 on Scheduling of ITU conferences and assemblies was amended and endorsed in order to avoid scheduling Council sessions during a time considered as a major religious period for a Member State.

The Resolution on the Availability of model host‑country agreements in advance for conferences and assemblies of the Union held away from Geneva, Resolution 144, was revised following the submission and discussion of one contribution in order to include text related to the taking into account of persons with disabilities and specific needs in the work of ITU, and to facilitate their participation in conferences, in particular through the use of webcasting and captioning. To this effect, the revised Resolution approved by Committee 6 instructs Council to review and adopt a model host‑country agreement including arrangement for webcasting and captioning.

Resolution 167 on Strengthening ITU capabilities for electronic meetings and means to advance the work of the Union was updated, considering the ITU's experience with remote participation during the last four years, and challenges with respect to technical, financial and legal issues. The role of hyperlinks as originally included in Resolution 167 has been moved to a separate Decision.

Resolution 175 on Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for person with disabilities, including age‑related disabilities, was discussed and its revision was endorsed, slightly revising its title to "Telecommunication/ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs."The revised Resolution recognizes the ongoing work of ITU in the field, and instructs the Secretary‑General, in consultation with the Directors of the Bureaux, to coordinate accessibility‑related activities, ensuring that the needs of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, are taken into account.

Committee 6 also approved the Revision of Resolution 58, strengthening of relations between ITU and regional telecommunication organizations and regional preparations for the Plenipotentiary Conference. This revision focused on the reinforcement of the ITU regional preparation for Plenipotentiary Conferences and world conferences on international telecommunications, and further resolved to invite regional telecommunication organizations to continue their preparation for the Plenipotentiary Conference through interregional meetings to the extent possible.

Council is instructed to take the revision of this Resolution into account when receiving related ITU reports.

Contributions were presented with a request to activate Resolution 159, Assistance and support to Lebanon for rebuilding its telecommunication networks, fixed and mobile, as well as to update Resolution 34, Assistance and support to countries in special need for rebuilding their Telecommunications Sector.

South Sudan presented its request to be included in the Annex to Resolution 34, Assistance and support to countries in special need. The Republic of Iraq resubmitted its request to activate Resolution 34, noting that Resolution 34 had not been activated, bearing in mind ITU's financial constraints. A new Resolution was submitted in order for the Republic of Iraq to benefit from ITU's experts and technical assistance. Committee 6 approved these requests and endorsed the new Resolution.

A new Resolution was also approved on ITU participation in MoUs with financial and strategic implications, instructing Council to formulate guidelines for participation of ITU in such MoUs and to implement a mechanism to review ITU participation in these MoUs, and to report on the application of this Resolution in the next Plenipotentiary Conference.

Committee 6 endorsed the revision of Resolution 41, Arrears, special arrears accounts and cancelled special arrears account, in order to take into account the fact the reserve for debtors' account is accounted for according to IPSAS and 100% of the arrears are provisioned, and we confirmed the flexibility given to Council regarding the terms of repayment of arrears.

Committee 6 also endorsed the revised Resolution 162 on the Independent Management Advisory Committee, recognizing the valuable contribution of the IMAC in assisting ITU Council and the Secretary‑General in fulfilling their governance responsibilities and to establish IMAC on an ongoing basis. The revised Resolution instructs the Secretary‑General to publish and provide public access to the reports of the IMAC on a publicly accessible web site.

Furthermore, it provides minor amendments, seeking clarification of the language in the IMAC terms of reference in the Annex on the purpose of IMAC as well as independence of IMAC members prior and after their engagement and in Appendix 3 on the process for selection of IMAC members.

Committee 6 approved the proposal for modification of Resolution 94 on Auditing of the accounts of the Union and a contribution related to the external auditor's report. This was in line with the approach endorsed by PP‑10. Appreciation for the work of the previous External Auditor and for that of the new External Auditor was expressed. An additional modification making publicly available the External Auditor's reports was introduced, thereby bringing the Resolution in line with best practice.

Mr. Chairman, Committee 6 also updated Resolution 154 on the Use of the six official languages of the Union on an equal footing, and this will allow Council to continue to monitor the work carried out by the ITU Secretariat. A report will be presented annually to Council and to the ITU Council Working Group on languages beginning in 2015, including budget evolution since 2010, benchmarking with other organizations, efficiency and cost savings initiatives undertaken by the Union, and the progress made on the implementation of measures and principles for translation and interpretation adopted by Council in its 2014 session.

We considered a request for exemption from any financial contribution to defraying expenses relating to participation in the work of ITU, and the Committee recommends the Plenary to consider and approve the recommendations in Document PP‑14/61 and the list of recommended entities for exemption, pending a review of the criteria by Council, with one revision, namely, that the Association for Progressive Communications, the APC, be included in the list of exempted entities for the ITU‑R on a provisional basis.

Mr. Chairman, the Secretariat presented a Document PP‑14/57 (Rev. 1) and PP14/INF/Document 8 on the Options for the Union's Headquarter premises over the long‑term. Committee 6 created an Ad Hoc Group to examine the procedures and mechanisms for making progress on the issue, with Spain as Chair.

The Ad Hoc Group met four times during the Plenipotentiary Conference, firstly considering the status of the whole of the headquarters premises and agreeing the urgency of finding a solution to provide of finding a solution to the status of the whole of the headquarters and agreeing. Accepting that any headquarters solution for the long term shall be fully accessible and in conformance with Host Country standards for safety, health and environmental matters, the Ad Hoc Group prepared and achieved consensus on a new Draft Resolution which they sent to Committee 6 as PP‑14/DT/82 (DL/43 in the Ad Hoc Group) resolving to create a Council Working Group on this issue, and defining the terms of reference for that Council Working Group.

Mr. Chairman, we also received Contributions from the RCC regarding changes in the Constitution and Convention and the procedure of fixing the magnitude of penalties applied to Members in respect of overdue contributions and other dues payable to the ITU budget, and a contribution regarding the Reserve account and the Procedure for fixing the magnitude of penalties applied to Members in respect of overdue contributions and other dues payable to the ITU budget.

Upon consultation sought from Committee 6 to Committee 5, Committee 5 concluded that no modification to the structure of, or hierarchy between, the Constitution and the Convention, (as currently stipulated in the relevant parts of Article 4 of the Constitution) and no amendment to any individual proposal of the Constitution and Convention should be adopted at PP‑14.

The RCC also submitted a contribution on the definition of the "finances of the Union," the term "finances of the Union."

Now, Committee 6 decided to invite the Council to approve the modification of the Preamble to the financial regulations and the financial rules, taking into account the RCC contribution, and this will be considered at the Extraordinary Session of Council on Friday. There was also much appreciation for the RCC contributions.

The Committee approved the revision of Resolution 152 on the Improvement of management and follow‑up of the defrayal of ITU expenses by Sector Members and Associates. It confirmed that the Secretary‑General may have flexibility in implementing repayment plans with Sector Members and Associates, having noted the related improved collection rate reduction of overdue receivables.

The Staff Council addressed Committee 6, and we took note of the statement by the ITU Staff Council which is to be found in Annex 1 to the report. Resolution 48 on Human Resources management and development was amended in order to emphasize gender and geographical balance, and to develop and implement a related set of recruitment policies.

Mr. Chairman, Committee 6 also noted that WTDC‑14 was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 30 March to April 2014, under the theme of "Broadband for Sustainable Development," and we took note of this report on WTDC‑14 decisions.

Mr. Chairman, Committee 6 considered a Report by the Council on the Advantages and disadvantages of utilizing revenue generated from International Numbering Resources for the purpose of balancing revenue and expenses. After intensive discussions regarding the generation of revenues from INRs, which resulted in an information session to enhance participants' understanding of the issues and the impacts of invoicing INR related services, Committee 6 approved the Secretariat undertaking further work on the specific points identified in DT/63 with the participation of Sector Members and interested parties, and to provide a proposal to the next session of Council for decision, if appropriate.

We also approved the amendment of Resolution 158 on Financial issues for consideration by the Council in order to enable Council to study the development of a future vision for the participation of Sector Members, Associates and Academia in the activities of the Union.

Resolution 170 on the Admission of Sector Members from developing countries to participate in the work of ITU Radiocommunication Sector and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector was amended in order to confirm the authorization for Sector Members from the category of developing countries to participate in the work of ITU‑R and ITU‑T on favorable financial terms.

Committee 6 concluded its work on Tuesday, 4 November 2014. The Ad Hoc Groups and drafting groups finalized their collegial and proactive work, providing a sound basis for the future work of the General Secretariat and the Bureaux of the Union for 2016‑2019.

Mr. Chairman, the Plenary Meeting is requested to consider and approve this report, and I personally would like to appreciate the participation and the active spirit of collaboration of all participants in Committee 6, and also very much to appreciate the support from ITU elected officials who were certainly there to help in some of the more difficult negotiations, and once again, we could not have proceeded without the expert and very trusted skills and expertise of Mr. Ba and his team, who I must say are fantastic. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair of Committee 6, Ms. Greenway. This report clearly demonstrates how much achievement you have made through the work of Committee 6. Once again, congratulations on the Chair and Vice‑Chair, and Chairs of Ad Hoc Groups and the Secretariat who have worked on this Committee 6 works.

Especially I want to say thanks to your work on this Financial Plan. When we opened this Plenary, we faced unexpected difficulties to meet the balance, to have the balanced budget, balanced Financial Plan, but you just came up with this marvelous plan, Financial Plan, which actually opens the door we work for the next four years. Thank you very much.

Having said that, now I would like to open the floor for discussion on this report by the Chairman of Committee 6. The floor is open. Any comments? Iran, you have the floor.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Good afternoon, distinguished Chairman. Good afternoon, distinguished colleagues. First of all, as the Vice‑Chairman of APT meeting, we are pleased at having Mrs. Caroline Greenway Chairing Committee 6 very ably, competently and skillfully. We appreciate all her efforts including the very comprehensive presentation of the report. Chairman, this activity has been done with considerable efforts by everybody. Every detail has been discussed.

We propose that the report be adopted immediately without any discussions. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Iran. Thank you very much for your comments. Any comments? Okay. I think there is no comments, so we note that this report from Chair of Committee 6, so the Document is noted.

Now we will move to the next agenda ‑‑

[ Applause ]

Now we move to the next Agenda Item which is the report from the Chairman of Working Group of the Plenary to Plenary. Bahrain, you have the floor.

>> BAHRAIN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I submit to the Plenary Document 164 (Revision 1), the Report of the Chairman of the Working Group of Plenary to the Plenary. The Working Group of Plenary was created by the Plenary with the Terms of Reference found in DT/2 and the allocation of documents listed in DT/7. Please note that there were four additional proposals which were also submitted to the Working Group of Plenary for its work, which were received after DT/7 was generated.

The Working Group of Plenary, the team was appointed as such: Myself as Chairman, Mr. Paul Charlton of Canada, Mr. Hubert Schoettner of Germany, Mr. Rufat Tagizade from Azerbaijan, Mr. Francis Wangusi from Kenya, and Mr. Masanori Kondo from Japan as the five Vice‑Chairs of the Working Group of Plenary. The Secretary of the Working Group of Plenary was Mr. Tomas Lamanauskas.

In total, we held 12 sessions, with approximately 21 hours of work, in which 85 different proposals from Member States were presented and discussed. The working methods of the Working Group of Plenary are described in Document DT/10.

In the discussions of the work, a total of 10 Ad Hoc Groups were established and approximately 11 consolidation efforts. With regards to the outcomes of the Working Group of Plenary, I am pleased to report that all proposals ‑‑ sorry, all outcomes were agreed by consensus, with a total of 9 new Resolutions, and the revision of 21 Resolutions and one Decision. In addition, the Working Group of Plenary approved the suppression of two Resolutions. The details of all documents and proposals approved can be found in Annex 1 of my report.

I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to all the distinguished Delegates who participated in and contributed to the work of this group for their cooperation, support, and mutual understanding, and their efforts and willingness to reach consensus, bearing in mind that the issues before the Working Group of Plenary were highly complex, diverse, and controversial. I'm convinced that the decisions taken at the Working Group of Plenary will help pave the way forward for the future direction of the Union.

I would like to thank my Vice‑Chairs and I would also like to thank the Chairs of the various Ad Hoc Groups which I would ask that I now recognize by name.

Ms. Felicity Morrison of Australia. Mr. Fabio Bigi of Italy, Ms. Yoon Jeong Park of Korea, Mr. Hyoung Jun Kim of Korea, Mr. Jeferson Nacif of Brazil, Mr. Steven Bereaux of Bahamas, Ms. Rachedi Nassima of Algeria, Mr. Canh Nguyen Ngoc of Vietnam, Ms. Yoon Jeong Park of Korea again, and Mr. Vladimir Minkin of the Russian Federation.

I would also like to thank those who led consolidation exercises for their hard work who I would like to recognize my name.

Ms. Amparo Arango of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Jim Paterson of South Africa, Ms. Beatriz Egea of Argentina, Mr. Farid Nakhli of Belarus, Ms. Samar Sobeih of Egypt, Mr. Phil Rushton of the United Kingdom, Mr. Amr Farouk Safwat of Egypt, Mr. Victor Manuel Martinez Venegas of Mexico, Mr. Marcin Krasuski of Poland, Mr. Farid Nakhli of Belarus, and Mr. Santiago Reyes‑Borda of Canada.

I'd like to express my heartfelt thanks to the elected officials, especially the Secretary‑General and Directors Malcolm Johnson and Brahima Sanou who were specifically assigned by the Secretary‑General to support the work of the Working Group of the Plenary. I would also like to thank my Secretary, Mr. Lamanauskas, and his team who ably assisted me and supported me throughout the work of this group, who include José Maria Diaz Batanero, Mr. Vaggelis Igglesis, Preetam Maloor, Marco Obiso, Mr. JeoungHee Kim, Douglas Court, and Ilijana Cvetkovic, as well as the ITU advisors that supported us, including Mr. Bilel Jamoussi, Mr. Bruno Ramos, Alexander Ntoko, Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Mr. Joaquin Restrepo, Mr. Reinhard Scholl, Yushi Torigoe, and Cosmas Zavazava.

I would like to express my appreciation to the many interpreters, translators, and the Document Control team, the room management and the technicians.

In conclusion, I would like to draw your attention to one final part of the Report, which is the statements received from various Members, which are added in Annex 2 of my Report. These include a statement with regards to Decision 11, a statement received from Mr. Ram Narain from India in relation to the approval of revision of Resolutions 101, 102, 133, and 180. And finally, a statement made by Argentina, noted at the 12th session of the Working Group of Plenary.

I thank you for your time and I submit this report for your consideration and approval. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chairman of the Working Group of the Plenary. I once again congratulate you and Working Group of Plenary, all Vice‑Chairs and Chairs of the Ad Hoc Group, and the Secretariat, who I involved in the work of the Working Group Plenary. You have delivered marvelous things for the whole Union. Thank you very much. Once again, congratulations.

Now I would like to open the floor for comments on the report of the Chairman of Working Group of Plenary, to the Plenary. Any comments?

I think there is a unanimous opinion that we already approved what they have done through this Working Group of Plenary. So this Report of the Chairman of Working Group Plenary to the Plenary is noted. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

Tunisia, you have the floor.

>> TUNISIA: Thank you, Sir. Tunisia would like to address a message to the Chair of the Working Group of the Plenary, acknowledging the huge amount of work which he has achieved, and congratulating him on the quality and the right approach that he adopted for tackling documents as sensitive as those that were submitted for his group, so our congratulations to the Chair of the Working Group of the Plenary. Thank you, Sir.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Tunisia. I think you speak for all Member States in this Conference. Thank you very much.

Now we are moving to the Agenda Item Number 6, which is Document 126, and Corrigendum to 156, Third Series of Texts and the Ninth Series of Texts from the Editorial Committee. So I would like to invite Chairman of Committee 4, Dr. Hoballah, to introduce these documents. Dr. Hoballah, you have the floor.

>> COMMITTEE 4 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon, everyone. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Editorial Committee, it is my pleasure to submit to you for first reading the Third Series of the Texts submitted by Committee 4 to the Plenary Meeting regarding Resolution 163 of Document 126.

Mr. Chairman, I submit to you for first reading Document 163 ‑‑ Resolution 163 of Document 126. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. So now I would like to submit this Document 126, Resolution 163, for your approval. This is page 29 of Document 126, Resolution 163, Establishment of a Council Working Group on a stable ITU Constitution. This is a suppression of the Resolution. Any comments? No. Now, this Document is approved on its first reading.

Now I would like to ask you to regard this Document as pink Document, and I submit this Document for your second reading. Any comments? No. Thank you. Resolution 163, suppression on Resolution 163, is approved on its second reading.

Now I would like to invite Chairman of Committee, Dr. Hoballah, once again to present Ninth Series of Texts, Corrigendum 1 to Document 156. Mr. Hoballah, you have the floor again.

>> COMMITTEE 4 CHAIRMAN: On behalf of Committee 4, it is my pleasure to submit to you for first reading Document Corrigendum 1 to Document 156, which is basically Decision 5. Mr. Chairman, I submit to you for first reading Decision 5 of Document Corrigendum 1 to Document 156. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr. Hoballah. As usual. We'll go through this Document page by page. So page number 1, Decision 5, Revenue and expenses for the Union for the period 2016‑2019. Any comments? Brazil, you have the floor.

>> BRAZIL: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, everyone. According to the discussions that we had in the Ad Hoc Group, I think we reached an agreement that both "invites the Council" and "invites Member States" section on page 1 should be moved to the end of the body of Decision 5, meaning they should be moved to page 5 right before the Annex, Annex 1, so that's my proposal for this Document. Thank you very much.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Brazil. Any other comments on this page number 1? So I'd like to invite the Chairman of Committee 6 to address the issues raised by Brazil. Australia, you have the floor.

>> AUSTRALIA: Thank you, Chairman. That was also my recollection from the discussion, and I think that just for coherence of the Document, it makes sense to have that shift.

>> CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you, Australia. So the proposed revision on this page is, we will move this "invites the Council" part and "invites the Member States" part to page number 5, after paragraph 10. So in this page number 1, we do not have "invites the Council" and "invites the Member States." With that understanding, could we approve this page number 1? Thank you, approved.

Page number 2? Approved.

Page number 3? Approved.

Page number 4? Approved.

Page number 5 now has, after 10, we have this "invites the Council" and "invites the Member States." With that understanding, could we approve page number 5? Approved.

Page number 6? It's approved.

Now we just approved this Document 156‑E on its first reading. Now I would like to submit this Document as pink Document for your second reading. Could we approve ‑‑ Lebanon, you have the floor.

>> LEBANON: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman. I believe the Document that you have in your hand is still missing two pages, pages 7 and 8.

>> CHAIRMAN: Sorry, yes, that must be the case. I do not have page 7 and page 8. Could you show it on the screen? Sorry. Could you give me a couple of minutes so I can see the Document page 7 and 8?

Sorry. So I think we should repeal the first approval on this document, sorry for that, because we did not approve the page 7 and 8.

So we will go back to page number 7. Could we approve page number 7? It's approved.

Now we are on page number 8. Could we approve page number 8? It's approved. Thank you. So now we just approved this Document 156‑E on its first reading.

Now I would like to submit this Document on your second reading as pink Document. Could we approve this Document 156‑E on our second reading as pink Document? Thank you. The Document is approved on its second reading.

Now we will move to the Agenda Item Number 7, which is the Approval of the Minutes. We will approve Ninth Plenary Meeting, which is Document number 145, and Tenth Plenary Minutes, that's 146. So now I first submit this Document 145‑E, Minutes of the Ninth Plenary Meeting, for your approval. Any comments on this Document 145‑E? Very well, it's approved.

Now I would like to submit this Document 146‑E, Minutes of the Tenth Plenary Meeting, for your approval. Any comments? Thank you. It's approved.

Now we are on the Agenda Item Number 8. So the title of Agenda Item Number 8 is Time limit for the deposit of Declarations and reservations. So this is ‑‑ the time limit is actually 4 hours after Eighteenth Plenary closes, which means that we are currently 3:40, so it will be that we'll finish this at 5:00 p.m. Then the time limit to deposit your Declaration will be 9:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m.

And Declarations noted in Plenary will be tomorrow morning 8:30, and the Final Acts will be published ASAP, and will have signing ceremony tomorrow at 2:00 p.m., tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. So that in terms of the time limit, I will announce the exact time again when we finish, when we finish this Eighteenth Plenary, so you can know exactly what time, until what time you should submit your Declaration.

Any comments on this Agenda Item? Iran, you have the floor.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you, Chairman. May I request you to kindly to announce that the time for deposit of Declaration and the time to deposit of additional Declaration. There are two different items, and should be addressed differently. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, thank you for reminding me of that. So I will ask the Secretariat to provide the correct information to you. Secretariat, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARY OF THE PLENARY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. We will convene tomorrow morning at 8:30 to note the declarations, at which time a two‑hour time limit will be set for the counter and additional declarations. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Canada, you have the floor.

>> CANADA: Thank you, Chairman and good afternoon to you. Mr. Chairman, just a question for clarification in regards to the summary records of the Plenary. Following your very wise decision and instructions, not to make any statements on the issues of Resolutions 99, 125, and the Document ‑‑ the statement read by the Secretary‑General, we would like your advice and some clarification as to what kind of statements could there be, bearing in mind that they will not be oral statements. Would it be a matter of simply depositing a written statement with the Secretariat?

Could you please clarify? Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Canada. Yes, that is the case. I was going to announce that, but thank you for bringing that matter on the table. So as we did for the case of this Ukraine's proposal, any Member States who would like to submit a written statement on this matter, on Resolution 99 and Resolution 125, please send your written statement to the Secretariat. Then that will be included in the summary record of this Plenary.

Thank you. Any other comments? Okay, thank you.

Then we will move to the 9th Agenda Item, Number 9, which is "Other business." So we have many things to cover under this "Other business," but before giving the floor to the Secretary‑General, I just want to say a few words.

Now I believe we are all set for the final Plenary tomorrow and the Final Acts signing ceremony. Before closing this afternoon's meeting, however, I want to congratulate all of you all of your hard work and all that we have achieved together. Three weeks ago, when we first came to Busan, there was some doubt that this Conference could succeed in addressing its very full agenda. However, here we are today, at the end of what has been a very successful PP‑14.

Over the last three weeks, we have worked long and hard to approve over 51 Resolutions, including 21 new Resolutions which address the immediate needs of the global community. We also suppressed 7 Resolutions. Indeed, I believe PP‑14 has put to rest any notion that the ITU is a slow‑moving organization.

Together, we have demonstrated that the ITU and its membership can take decisive action to address issues that affect the global community.

The Resolution on Flight Tracking will have will help to make air travel safer and the Resolution on Ebola will help bring the full potential of ICTs to bear against this disease.

The Strategic Plan we adopted will help the ITU make important contributions to the global development agenda beyond 2015. Indeed, Member States' endorsement of the ITU's Connect 2020 vision will strengthen efforts to include ICTs in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Further, revised Resolutions on gender mainstreaming and the series of GEM‑Tech events which included the very special participation of His Excellency Paul Kagame have reaffirmed the ITU's commitment to women in ICT.

Member States also demonstrated their support for ICT and youth by adopting a landmark Resolution that will support the ITU's efforts to engage and enhance the capacity of global youth. We have also worked hard, despite sudden and unforeseen challenges, to adopt a Financial Plan that will support the outcomes of PP‑14 and maintain the good financial health of the ITU. And, of course, we elected the new ITU management team that will guide the work of the Union over the next four years. Again, congratulations to all elected officials. Congratulations.

[ Applause ]

I believe we have achieved these outcomes because of your incredible effort, willingness to find compromise, and commitment to the ITU's tradition of consensus‑building. Your hard work and cooperation have delivered a successful PP‑14. Indeed, I am very happy to say that we worked through the entire Conference without a single vote, or even a single point or motion of order. Unbelievable, really. I think this might be a record.

In this regard, I would just quickly like to give special thanks to the ITU Secretariat and the Chairmen of our Committees and Working Group of Plenary. The great achievements of this Conference would really not have been possible without them.

So finally, here we are at the end of PP‑14, and the end of the first grand chapter of the ITU. I can think of no better 150th anniversary present than a successful PP‑14. The accomplishments of this Conference have set the stage for the ITU as it begins its next chapter of work. And indeed, much work still remains to be done, but together, we have helped make our Union ready to take up future opportunities and challenges.

Again, congratulations to all Member States, and thank you so much for your support and hard work. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

Now you heard a long speech so you need some break. So now we will watch a video which actually shows some all‑important GEM‑Tech activities so let's take a moment to see the highlights of GEM‑Tech events.

>> It's a fact that fewer women have access to Information and Communication Technologies. It's also a fact that there are fewer women in the Sector.

>> It became quite clear very quickly that this is something we wanted to be part of, because we think it's a great initiative by the ITU.

>> Women's digital empowerment is truly a global challenge.

¶ 'cause you make me feel ¶

¶ You make me feel ¶

¶ You make me feel like a natural woman ¶

¶ Woman ¶

>> We must harness the power of ICTs for economic and social empowerment for men and women.

¶ Oh, baby, what you done to me ¶

¶ You made me feel so good inside ¶

>> We have grown to take more and more of an understanding within the ITU circles and our home circles of the importance that women play and can play in the ICT area.

[ Applause ]

>> This is a time to get women to the tables where the decisions are being made to shape the world, and to shape its future.

>> As we all know, bridging the gender digital divide and empowering women through ICT is of critical importance to building an inclusive Information Society and strengthening sustainable and equal global development.

>> Why women in ICT? Well, more balanced teams make better informed decisions.

>> Our ambition was to take action to increase the representation of women at all levels, and in all job functions of the organization.

>> I believe it is very important to welcome any kind of movement that empowers women.

>> I have to say that choosing the winners was one of the hardest things we have ever done.

This is an important moment in the history of ITU, because today, we are celebrating the very first edition of the GEM‑Tech Awards.

>> Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the GEM‑Tech 2014 Awards Ceremony.

It is now time to meet these winners in person.

And the winner is UNESCO.

[ Applause ]

iMerit Technology Services from India.

[ Applause ]

BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT.

[ Applause ]

Research Center for Feminist Action.

[ Applause ]

Telecentre Foundation.

[ Applause ]

Association for Progressive Communications from South Africa.

[ Applause ]

The Federal Ministry of Communication and Technology from Nigeria.

[ Applause ]

>> UN Women sees women's digital empowerment as an imperative of our age, and we will not achieve gender equality in the 21st century if women are not fully and meaningfully engaged in the Information Society.

>> And what I want to see is a pipeline that we keep forward for women in technology, and also not only for girls studying technology, but also women who are actually entering the work force.

>> Ubiquity and affordability of the mobile phone means that really that is the only technology that currently exists that has the potential to really change the lives of people in developing markets, and in particular, we need to change the lives of women.

>> Gender equality is very Important for us, in ICT especially, because we think ICT is always providing that platform for gender equality.

¶¶

¶ Do you ever feel like a plastic bag ¶

¶ Drifting through the wind, wanting to start again ¶

¶ Do you ever feel just so paper thin ¶

¶ Like a house of cards one blow from caving in ¶

[ Applause ]

>> Rwanda was delighted to support our vision, your vision, ITU and UN Women, and I'm honored to join you here this evening.

[ Applause ]

>> We put this at the top of our agenda to encourage more women and girls to get involved in this sector.

¶ Come on, show 'em what you're worth ¶

>> I'm firmly committed to increasing gender equality across all of our activities.

[ Applause ]

¶ Baby, you're a firework ¶

¶ Come on, let your colors burst ¶

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: I would like to congratulate those who were involved in this marvelous GEM‑Tech event but in particular I'd like to congratulate Doreen who has been behind all these GEM‑Tech events. Congratulations.

[ Applause ]

Now I would like to give the floor to the Secretary‑General, who will highlight some of our accomplishments at this Conference and also the accomplishments over the past eight years during his tenure as Secretary‑General. Secretary‑General, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. It's difficult to ‑‑ I'm still trying to put some final touches to this wonderful conference results as things are moving and clearly well before we finish this Conference. But before I give you my valedictory speech, I would like to do something special. I would like to for the first time honor the work of my fellow elected officials over those who have been working with me over the past four years, eight years, or 16 years.

Usually we give recognition to everyone coming before we forget ourselves, so I thought that this is a unique chance to have recognition from ITU, and I would like to present them each with an ITU Gold Medal for their tremendous achievement. I would like you to simply give them a round of applause.

[ Applause ]

I want to call on my good friend Houlin Zhao, Deputy Secretary‑General, and Secretary‑General Elect, to come and receive from me the ITU Gold Medal, and certificate for his achievement to the ITU, and wish him really well.

I feel very proud that I will be passing the baton to this gentleman on the 31st of December, and really very confident that indeed after the work you've done here and after selecting such a great team, the organization will be in very good hands for many years to come.

So...

[ Applause ]

Houlin, that was the only chance for you to get a medal, so you have to thank me very much. I'll take one for myself on my way.

Malcolm Johnson, Director of TSB and Deputy Secretary‑General Elect, please come over.

[ Applause ]

François Rancy, Director of BR, and reelected Director of BR.

[ Applause ]

Last but not least, Brahima Sanou, Director of BDT, and reelected Director of BDT.

[ Applause ]

This has been a simply fantastic to work with this fine man. Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Mr. Chairman, what an incredible journey this has been for me

What an amazing adventure.

And what a special moment.

In 16 years at, ITU and during eight years as Secretary General, I have learned so much, and I have made so many friends.

Together we have climbed many mountains, crossed many rivers, and weathered many storms, and of course, we've shared the beauty of the rainbow. Indeed, after every storm, there is sunshine.

During all these years at the helm of the Union, I never hesitated in taking the decisions that needed to be taken, based on the best of my knowledge, and with full sincerity, and with my mind focused on the desire to win, to make ITU a stronger organization, and to help make this world a better place for all.

And we are really making great progress.

Today I am happy to see that ICTs are playing a vital role in each and every one of the great challenges facing humanity, from the MDGs to the SDGs to climate change, healthcare, education and good governance.

In the 21st century, ICTs are always part of the solution, and not part of the problem.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have been incredibly fortunate to have benefited from the trust and wisdom of our Secretary‑General Ban Ki‑Moon who took office as the United Nations Secretary‑General on the same day as I took office as the ITU Secretary‑General on January 1st, 2007.

It has been a real honor to have been part of the United Nations system under his intelligent and creative leadership. We at ITU have gained enormously from Ban ki‑Moon's advocacy and support, including here in Busan, at the opening ceremony, nearly three weeks ago.

Three weeks ago, I came to this 19th Plenipotentiary Conference with news of the extraordinary progress that had been made in ICT development in the eight years that I have been privileged to lead this great Union.

And I am absolutely confident that when you meet again, in the United Arab Emirates, in four years time, the next Secretary General, Houlin Zhao, will be able to report on further solid and dramatic progress.

This progress will be very much due to the work that has been done by you, our membership, here in Busan.

You have set strong and sound foundations in place for the future, and you should be proud of what has been achieved here.

Some might say that we have been lucky here, and they are right, but I also like to quote the Roman Philosopher, Seneca, who said:

"Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity."

Indeed, we were prepared. We have prepared well, and we have been offered the most

Incredible opportunity to capitalize on that preparation here at PP‑14, so let me just mention a few of the great achievements that you have made at this Conference.

We have approved the Strategic Plan for 2016 to 2019, as well as the Connect 2020 Resolution, which sets out a clear vision and shared objectives for the future of the ICT sector.

In parallel with this, and in spite of a reduction in the Member State contributory units, you have also approved the Financial Plan for the next four‑year period, which is balanced.

Resolutions passed in Busan concerned: Flight tracking, combating Ebola, the protection of users and consumers, youth and ICTs, gender equality, combating counterfeit devices, software defined networks, the Internet of Things, connectivity to broadband networks, and the setting up of an experts group on the ITRs, among many others.

PP‑14 has renewed and strengthened the consensus among ITU Member States on the role that should be played by the Union in the fields of Internet and security, further enhancing ITU's engagement with all stakeholders, as well as recognizing the importance of contributing to the WSIS process.

I was also pleased to see renewed emphasis on the need for affordable international Internet connectivity for all the world's people, as well as the importance of nurturing a truly multilingual Internet.

It is also important to note that for the first time since 1992, we made no amendments to the Constitution and Convention.

Finally, I'm incredibly pleased and proud that we did all this thanks to the quite extraordinary efforts of certain Member States and administrations without having to vote, not a single time.

That is the ITU way, and I'm deeply honored by your commitment to this cause, and I know that the Chair is as pleased as I am that we reached this successful conclusion, without a single vote. This is the best leaving gift we could leave to this beautiful country that has welcomed us so well for this great Conference, and to me, it's the best gift that I could ever hope for myself as my last Plenipotentiary Conference. Thank you all for that.

[ Applause ]

Ladies and gentlemen,

PP‑14 has also been enriched by a number of innovations that we have brought to the conference.

This started with the new delegates briefing, which I feel really helped contribute to the success of the conference, and continued with the excellent engagement with civil society, through the opening up of our documents, through face to face briefings here in Busan, and through the open webcasts throughout the Conference.

We also hosted the first GEM‑Tech Awards, which were organized by ITU in conjunction with UN Women.

These new annual awards have amply demonstrated how valuable it is to have a platform for advancing women's roles as decision makers in the ICT sector, and it was great to have the first winners here with us in Busan during PP‑14, as we have just seen in that wonderful Film we just saw a few minutes ago.

It was great to have here for the first time a visiting Head of State. I would like to thank President Kagame for giving us his confidence all these years and coming to greet us for this event here.

It was great to see so many women taking the floor here at PP‑14, both in the formal sessions and at the side events, and we look forward to seeing much greater participation from women in ITU's work moving ahead.

And it was grade to see so many women Chairing Committees, Working Groups and Ad Hoc Groups, Chairing those so ably. I think that we owe to all the ladies here, let's give them a round of applause in this Conference.

[ Applause ]

Another excellent innovation here has been the Young ICT Policy Leaders programme, which has provided a platform for young policy makers to network and meet global leaders from the ICT sector, and to nurture knowledge and skills exchange at the international level.

This has been a real success, and I have really enjoyed engaging with the next generation of policy leaders.

Indeed, as I said on Sunday night, I look forward to meeting them as global leaders and Future presidents, future Secretary‑Generals, future Minsters. Hey, hope to see them PP‑26 and PP‑30.

We really owe the City of Busan for sponsoring the programme, and for bringing 35 young delegates here from some of the world's poorest countries, so a big thank you to Busan City, and to Mayor Suh Byung soo.

Please let's give them a round of applause, also.

[ Applause ]

We also put on five lunchtime round tables, each related to the content of the Strategic Plan, covering the themes of growth, inclusion, sustainability, innovation, and monitoring, and I was pleased to see that they were so well attended.

Distinguished delegates,

I think we are all aware that so much could not have been achieved without the benefit of an extraordinary organizational and logistics operation in place.

And so much could not have been achieved without incredibly thorough planning over many, many months, and meticulous implementation here in Busan.

Let me highlight this with some dramatic numbers that go some way to describing PP‑14.

We heard 107 policy statements at the beginning of the Conference, and I was delighted to see that every single speaker kept to the recommended time limits, yet giving us some very strong messages.

Some 2,500 delegates from 171 countries joined us here in Busan, including 167 Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Ambassadors.

And from the Policy Statements, the one leader advised that I mention to my successor, because for over the past eight years, he literally knows everything, every single thing that I was doing, because we're working as one. One little thing I told him that makes use of the 107 Policy Statements, as your bedside reading, so you can get many visionary statements from that, that can be used for the next four years. That is what I did back in 2006 and back in 2010. That's one thing I didn't tell him.

We have been supported by an amazing 2,500 host country and local staff, along with 250 ITU staff, including 73 interpreters.

Almost 1,600 shuttle bus journeys have conveyed delegates to and from their hotels.

We held over 800 meetings on site here at BEXCO and dealt with 452 proposals from Members during the Conference.

And I believe Fabio Bigi holds the absolute record for his persistence and stamina, during the 51 hours of meetings held by his Ad Hoc Group on Internet Related Resolutions, thank you, Fabio.

[ Applause ]

I should say "grazie mille."

PP‑14 has attracted tremendous interest from the media, with over 650 journalists accredited. This is more than four times as many as at any previous plenipotentiary conference.

We have also seen an explosion of interest on social media, with more than 4,000 people posting Tweets during the event, reaching over 17 million Twitter accounts worldwide.

We have had over 100,000 visits to the PP‑10 website over the past two and a half weeks, and close to half a million page views.

Almost 50,000 pictures have been taken by ITU photographers and we recorded and posted more than 100 videos and podcasts.

We saw more than ten terabytes of data passing through the conference network, with over 6,000 unique devices registered.

We delivered over 120 hours of live broadcast webcasts, benefited from around 1,500 hours of interpretation, had nearly 6,000 pages of translated documents.

And in spite of all this, we have used less paper than ever before, generating continued efficiencies as we move ever closer towards being truly paperless.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to quote once again from the Roman stoic philosopher Seneca, who said,

"Associate with people who are likely to improve you."

I have been so incredibly fortunate in my 16 years at ITU and in my 8 years as Secretary General, and especially here, in Busan, over the past three weeks, in having been absolutely surrounded by people who have improved me.

Today, I'm a real me, I'm somebody, because of you.

So let me give my heartfelt thanks and my thanks to the Member State Delegations which have taken part in the Conference and the states they represent.

Our Sector Members, for their upstanding and continuing support. Many have been present in Member State delegations, and many more have been following the Conference online, via webcast;

The Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Secretaries of the Committees, have done so much to distribute the workload of the Conference and whose tireless efforts have enabled us to manage the huge number of contributions received from members.

Let me single out the seven Chairs and Secretaries.

Mr. Min of Korea, Chair of Committee 1, and Ms. Doreen Bogdan, the Secretary.

Mr. Min, of course, has also been the Chair of the whole Conference, and he has played such a vital role in its success.

Let me salute him for epitomizing the key ITU value of seeking consensus, and let's give him a round of applause.

[ Applause ]

Doreen, for her part, has also played an absolutely essential role as the Executive Secretary of the Conference.

Doreen is the only woman to have held this post so far, and she has demonstrated what we all know to be true, in this year of the first GEM‑Tech Awards.

If you can see it, you can be it.

Doreen, let me personally thank you for all the years we have worked together, first in  as the Director of the BDT, where we launched together the first Global Symposium for regulators, the GSR, with you as head of the unit, and for the past eight years as the most senior woman in the ITU, and at the most senior level in the UN system except the elected officials. Congratulations on a job well done.

[ Applause ]

And, Doreen, I know you're not alone. You have a full team of people behind you. I know they deserve full credit of everything you're doing. They're simply incredible. Thank you very much to all the team sitting over there. I feel very proud when you see me walking down tall in this building and these corridors, I'm simply confident because I know people working behind me, behind the scenes. I'm confident in their ability.

We are like a team. They do the job. I end up delivering it, and unfortunately, which is unfair, I end up taking the credit of the wonderful job that the wonderful team is doing behind me, that's the team ITU. They are simply great, and I'm very proud of them.

Moving on now to the rest of the Committees, let me thank Mr. Kim of Kazakhstan, Chair of Committee 2, and Mr. Volanis, the Secretary.

Let's give them a round of applause.

[ Applause ]

Mr. Vanpercy, of Ghana, Chair of Committee 3, and Mr. Ba, the Secretary.

[ Applause ]

Dr. Hobollah of Lebanon, Chair of Committee 4, and Mr. Dalhen, the Secretary.

[ Applause ]

Ambassador Riehl of Switzerland, Chair of Committee 5, and Mr. Dore, the Secretary.

[ Applause ]

Last but not least, Caroline Greenway of Australia. Caroline, I'm so proud of you. Chair of Committee 6, and Mr. Ba, the Secretary.

[ Applause ]

Actually, they have been quite inseparable at this event, and let me congratulate them on their absolutely brilliant management in bringing us a balanced Financial Plan.

Caroline and Alassane, you make a great couple.

[ Applause ]

Last but not least, Mr. Musab Abdulla of Bahrain, Chair of the Working Group of Plenary, and Mr. Lamanauskas, the Secretary.

Let me now move on now to the ITU staff, starting with our colleagues back in Geneva.

The colleagues doing tireless work in Geneva and in our regional offices around the world that has made this Conference possible.

Where would we be without the army of translators and support staff on whom we depend so absolutely?

Let's give them a round of applause.

[ Applause ]

And now let me thank the staff here in Busan. Please stand up here, stand up wherever you are so we can see you. Please stand up. They're very shy.

[ Applause ]

And in the back, of course, our interpreters are not able to stand. They are still working very hard, but they deserve a round of applause, too.

Thank you all, and special thanks to the head of Conference services, publication division, Ahmed Elsherbini, who has done such a good job of keeping things running so smoothly throughout the Conference. And last thing he did last night, this morning for us, after I called him around midnight, is to make sure the Ballot Boxes are here in the room, just to scare anyone who would want to dare to go for a vote, and he succeeded.

A very special thanks goes to you, my legal Advisor, Arnaud Guillot. Arnaud, stand up.

[ Applause ]

You have been steadfast in your support for the Union, clear‑sighted in your understanding of the often complex issues, and I owe you a personal debt, Arnaud, for advice and wisdom beyond my four years. All the deals we've negotiated were through Arnaud. He was working hard behind the scenes, making sure that all the combatants were sufficiently tired before I jumped in the arena so that I could knock them down. That was the strategy. Now I can tell you at the end of the Conference.

I would also like to single out Béatrice Pluchon and her team for their amazing work behind the scenes, and in managing everything with quite extraordinary calm and efficiency. Béatrice, this is your first PP, and you are simply fantastic.

[ Applause ]

Let me also say a special thank you to my fellow elected officials over the past four years.

Together we did it.

It's as simple as that, together we did it. And it was fun. It was fun.

Every bit of the way, every single moment. Thanks to the trust that we have given each other. And you could only do that if we trust in each other's ability to do what we have to do, and we did it, and it was great.

We created One ITU, we demonstrated that, yes, it can be done, One ITU, and this is what our Members wanted all along. And I'm glad that I'll be leaving the Union in a month and a half with achieving the goal that I set for myself from beginning I said yes, we can do it. With our structure, we can still work as one, and we did it. Not only the elected officials, but the staff have joined us, and we did incredible job. And I'm happy that you are happy.

I am absolutely delighted that the four of you are now going forward together in the new management team, two of you in new roles, as Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General, and two of you with renewed mandates, as Directors of BDT and BR.

You will be joined by Chaesub Lee as the new Director of TSB, and I congratulate you all once again.

We all know Chaesub Lee. He's not new to the Union. And I'm confident that he will be even greater in this great Union and taking ITU to new heights.

Let me thank our hosts here in Korea, and I'm extraordinarily impressed with the support you've given us and the facilities you have provided us. Thank you so much for this.

Last but not least, in my personal life, it is my wife Coumba, who keeps me on track. She's here, and I would like to thank her for the support.

[ Applause ]

Over the past 16 years, in the office, my life would simply have been impossible without the invaluable, unfailing and constant support from the world's number one Executive Assistant, Sheila Cooper.

She's still sitting there listening. I know she's listening to me now. Sheila, thank you so much.

I've been fortunate by doing all this while I could have 100% concentration in the office because of my four children giving me real support and behaving like good children in their lives so that I could really concentrate on the job here.

I am always grateful to them. My wife, who is with them, were able to cope with the long nights we're working in this Conference rooms, and the long travel times that I was able to do all this because I was really, really very well supported at home. How lucky I am.

Distinguished delegates, as we look back this afternoon on our three weeks of intense work, I feel that we can hold our heads high, and be proud that we have responded so positively to those hopes that the world had on us.

On a personal note, I would like to single out some of the achievements we have made together over the past eight years.

We held ITU Connect the World Summits in each region of the world, mobilizing tremendous financial and human resources to roll out ICT infrastructure and applications in developing countries.

We launched the Global Cybersecurity Agenda, which has its physical manifestation in the form of IMPACT, in Malaysia, with some 150 countries now on board.

We can be particularly proud, in this regard, of the Child Online Protection initiative, an international collaborative network to promote the online safety of children around the world.

We launched the Broadband Commission for Digital Development with UNESCO, a multistakeholder advocacy group which has taken broadband to the top of the global political agenda, and which will continue its great work under the guidance of the next Secretary General.

I was also proud to serve on the joint Commission on Information and Accountability for Women and Children's Health, with the World Health Organization, as a co‑Vice‑Chairman with the Director‑General of the WHO.

I am also delighted to see the progress we have made in terms of gender activities at ITU, both in terms of our own ITU Gender Mainstreaming Policy, as well as the successful launch of initiatives such as Girls in ICT Day and the GEM‑Tech Awards.

And so many things that you, our Members, have implemented back home.

We have also made major progress on accessibility issues, both in terms of promoting accessibility aware standards and policies in the Union's work and with ITU's own Accessibility Policy, which is the first of its kind for a UN agency.

I am personally also very proud to have seen the progress made over the past years on ITU and youth issues, our future generation. Which is notably with the huge success of the BYND 2015 Global Youth Summit in Costa Rica last year, which saw President Chinchilla take a youth Declaration to the UN General Assembly and also with the youth ICT Policy Leaders programme and the youth Resolution here in Busan.

Other achievements I am personally proud of include the opening of the New York liaison office, which has brought us even closer to our sister UN agencies.

The opening of the ICT Discovery, which delivers a window onto the past and future world of ICTs, and which has brought us closer both to the local community and global visitors.

Thank you, United Arab Emirates, for sponsoring this great idea. When I launched the idea, you believed in it and made it happen. Thank you very much.

The institution of ITU's annual Management Retreat, which helps us to refine and define our priorities for the year ahead, and to ensure that our federative structure continues to work together as One ITU.

Coming from the private sector, I thought ITU is like any corporation which needs the leaders, the management team to get together at least once annually to put their brains together and think of where they are, where they want to go together, and how they can go about it, and it's worked.

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

In closing, let me say that in eight years together, what drove me was writing history, a little bit of history every day, and I say three weeks ago at the opening ‑‑ I said three weeks ago at the Opening Ceremony, and keeping in mind the history readers of the future. I said that to you here while writing history every single day.

And I told you at the time, it's that history we would like our children and our grandchildren to read. And I believe that that's what guided each and every one of us here, and we can be proud of what we did hear during these three weeks. I'm sure that the generations of history readers of the future will see what a great job we have done together over the past eight years.

We have lifted the Union up to the highest level than ever reached before.

So how does it feel to be reaching the end of my tenure here?

Am I sad?

Not at all.

In my culture, if we have been able to get to the end of a mandate in good health, and if we have made so many friends, for life, along the way, and if we have been able to achieve so much, and seize so many new opportunities, then coming to the end is a cause of celebration, and indeed, we shall celebrate that together.

And, hey, I have enjoyed every single minute I was here.

We did good things together, we did great things together.

So let me thank you all for your incredible faith in the endeavor.

And let me wish my successor, and my true friend, Houlin Zhao, even more success than I have ever had. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary‑General. Now I would like to invite Deputy Secretary‑General and Secretary‑General Elect Mr. Zhao to say a few words. Mr. Zhao, you have the floor.

>> DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for inviting me to say a few words.

We just heard a very passionate, emotional speech from our Secretary‑General. I think that he give us very good summaries what the ITU has achieved under his able leadership and he made a lot of credit to his staff and his colleagues. We really appreciate that Parisians, and I also lake to take this opportunity to just add a few words of my personal feelings. I worked with the Secretary‑General for quite a long time and people often are told you're one of a team. You never have any problems.

The reason is very simple: The Secretary‑General trust us and respected us, including myself and all Directors. Of course, we trusted him, we support him, so the relationship of what he meant to us is quite simple. It makes our lives simple, and we all appreciate that.

Of course, Secretary‑General mentioned I shared a lot of information with him over the last 8 years or even 16 years. That is absolutely true. But there's just some time difference that I may not have a picture. For example today, he made his last efforts to help us to get those difficult issues be accepted by the Conference without voting. And I have not got time to listen to his revised what he has done that kind of miracle so I have to try to get his advice briefings tonight.

But owned, I see that a lot of our Members give him a personal gift to support his efforts to achieve this result, so I was wondering earlier today that I would very much like to ask you to give the new management a gift in the future as you have given to the Secretary‑General today. So ladies and gentlemen, I think I don't want to take too much of your time. I'd like to take this opportunity to call the Secretary‑General, Dr. Touré. Over the last eight years we never got this kind of opportunity. This is very exceptional, first time, perhaps the last time. So can I just call Secretary‑General Dr. Hamadoun Touré to this podium that we present him also Gold Medal for his wonderful achievement of the last eight years as Secretary‑General.

[ Applause ]

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: The only problem is I see my electronic signature on this one. Something is wrong here.

>> DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL: Because you have the Secretary‑General title valid until the end of this year so I'm the Secretary‑General Elect so I will start my function from 1st of January next year, so that is why.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would like to also take this opportunity to express my personal appreciation to you for your wonderful role as Chairman of PP‑14. You are really marvelous.

[ Applause ]

Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to personally like to thank each and every member of the Delegations for placing your very clear confidence in me, as the next Secretary General, and in my fellow elected officials for the next four years, Malcolm Johnson, François Rancy, Brahima Sanou, and Chaesub Lee.

You have given all of us an incredibly strong mandate, and you have put your trust in continuity for this great Union of ours, as we prepare ourselves for the next 150 years of ITU's history.

Together with the new management team, and the support of the membership, I am confident that we can go on to achieve great results, building on the outstanding work which has already been performed under Dr. Hamadoun Touré's leadership, and taking the Union to new levels of excellence.

It is an incredible honor to lead the Union forwards, and you can count on me to live up to your expectations.

I campaigned on three important words: "vision," "action," and "harmony."

Here at PP‑14, you have delivered the vision, through the Strategic and Financial Plans, and now it is up to all of us to take the actions necessary to make that vision a reality.

I am confident that we will do so together, in harmony.

So that in 2018, when we come to UAE, to participate in our Plenipotentiary Conference 2018, we will be all proud that the target we set up today has fruitful and very good result.

So let me thank you all once again for your support and confidence. Together, we can make the world a better place for all. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary‑General Elect, Mr. Zhao. That's the kind of statement which shows your vision and your passion on the work of ITU, and as a new responsibility of ITU Secretary‑General.

Now we have another special thing. Dr. Touré, you have been such a great leader, and you have been such a good friend to all of us. You are so inspirational. You are the inspiration to all of us. So we just wish to pay tribute to you and your leadership and your inspiration with this souvenir, which is the Touré years.

[ Video ]

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: And I know all of you also want to express your thanks. I know that all of you also want to express your thanks and your gratitude to him so I'll soon open the floor. But before that, I'd like to remind the Delegates that the time set for declarations is 9:00 p.m. tonight. They must be provided to Room 22.

And tomorrow, we'll note the declarations at 8:30 a.m. in this room and set the deadline for additional declarations which will be at 10:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and the signing ceremony will begin at 2:00 p.m. Not 2:30 p.m. I announced wrongly that it would begin at 2:30 p.m. So the real time is 2:00 p.m. Having said that, I'll give the floor to Philippines. Philippines, you have the floor.

>> PHILIPPINES: Mr. Chairman, please let me express our gratitude from the floor. Mr. President, the officers and staff of the Union. Led by Secretary‑General Hamadoun Touré, and Secretary‑General Elect Houlin Zhao, the Bureaux Directors, my friends, there are outpourings from the height which must find expression in the sadness of parting time. At the core of these outpourings is gratitude, and thus the need to say thank you to all of you.

Thank you to the Secretariat, led by Mr. Dore, for conducting, coordinating and shepherding this Conference to a very successful end. From you, we cannot ask for more.

Thank you for my co‑delegates, my co‑councillors, for espousing plurality of ideas, values in varying in plenum and in informal and ad hoc meetings from these main issues, ideas raised in the marketplace of this course. We reach universal singular truths necessary for the resolution of our work.

To paraphrase poet philosopher Kahlil Gibran of Lebanon, all the ideas and beliefs of humankind are like the fingers of a hand, pointing to different directions, but leading to one in the same palm, all converging the one and the same universal truth. More than simply being informed, we were educated farther as we learned much from you, in the sometimes heated but brotherly discourse in exchange of ideas we hold so dear.

More by our personal interactions, we saw ourselves in you and seeing thus, friendships that bond of humankind were forged fresh and strengthened even more.

Thank you, host Korea, the land of the morning calm, for the time and opportunity to experience the sights and the sounds of the country and the city of Busan, and to experience a slice of what life is in this beautiful country, whose lovely people gave us the personal warmth that insulated us from the cold and made us feel so at home away from home.

Life, it is said, is a continuous stream. It does not end. Therefore, we should and shall not say goodbye. Rather, we say, hasta la vista, till we meet again.

To the President, the respected and very amiable Mr. Wonki Min, thank you for being humane, but firm, and for steering the plenum to its conclusion.

Parting indeed is such a sweet sorrow. Thank you all, gamsa hamnida.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I have a long list of countries which wish to take the floor, but before giving the floor to the states, I just want to remind you that we will have, tomorrow we will have this Closing Ceremony and you will have a chance to make your closing remarks, so this is my personal wish, I just want to use this time to pay our tribute to our outgoing Secretary‑General, our friend, Dr. Touré.

But having said that, I will give the floor to India. India, you have the floor.

>> INDIA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is really a very emotional moment for me, too. Thank you very much, Dr. Touré, for your inspiring valedictory remarks. I don't know how to bid farewell to a man, a personality like Dr. Toure. My association with Dr. Touré has been since 2006, and since then, I had the opportunities to listen to him on many occasions. I must say that I enjoyed every speech, my every interaction with him. I learned a lot from him. He is really a true global leader of telecommunications and ICT sectors, with the special quality of leading the entire Telecom and ICT Sector from the front. Like a Statesman, he has been listening to everybody, but never followed the followers. In fact, the entire Sector has followed his wise advice. He has a way of bringing about compromises on many issues in a very short time of coffee breaks during Conferences.

I very much enjoyed my close and intense interactions with him when I was the Chairman of ITU Council and also during the hosting of ITU World Telecom Development Conference in 2010 in Hyderabad, India, and also on different occasions. I feel very much proud to associate myself with Dr. Touré. It is during his tenure of eight years that Telecom and ICT sectors made enormous progress and development in terms of qualitative as well as quantitative growth.

It is he who can be said as the very initiator of information/knowledge society by promoting the broadband at the global levels through the Broadband Commission. It is also he who understood and recognized the importance and significance of cyberspace, and initiated the cybersecurity agenda in 2007, immediately after election as Secretary‑General in 2006.

To be brief, I must say that his tenure will be considered as a halcyon period in the history of ITU, and he will be remembered for long times to come for the great contributions that he has made with the global cause in the field of telecommunications, ICT, and cybersecurity. I would appreciate if his name is really written in the golden letters of the incumbency chart of Secretary‑General of ITU. Separation is always painful but it is a fact of life, and things moves on.

I also take this opportunity once again to welcome Mr. Houlin Zhao as the next Secretary‑General of ITU, Mr. Malcolm Johnson as the next Deputy Secretary‑General of ITU, Mr. François Rancy, Mr. Brahima Sanou, and Dr. Chaesub Lee as the Directors of the Bureaux. I'm sure with the vast experience, understanding and knowledge, Mr. Zhao, as the next Secretary‑General, will place the ITU at the higher orbital position, using the escape velocity that Dr. Touré has provided to ITU.

At the end, I must say, Dr. Touré, we'll miss you, Sir, and my association with you will always remain with me in my memory for my entire life. With all the best wishes, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Jha. Thank you, India. I know that all of you want to share your thoughts and love with Dr. Touré, but because we have limited time, and I would like to give the maximum chance to maximum countries, so please, please, please limit your intervention to a couple of minutes. South Africa, you have the floor.

>> SOUTH AFRICA: Thank you, Chairperson, and thanks for chairing us. I'm speaking on behalf of the people of the Republic of South Africa. We have known Touré from the early '90s, and I speak on behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of South Africa, plus the African National Conference which is in South Africa currently. We knew him from the ANC and we moved with him to Government.

Let me take this opportunity to thank him specifically on behalf of the late President Mandela, who he shared some time with. In these 20 years that we have shared democracy, we are celebrating in South Africa, Hamadoun Touré will always be remembered not only as an African, but a son of the soil who understood on how to bring and bridge the digital divide on the haves and the have nots. We've seen him in stage and in play for smaller countries like ourselves to bring us at par with those that have been around the ITU for quite some time, and to elevate the issues that we are bringing given our background.

For the child who is in Soweto, we now have access to mobile telephony and mobile cell phones generally. It is because of men like Touré who understood the importance of those that don't have. Despite the poverty that we experience, Touré understood that he comes from Africa, he is an African, despite the language barriers that we could have had with him on coming from the French‑speaking country, Touré understood the need to reach out to his fellow countrymen, people from his continent. We thank him for having bridged the barriers between the haves and the have nots to having succumbed and understood the need for development.

Having said so, we'll like to thank him and his family for dedicating to us. We're not going to part with him. He's just being recycled within the ITU space and the ICT space. We know that he's going to be with us as long as he has strength and breath so we thank all the Member States that have worked with us with Touré in support of all the work and the incoming leadership that will be coming. We hope we're understand we're radical, we're young, we want change. We represent countries that are poor, who need to reconcile with those that have. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, South Africa. UAE, you have the floor.

>> UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate, thank you, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Arab Group, I am delighted to be able to express all the gratitude, feelings of friendship for the Secretary‑General. He is and has always been the leader who has taught us the most, who has made the greatest of efforts on behalf of this great organization, the ITU.

Mr. Chairman, the Arab Group has had the pleasure of working with Dr. Hamadoun Touré in many circumstances, and over recent years, there has been ‑‑ there have been advances which have served as milestones in the progress of our organization, and we are proud to have worked with him.

I do not have either the words or the time to fully express our gratitude, and we hope that we will continue to see him in the best of health, and, Dr. Touré, you may be out of sight, but you will not be out of mind.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, UAE, thank you, UAE. Bahrain, you have the floor.

>> BAHRAIN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I can only echo the words and second the words that have been expressed by the UAE. So I would like to add just a few more on behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Dr. Hamadoun Touré, thank you. Thank you for your constant support, your guidance, and your mentorship. The ITU has been enriched by your leadership. And now you leave it in capable hands, and we look forward to working collaboratively to take care of the legacy you have left behind.

I wish you all the best in all your future endeavors, and hope that our paths will cross again someday and soon. Thank you, Dr. Touré.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Bahrain. Iran, you have the floor.

>> ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as the Asia Pacific Telecommunity, express our gratitude and thanks to Dr. Hamadoun Touré for all the work he has done for all Members of the Union, particularly for developing countries. We are proud of you, Mr. Touré.

I have known, I have had the honor of working with Dr. Touré at Intelsat when we were both close together, and I can confess that the same spirit of friendship, charm, working attitude, very warmly, still continues, has been continuing, regardless of the high position that he has had during the past years.

I would like to express at this time our best wishes and health for the future of Dr. Touré and the family, and we hope to benefit from his experience in the future years of ITU.

While I have the floor, I would like to express our gratitude also and thanks to all the elected officials, and we express our full confidence in all of them, and working with all of them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Iran. United States, you have the floor.

>> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Secretary‑General, Dr. Touré, brother, some will say that your legacy and the Busan consensus are captured in the documents that we will sign tomorrow. But I believe that's incorrect.

I believe that the legacy that you're leaving is the concept that good people from many nations can come together, people with different ideas and different passions, and in good faith, and in negotiation, reach commonly agreed consensus. You leave us not as 193 Member States divided, but as one Union, and for that, we are very grateful. Thank you very much, Sir.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, U.S. Russia, you have the floor.

>> RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dr. Touré, dear friend, working with you for so many years on development and then when you became Secretary‑General of the ITU, may I on behalf of our whole Delegation say how deeply grateful we are to all the hard work which you have put in to our main task, which is strengthening the Union, strengthening its authority, and this Conference is an ideal example of the kind of success which you have achieved.

There is not a single sphere in the work of the Union where you haven't made a significant contribution. It is the part which is most dear to my heart. It is the broadband element, it's the work with the youth, it's the work for developing countries which is so close to your heart.

We have always felt your support and your help. You have like a virtuoso tackled those problems which we thought were insoluble and succeeded in solving them in such a way that everybody remained satisfied. We bow low in honor of that. For us in Russia you and your wife will always remain one of the family. And we would like to wish you and your whole family all the best, and wish you success in your further work, in the hope that our contacts will still be going strong many years from now. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you Russia, China, you have the floor.

>> CHINA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Please allow me on behalf of the Chinese Delegation to congratulate you on the successful outcome of this PP. We would also like to express our deep gratitude and respect to Mr. Touré.

Since the past eight years of his mandate at ITU, he has implemented all the important objectives of ITU, and has let ITU to connect the world and bridge the digital divide as well as promoting ICTs' development. He has made great effort and achieved a great deal.

Your charisma is witnessed by ITU and the global community. We sincerely hope that your future will be successful, and wish you good health.

Mr. Chairman, we would also like to thank you for your able leadership, as well as your team for your patience, wisdom, and efforts. This PP will lay the foundation for the future development of ICT and international communication. We believe that with the common, joint effort, Connect 2020 will certainly be achieved. China would also like to congratulate the elected officials of the Council, as well as the RRB and different Bureaux.

We believe that with joint effort, ITU will most certainly put forward and achieve greater achievement.

Finally, we would like to thank the Government of Korea for its welcoming arrangements. We would also like to thank all the staff, as well as the interpreters and translators, for their hard work. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, China. Poland, you have the floor.

>> POLAND: Secretary‑General, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, on behalf of the whole CEPT, I would like to express may sincere gratitude to you. I believe that due to decisions you have taken while being at ITU, this organization is better and stronger. I do believe that a lot is still to be done in order to connect them connected and provide them with the benefits of ICTs. Nevertheless, under your able leadership, it seems that the job will be much easier.

Europe would like to thank you and wish you most success in your future. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Poland. Mozambique, you have the floor.

>> MOZAMBIQUE: Thank you, Chairman. On behalf of the Government of Mozambique, I couldn't resist but to say thank you to Dr. Touré. You have heard a lot of good words from everyone here who has taken the floor before me, but I just want to say to you that when you come to the room, and during all those years that you have led the Union, you made us feel that we want to dance. Every time that you could just walk to the room, we just felt that we should dance. So I just want to say thank you for inspiring us to dance. Thank you for leaving this Union very united, as United States Delegate said, that you leave us united. And that inspired us a lot, and we think that we will leave all the lessons that we have left with us, you are leaving with us, and we inspire that eight years after the leading ‑‑ after the next Secretary‑General Elect if he lead us for 8 more years, when he leaves, also leave us as united as we are today. So thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mozambique. Countries, I have Oman, Uganda, Bangladesh, on my list. I'm going to close the list of speakers because we have to address other issues, so Senegal, yes, Senegal will be the last country to express our gratitude to the Secretary‑General. Then I'll give the floor to the Secretary‑General to respond to your words. So Oman, you have the floor.

>> OMAN: Thank you, Chairman. We would like to take this opportunity to express on behalf of our Delegation our thanks and gratitude to Dr. Touré for all that he has done for the ICT Telecoms community. We thank him for his efforts as Secretary‑General of the ITU. Dr. Touré, you have set an example for all of us and future generations will remember your achievements with pride.

We wish you well in your future path.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Oman. Zimbabwe, you have the floor.

>> ZIMBABWE: Thank you, thank you, Mr. Chairman. We also wish to recognize the efforts, the outstanding efforts of the outgoing ITU Secretary‑General Dr. Hamadoun Touré. We believe and know for sure the outstanding work he has done for the developing world, particularly in Africa. You have raised the ICT flag high, and yesterday we spoke of telecommunications, and you moved with us and guided us in the ICT digital world. We join others in congratulating you, and echo the words from those who have spoken before us.

And wish you all the best in your future endeavors. You have made Africa proud. We also at the same time wish to welcome the new team led by Mr. Houlin Zhao, and all those who have been elected at this Plenipot Conference. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Zimbabwe. Vanuatu, you have the floor.

>> VANUATU: Thank you, Chair. Secretary‑General, Dr. Touré, on behalf of our Honorable Prime Minister and Minister responsible for telecommunication and ICT Government of the Republic of Vanuatu, and our people, and Fellow Pacific island countries, we join other colleagues to express our gratitude for your support to our islands. Though we are small in size and difficult to find on the map, but we exist, and our Pacific Islands have been benefited a lot through the ITU programmes and recognizing our efforts to engage more in ITU programmes and activities.

Within a short period of time in ITU, we have truly seen an active presence in the Pacific region, and we thank you, especially, and the Directors, and we wish you all the best in your future. And we will continue to give our support to the new team under the leadership of our good friend, Mr. Houlin Zhao.

We will miss your video messages to our World Telecommunication and Information Society Day celebrations, but Gordon Hinckley once said, gratitude creates the most wonderful feeling. It can resolve disputes, it can strengthen friendships, and it makes us better men and women. I thank you, Mr. Chair.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Vanuatu. Uganda, you have the floor.

>> UGANDA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We also wish to express our most sincere appreciation to the Secretary‑General for the great contribution to the Union, and indeed, the entire world. Dr. Touré, you will always be remembered for elevating the visibility of the ITU to great heights. You have indeed inspired all of us who have interacted with you in the last 16 years with the ITU.

Your office was always open for all of us. I don't remember a single instance when you didn't give any of us the opportunity to come in to you and talk to you despite your very busy schedule as Secretary‑General.

We wish you and your family all the best, and may God reward you abundantly. I thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Uganda. Bangladesh, you have the floor.

>> BANGLADESH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our feelings are difficult to express and there is so much to talk about, Dr. Touré. However, on behalf of Bangladesh, we would simply say: Dr. Touré, you are deep inside our hearts, for all that what you were as an ITU leader, as a person, and especially as a well‑wisher for Bangladesh.

We thank you, Sir, and wish you and your family all the best in the future. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Bangladesh. Senegal, you have the floor.

>> SENEGAL: Thank you, Sir. Secretary‑General, Dr. Touré, Senegal would like to thank you for the leadership and the effort which you have always spent over these years at the ITU, particularly the spirit of cooperation and reconciliation that you have developed. You have done so much for developing ICT communications throughout the world. May I just offer you as an example and a source of inspiration. As an African, I'm more than proud of you, and I wish you all success as I wish to the new team. All the best to you and to them for the future. Thank you.

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, thank you, Senegal. Now I would like to give the floor back to the Secretary‑General. So Secretary‑General can respond to these warm words from our Delegates.

>> SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you, Sir. I would just like to express my gratitude to all of you. We've had such great times together. This isn't goodbye. This is just a slight change of position in the game, and life goes on. And the kind words which each and every one of you have pronounced go straight to my heart.

This is perhaps the best possible way in which a person could complete their term as Secretary‑General, going out through this great open door, and leaving so many other doors open, because that's the way I see life.

So may I thank you. Beyond the things you said and the sincerity with which you said them, this really did touch me to my very heart. I think we have every reason to celebrate, and we certainly aren't saying goodbye, ever.

May I say to Vanuatu, but I'm really going to miss that "hello, everyone," with the special Vanuatu accent. As the Canadians say, I've had "fun" throughout these years, "fun," and I really feel that we're one big family.

So thank you to all of you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary‑General. As I already told this to Dr. Touré, but I think he's going to close Chapter 1 of his life, but I think Chapter 2 of his life is even better than his Chapter 1 of his life. I have no doubt about that.

So now I would like to give the floor to Secretariat to make some announcements. Secretariat, you have the floor.

>> SECRETARY OF THE PLENARY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman, you reminded everyone about the time for the declarations and counter declarations so I will not repeat that, but I just wanted to remind all Delegates that the Council Session will begin tomorrow at 9:30, and that is in Room B. Also, Mr. Chairman, tomorrow afternoon, we will have a closing coffee, and the closing coffee is to launch or celebrate the launch, I should say, of the ITU's 150th anniversary.

Tomorrow morning when you come in, you will find a voucher in your pigeonhole, and each Member State will have the opportunity to pick up a T‑shirt, a sports T‑shirt, 150th sports T‑shirt. We have multiple colors, so please come early and you can get the color of your choice. And we would invite you to come to that coffee with your T‑shirt, one per Delegation, and join us for a family photo to celebrate the launch of the 150th of the ITU.

And, Chairman, if I may, and this is not part of the script but if I could just say on behalf of all of the ITU staff a big thanks and to express our appreciation on behalf of all of the ITU staff to the Secretary‑General for his energy, his passion, his commitment. He has always challenged us. Every day he would come in with a new challenge, and I hope that we Rose to meet those challenges.

You have allowed us all to innovate, to create, to work together as a team, and to really create one ITU, and for that, Mr. Secretary‑General, we are very grateful. We thank you.

[ Applause ]

>> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Doreen. I think this is quite an emotional moment, not just for Dr. Touré, but for all the ITU Secretariat, and all ITU family. But this is not just goodbye, and this is a kind of ‑‑ we are actually expecting more from this relationship, so I think this is not just goodbye. And so we will meet again in a better place, and I think Dr. Touré will surprise us again when we meet him again next year.

So that's the end of today's session. But before closing this Eighteenth Plenary Meeting, I just want to say thanks to interpreters. I have not had mentioned to express our gratitude to them, but you have done a wonderful job so I just want to say thanks to you.

[ Applause ]

In addition, I also want to say thanks to people who work on this captioning services. This is a really valuable service for all people.

[ Applause ]

And also the colleagues who are working to translate all documents. Thank you, everybody. And I also want to say thanks to all Members of the Secretariat, but I'll do that again tomorrow. So having said that, we'll meet again tomorrow, 8:30, in this room. The meeting is adjourned.

[ Applause ]

[ End of session ]

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