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ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2014

BUSAN, KOREA

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 >> CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Would you put your headset on? Please, take your seats. We will soon begin our fourth and fifth Plenary meetings.

 Ladies and gentlemen, we are about to begin our fourth Plenary meeting. Please take your seats.

 Okay. Now I will begin. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I hope you took good rest yesterday. I would like to say thanks to the countries which provided a nice dinner yesterday, namely UAE and Poland. They provided wonderful dinners. Also I would like to say thanks to countries which provided wonderful luncheons, China and Kyrgyzstan. Thank you very much.

 And I just want to recall what we did yesterday. We had ITU GEM-Tech breakfast with the women Ministers in the morning. In the Plenary we set the date to announce definitive contributions which is 20- 26 of October Geneva time. That is 7:59 Monday, 27 October, Busan. We noted implementation of strategy plan and activities of the Union and we had wonderful ceremony on the lunch of ITU's 150th anniversary sell celebration. I would like to congratulate again the recognized partners on this important event.

 So far we heard 48 policy statements. So we are just turning the corner. And in terms of the weather, I think some of you may be surprised because of this rain we had yesterday, the day before yesterday, and even today. But we have very good weather forecast. Hopefully we will have better weather this afternoon and in the coming weeks.

 So having said that, I would like to give the floor to the Secretary of the Plenary. Doreen, you have the floor.

 >> SECRETARY OF THE PLENARY: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I would just like to remind all Delegations to please not distribute any materials in the meeting rooms. Distribution of materials from Delegations is not authorized for distribution in the meeting rooms. Should you wish to distribute something, kindly channel that through the Governing Bodies Secretariat. If you have invitations to social events that you need distributed, please channel those through ITU protocol service. Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Doreen. Now I would like to address our Draft Agenda. The first item of the agenda is, of course, approval of the agenda. The draft of the agenda is submitted for your approval. Any comments?

 So with no comments, I take it that the agenda is adopted.

 Now, we will move to the second Agenda Item, which is the general policy statements. Today we will begin with Thailand, followed by Tunisia and Somalia. I would like to invite the Minister of Communication and Information Technology of Thailand. Thailand, you have the floor.

 >> THAILAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honor for me to speak before this ITU Plenipotentiary Conference on behalf of the Royal Thai Government.

 First of all, I would like to express my profound gratitude and appreciation to the Government and the people of the Republic of Korea for hosting this conference in this wonderful City of Busan, and for the warm welcome and hospitality.

 I would also like to extend my heart felt congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, on your election as the Chairperson for this conference.

 Being a Member State of ITU for over 100 years, Thailand has closely witnessed how ITU has evolved over time to respond to ever-changing needs of its members. As our union is gearing up to establish the Connect 2020 framework, let me share Thailand's perspective and some of our commitments to push forward the vision and targets under this framework.

 The Thai ministry of information and communication technologies and the office of the national broadcasting and telecommunications commission have been cooperating to implement the extension of high-speed broadband network and to achieve its country-wide coverage. This will reduce the gap and disparity in accessibility and telecom and ICT services.

 I'm pleased to note that the Connect 2020 goals and targets are perfectly aligned with the new policy of the Thai Government to formulate strategies on digital economy. The major objectives of digitizing the economy aims at extending opportunities for our people, businesses, and social services through information technology. To achieve this, the Thai Government plans to increase investment in both physical infrastructure, such as the expansion of the national broadband network and the readiness of related laws and ecosystem.

 Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, our common goal of creating an Information Society with better and broader ICT links among nations and people would be achieved through multilateral collaboration. We must enhance partnerships among Governments and all stakeholders. Thailand is ready and willing to be a part of this partnership and strongly committed to contributing to the global telecom and ICT Development Agenda through our membership of the ITU.

 Please allow me to gently remind you that the Government of Thailand is standing for reelection to the Council. We hope that our candidature would be supported by all the Member States in the election. Thank you very much for your attention.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for sharing Thailand's vision and strategy with all our member countries.

 Now we will hear from Tunisia, followed by Somalia. I would like to invite the Deputy Minister of research and ICT of Tunisia. You have the floor.

 >> TUNISIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the name of God the merciful and compassionate, may the peace of God be with you. Mr. Min, Chairman of the Plenipotentiary Conference 2014, Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary General, Directors, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, Heads of Delegations, members of Delegations, it is my honor to take the floor before you on behalf of His Excellency, the Minister of Higher Education, Research, and ICTs, Dr. Tawfik Jlassi, who unfortunately wasn't able to come along to this Plenipotentiary Conference because we have our own conference. We have our conference at the same time as the first legislative elections of the new constitution on the 26th of October.

 Today Tunisia is experiencing a stage of democratic transformation, the startup democracy as it has been called. Ladies and gentlemen, at the beginning of my statement I really must address the Republic of Korea and thank the Government and the people for the excellent organization of this conference.

 Tunisia in 1998 proposed organizing the World Summit on the Information Society and then hosted the second phase of this Summit in 2005. And we confirm our commitment to pursuing the achievement of the outcomes of this WSIS. WSIS was the first in assisting sustainable development and active participation of all stakeholders, Governments, Civil Societies, academia in the application of policies and programs to bridge the digital divide between the various states and social classes. We must not forget that many questions still remain unanswered. And the international society must continue to work for the WSIS beyond 2015.

 Tunisia in the framework of its commitment to the Information Society worldwide wishes to provide greater access to ICTs. We have been working with the public and private sector in accordance with our constitution to set up a national strategy which has three stages, so as to create a total transition to digital.

 First we are going to develop digital technologies for use by individuals, administrations and institutions. Second, offshoring and thirdly, development of the necessary infrastructure for all this.

 And in order to implement this strategy, we have to develop a range of programs to allow Tunisia to add value to the digital sector, which will be $600 million per year, an increase in digital services which is to be multiplied by four, to reach $3 billion per year. Then the creation of 80,000 jobs by 2018. Then we must guarantee access to digital services and facilities and Internet for all.

 We want to use these technologies to shore up democracy and enable all spheres of society to be on an equal footing and participate in society. We also have to emphasize the importance of the development. Development is very important to Tunisia. Also gender equality is very important to us. In our constitution, the woman is equal to man in rights and obligations. We have a member for Council of the Union and we think that we can serve the various with bodies of the Union. The Union finds itself at a difficult stage today. The standardization sector has to be guided with impartiality and tact. And Dr. Bilel Jamoussi is there by proposed for the post of the TSB. We think his candidate you are will strengthen the Union which will remain impartial at the technological level, neutral. It will help the standardization sector. This is very important. It will help to bridge the gap between developed and Developing Countries in this area.

 We also hope for your support for Tunisia's candidate for the Council and for the post of the Director of DTSB. We would like to reiterate our thanks to Korea, the Republic of Korea and all Delegations for their constructive work which is putting man at the center of our efforts. May the peace of God be with you.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Your Excellency. I believe that all international communities appreciate Tunisia's effort as put forward in the WSIS, the whole WSIS process.

 Now we will hear from Somalia followed by Zimbabwe. I would call upon the Minister of Post and Telecommunications of Somalia. You have the floor.

 >> SOMALIA: Thank you very much and good morning. Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Somali people and my Government, accept a warm greeting from Somalia, a country that many may not associate with ICT, but today I have some surprises for you. First, from the outset I want to thank the Government of Korea for the invitation and hosting this event here in beautiful Busan. Sunshine, rain, colorful environment, and amazing sounds.

 I mention this because we are so busy sometimes with technology we forget to enjoy the other images beyond the computer and our mobile screens. Sounds beyond our headsets. While we are here, please enjoy the scenery.

 After two decades and a half of challenges, Somalia is back. Literally, we are back. Thanks for the warm welcome as we become a full member of the ITU and many other international organizations. We have challenged the civilian model, rule of law and the whole notion of nation state. Let me assure you, having been there and done that, I'm here to admit, acknowledge that there is a settling rule for Government, whether on physical or virtual matters. Just to briefly glance at the ITU friendly chat without going into further details, let me just say there are real people, human beings and other species for all of us to keep in mind as we beat and bite, pun intended.

 The ICT sectors is a success story. The telecommunications provides solutions to our people including the Web via mobile phones and mobile money is a fast growing financial business model, as Somalia becomes a cashless society. Stats show that Somali websites are increasing by the day, into the thousands. We want to introduce the Arabic script on the LCD, to allow those speaking Arabic to share with others who speak and write Arabic. We believe that will help us fast tract the abilities of our country.

 Having said that, with the deregulation becomes the norm, I would like to remind us all that we should all be mindful of the need for rules and regulations. As a report from the part of the world where ICT is also used, sometimes for negative and dangerous reasons. The invisible hand of the market sometimes becomes hard to track.

 Our focus in Somalia is on infrastructure, connectivity and content. The fiber optics has landed 3G and access to the Internet showing steep upward trend and it has increased many folds. My goal as Minister is to build the necessary infrastructure to deliver, for example, fiber to the home and gig Internet hopefully before the next Plenipotentiary.

 Our policy in Somalia as a Government is encourage the education sector to increase the contribution towards the ICT area. We are focused on offering all universities in Somalia to get EDU-based domains and Google apps e-mails soon. It is my ministry policy to enable all students to have access to the Internet and EDU based e-mails. We launched.SO for all Somalis, to get free dough manies to have their own websites, enable virtual connectivity. We have 1 million people around the world, 10 percent of our population. We are serving or streaming our national TV on the Web.

 We have a vision, very ambitious strategic ICT plan that soon all Somalis have access to the Internet. Those already have, we even have fast I am access to get more online sources. E education, naming a couple of ways we are shifting a lot of our attention to. We are encouraging our universities to provide necessary educational foundations to enable students to use the new developments in the ICT, big data, 3D printing for prototypes and we are building labs, a challenge to financial and cloud computing.

 We want to do this because we believe access to information and knowledge will help us gain the capacity to develop our economy. Secure our environment, and enable our people to become productive citizens. We have other ideas and very ambitious products like ID cards that are partially based on IPv6 numbers, so that all Somalis have access to the Internet. This ID card might become handy. I'm running out of time. I'll summarize. We are working on projects to link the 1 million Somalis. We just launched post codes for post offices to have every city in town. Let me take advantage of the opportunity to thank the Government of Korea for this opportunity. Since Somali has gained voting rights and because we are not competing with any of the candidates, we wish good luck to all of the candidates. I thank you all.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for sharing your country's policy and vision with our Member States. And at the same time thank you for reminding us, every country has one vote here. We have an election tomorrow and day after tomorrow and next Monday. So every vote counts.

 So we will hear from Zimbabwe followed by Nepal. I would like to invite the Deputy Minister of information and couples technology of Zimbabwe. You have the floor.

 >> ZIMBABWE: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Let me start by recognizing you, Mr. Chairman, Wonki Min, the Secretary-General, Mr. Dr. Hamadoun Touré, and officials of the ITU, colleague Ministers here present, ladies and gentlemen.

 It is a great pleasure and honor for me to address the global telecommunications fraternity of the International Telecommunication Union ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2014 in this captivating City of Busan.

 I sincerely express my gratitude to our host, the Republic of Korea for the extraordinary warm hospitality we are all enjoying.

 Mr. Chairman, allow me to affirm our commitment to the work of the Union. This is evidenced by the developments in Zimbabwe's ICT landscape, where broadband penetration is on the rise, reaching 47 percent as at the end of June this year.

 The Government has put in place various initiatives to facilitate the fusion of broadband services throughout the country. To date, the length of the optic am fiber back bound reached 3,900 kilometers while the Internet bandwidth connectivity went from nine gigabits per second last year to a whopping 16 gigabits per second as of June this year.

 As a matter of priority, the Government in collaboration with the key stakeholders will complete a national broadband plan by June next year.

 In addition, the national ICT policy remains aligned with the fast changing information and communication technologies through our national periodic policy reviews.

 On inclusiveness, Mr. Chairman, the Zimbabwean Government is using low cost solutions for the provision of broadband services in previously excluded rural and remote areas of the country. In order to ensure that these technologies are affordable for disadvantaged people. We have ongoing ePrograms on education, health, Government, services.

 With regard to reducing the affordability gap between disadvantaged and well to do, we have already completed cost studies and are working on a comprehensive infrastructure sharing framework to avoid infrastructure and reduce the cost of provision.

 The rapid growth in the introduction and use of value added services is a result of our focus on innovation to exploit changing ICT landscape fully. The lives of our people are indeed improving through ICT, inducing positive changes in the socioeconomic sectors, including health, agriculture, banking and education.

 To this end, we salute the work of ITU in developing global standards that have seen us moving from nine kilobits per second in 2G, to broadband standards that have, broadband speeds now experienced in 4G. ITU should continue the good work until all citizens of the world are similarly connected.

 We further commend the work that was done by ITU in the transition to digital terrestrial television and in planning the resultant Digital Dividend. We are confident that both Digital Dividend 1 and 2 will be major assets in bridging the digital divide. We passionately recognize the outstanding work by the outgoing Secretary-General, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Deputy Secretary-General Houlin Zhao and the Directors of the three Bureaus and the entire team. You make us proud and grateful and we wish you well, our digital legends.

 In conclusion let us as ITU make a striking difference in the world during this Plenipotentiary 2014 by choosing our leaders wisely. I thank you.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Your Excellency. Thank you for sharing Zimbabwe's policy with the Member States. At the same time thank you for recognizing the work of ITU.

 Now we will hear from Nepal, followed by Iraq. I would like to invite the Minister of information and communication of Nepal. Nepal, you have the floor.

 >> NEPAL: Mr. Chairman, Honorable Ministers and Vice Ministers, Secretary-General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, I extend warm greetings on behalf of the people and Government of Nepal. I congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election and assure you of my Delegation's full support.

 Our sincere thanks to the Government and people of the Republic of Korea for warm hospitality and excellent arrangements. We have full support for the proposed vision of ITU and its associated Connect 2020 framework. Mr. Chairman, Nepal is undergoing a political change. We are in the process of promulgating a new constitution that will address the increasing aspirations for people for inclusion and development. We believe that the potentials of telecommunications, ICTs and broadband connectivity can be leveraged for sustainable development. Experience those at ICTs that have interest mate link can garner political support and priority. Nepal extensively utilized the huge repository of knowledge and information that ITU has been producing. Nepal's policy and legal regulatory and operational frameworks have been largely guided by the global reform changes that ITU has led. We already have begun the process of formulating a coordinated ICT policy and strategy. In line with targets and the formulation of national broadband policy plans and programs for development of national broadband networks are in the final stages of completion. We have been closely monitoring the WSIS targets, including the outcome of the WSIS+10 process and are committed to achieving its goals. Our tele-density is 93 percent and Internet penetration about a third. We need to make special efforts to increase the Internet penetration, particularly broadband penetration.

 The proposed national broadband policy plan and national broadband network will spread the eApplications and services. EGovernment master plan has been developed with the technical assistance of the Government of Korea and implemented through projects including but not limited to development of Government representative portal, nationality identification system, eAuthentication, enterprise architecture, eCustoms, eEducational administration system, immigration, eTax, eProcurement, national unified code, system of development, through a connect school, connect a community program, Nepal developed ICT in education, 2014-2018, aimed at connecting schools through broadband connectivity.

 EHealth, mHealth strategies have been developed through technical assistance of ITU. National Emergency Telecommunications Plan, guidelines of Internet structures, protection from non-ionizing, protection of health due to wireless communication, vulnerability assessment of towers and national strategy for making ICT and mobile phones accessible for persons with disabilities have been prepared and are being consulted with the stakeholders. With the technical assistance of ITU, we have also developed analog to digital switch over roadmap and the process has already begun. We acknowledge the continued support and cooperation of ITU and hope that this will enhance in the days to come.

 I also recall our collaboration at the World Bank, the development bank for development of telecommunications and ICT. We emphasize the importance of linking ICTs with overarching development goals and further underscore the need for special policy and regulatory interventions at global, regional and national level to bridge the increasing digital divide as well as answering public confidence in the space. This requires partnerships and innovations at all levels. To conclude I express the support of my Delegation to engage constructively during these three weeks. I hope our deliberations will help us develop a roadmap for achieving the Connect 2020 goals. I wish the conference all success. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your concise and at the same time very comprehensive policy statement. Now, I think all Member States do understand very well what policies have been implemented in your country. Now, we will hear from Iraq, followed by Ghana. I would like to call upon Senior Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs, Ministry of Communications of Iraq. Iraq, you have the floor.

 >> IRAQ: Chairman, Excellencies, Secretary-General of the ITU, Delegates, heads and members of Delegations. On behalf of the Iraqi administration, I would like to convey my thanks to the leaders and people of the Republic of South Korea for the excellent hospital which they have extended to us. We also would like to thank the Secretary-General of the ITU and the Deputy Secretary General and Directors of the three sectors for their efforts over the past few years in spite of the challenges which they faced.

 Chairman, in this statement, I will not list the achievements which have been made in Iraq or detail what we have been able to do since the transition from dictatorship to a new regime. I will not list the efforts made by our Ministers, but I will say that we have achieved a number of goals in a number of different fields. We have heard statements from many Delegations and many statements have given primary importance to the need to offer services. Very few statements, however, have mentioned security aspects. We believe that we cannot serve humanity without attaching the same degree of importance to technical aspects and security aspects. Here today we would like to take this opportunity to call upon all of you to support us in standing up to terrorism, which uses ICTs. We believe that we should attach the same amount of importance to technical aspects and to security.

 Over the course of the last 250 years we have striven to develop the sector with which we deal. But security doesn't enjoy its due status. Recruitment mobilization and spreading awareness is used by terrorists, carried out by terrorists through ICTs.

 And they use ICTs to attack us. I would like to recall that in Iraq we met a number of challenges to prevent terrorists having recourse to ICTs in their activities.

 We have tried to raise barriers against terrorism. If there were a consensus at the international level concerning security matters we would have been able to make a better job of standing up to these challenges. There are many recent new challenges, but that doesn't make them any less of a problem. These challenges affect our societies and communities where ignorance reigns. ICTs can be used fairly easily. The goals of terrorist organizations go beyond the borders of our region. They want to affect all humanity, regardless of religion and race through our involvement in the ITU's work we have looked for the best solutions to ensure that ICTs can serve society and humanity. We have adopted a number of noble objectives and we are well aware of the importance of the human aspect of our goals. Because humanity is at the heart of our concerns within our work, however, a number of different responsibilities fall to us. We are trying to foster the transfer of information. We are trying to develop the Information Society, information which is transferred can allow knowledge to be transferred. So that information can be transmitted to society.

 But at the same time that information can be used as a weapon of destruction. Those most affected by this misuse of ICTs are the most vulnerable groups, namely children and young people. And that's why the transfer of information can be dangerous. We must bear this in mind. And we must also bear in mind the importance of our work, the importance of following closely how social networks develop.

 Ladies and gentlemen, recently we have tackled a number of challenges to monitor the information being transmitted by satellites covering Iraqi territory, the satellites transmit information without always having our approval. We've worked for a number of years to achieve a number of goals. Efforts have been damaged by terrorist groups. Ladies and gentlemen, we are mentioning all of these matters to draw your attention to the facts and to delve deeper into the dangers that we all face. We would call upon all members of the international community to launch an international coalition in the ICT sector with a view to preventing terrorists from using these crucial technologies with a view to carrying out terrorist activities.

 We must attach a full measure of importance to the way in which ICT infrastructure is being destroyed in Iraq. We must offer Iraq all possible means of assistance.

 In conclusion then, we hope that peace will prevail and that we will be able to live in harmony in an environment of peace. And that the ITU will be able to play a pivotal role in strengthening economic and social stability. We hope that this conference will help achieve these ends because the outcomes are set to help humanity and emancipate all humanity. We thank Dr. Touré, the Secretary-General, and his Deputy Secretary General. They have carried out exemplary work here at the ITU.

 And we wish them every success.

 (Applause.)

 >> IRAQ: We apologize for speaking at such length.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your policy statement. The issue you stressed, cybersecurity, will be stressed throughout this Plenipotentiary Conference. That is a very important issue.

 Now we will hear from Ghana followed by Cuba.

 I would like to call upon Minister of communications of Ghana. Ghana, you have the floor.

 >> GHANA: Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Heads of Delegations, the Secretary-General of the ITU and the Directors of the ITU, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, greetings from the Government and the people of Ghana. On behalf of my Delegation, I convey our profound gratitude to the Government and people of Korea for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to us since our arrival. Mr. Chairman, it is evident that the ITU is making significant impact on the promotion of ICT for development and it is also true that it holds the key to the world's development and the promotion of global peace.

 In this regard, the Delegation of Ghana will not relent in our contribution to assure that the ITU continues to exercise its mandate and lead the way through consensus-building to help bridge the digital divide. We should, therefore, strive to provide the missing link that was revealed in the Midland report. We also wish to remind ourselves that the landmark consensus achieved in the World Summit on the Information Society and the action plan adopted to build a truly inclusive community should continue to guide the ITU.

 Mr. Chairman, we note that this conference is being held at the time that Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia in Africa are reeling under a health emergency as a result of the outbreak of Ebola virus. With incalculable consequences on the fortunes of the countries within the west African subregion.

 The panic of the Ebola threat is leading to isolation and stigmatization of the people of the subregion, particularly the afflicted countries.

 Ebola virus disease has reaffirmed how crowded our continent has become, threatening developed and under Developed Countries. The time to act is purposefully. It's now or never. The administrations only provides comfort to the affected countries, as there is still so much to do. The entire world is equally taken by surprise as it has never experienced this Ebola environmental disease on such a scale. Ghana is therefore adding its voice to the Secretary-General's call in this conference to consider and intensify efforts on how big data and ICT can support ongoing programs of containment and treatment of the affected pens.

 Ghana has not recorded a single case of Ebola now. We have volunteered to host and we are presently hosting in Accra the U.N. mission on the response.

 As the ITU meets on the side lines of this Plenipotentiary, we shall be willing and ready to share with you the information on how ICTs are aiding the work in Ghana. Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, I'm delighted to report that ICT and telecommunications in Ghana is ongoing significant transformation. The WSIS targets are progressively being met through a world focus and as acute universal access program that promotes the application of ICT to improve livelihoods including its use to promote the vision, providing training to inmates of prisons. Indeed it is the fastest growing sector, benefiting from increased investment and harsh competition, improved regulatory oversight, determined policy application and available involving the participation of the citizenry. And stakeholders in the policy implementation.

 It is therefore with satisfaction that we report that in compliance with the outcome of the world telecommunication policy conference, the Ghana Delegation reflects in this Delegation evidence of multi-stakeholderism. As a result of investments in broadband, telephone service has surpassed 29 million subscriptions, which is nearly about 111 percent teledensity. The public and private sector are separately but in a coordinated matter deploying fourth generation technology. Ghana supports ITU's enhanced engagement to relevant stakeholders. Ghana urges ITU to intensify its work on environment and climate change as well as gender and disability. The youth of the world are our primary resource and other declarations of the world youth summit continues to be heard. We need to involve them in ICT policy making.

 In support of continuing the leadership role of the ITU in promoting global development and world peace, Ghana wishes to assure this conference of its readiness to contribute its quota together with other members. Ghana will help empower the ITU to meet its objective to promote development and help bridge the digital divide.

 Ghana remains active and committed member of the ITU and will be honored to serve on the ITU Council for the period 2014 to 2018 with the kind support of this Plenipotentiary Conference.

 We wish this conference great success. Thank you.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your policy statement. In the ITU we have discussed the role of ICT in climate change, to adjust prevention. As you mentioned in your policy statement, this is time we have to think about how we can use this valuable technology to address the issue of Ebola. That's the reason I believe that Secretary-General has taken the initiative to make actions on this important matter.

 Thanks once again.

 Now we will hear from Cuba, followed by Papua New Guinea. I would like to invite vice Minister of Communications of Cuba. Cuba, you have the floor.

 >> CUBA: Thank you, Chairman. Microphone, please.

 On behalf of the Republic of Cuba, we would like to congratulate you on your election to Chair this conference. And express our thanks to the authorities of the Republic of Korea and the City of Busan for their hospitality.

 We also would like to convey our greetings to all Delegations present and reiterate Cuba's commitment to contributing to the success of this meeting.

 Chairman, Delegates, this conference is being held at a time of significant challenges in creating a society in which everyone can access and benefit from information, with a view to development and improvement of quality of life.

 On the basis of the WSIS, we must stress that many of the challenges which were raised at that conference have yet to be met. We believe this is an adequate space in which to tackle these challenges. Over the course of the four years since the last Plenipotentiary Conference, a number of developments have taken place. We have seen the establishment of integrated infrastructures for various purposes. But despite the steps forward which have been made, we know that ICTs can be used against international peace and security. In recent years there has been a significant increase in the use of ICTs to destabilize the political situation and we are particularly concerned about illegal employment of ICTs to mount attacks on countries.

 In addition, we reject the use of ICTs to carry out spying. This has been seen on the part of a number of heads of state and nations. This is a transgression of international law and state sovereignty. Cuba has fallen victim to illicit use of telecommunications, with a view to undermining Cuba. Radio transmission is sent to Cuba, and this affects the country negatively.

 Cellular telephony is also used against Cuba. Document C14/68 was presented to the ITU on this topic and we can see that there are various violations of our sovereignty of this type. The only way to prevent and face up to these threats is through cooperation among all states. We need to prevent these types of actions from being pursued.

 Cuba for 55 years has been the victim of an embargo imposed by the United States. This is in spite of the majority which has expressed itself against this embargo on 22 occasions before the United Nations.

 In spite of this embargo we have been developing our telecommunications systems, developing fiber optics, and boosting Internet services and cellular telephony.

 We offer a number of free services. We continue to train professionals in ICTs, both in universities and in other fora.

 We stress social access for all citizens in our policies. And we develop access to broadband with a view to developing our country further. Chairman, Delegates, the ITU will always be able to count on Cuba's support. On this occasion we hope we will be able to continue the long membership of the Council that we've enjoyed and hope we will be able to take have the opportunity to defend the interests of the country further. Thank you.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Your Excellency, for your policy statement. Now we will hear from Papua New Guinea, followed by Nigeria. I would like to call upon permanent Secretary, Department of Communication and Information Technology of Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea, you have the floor.

 >> PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, the Secretary-General of ITU, Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, and Ladies and Gentlemen.

 On behalf of the Government of Papua New Guinea, I offer my congratulations to you, Mr. Min, on your appointment as chairman of this very important Conference.

 I would also like to extend my appreciation to the Secretary-General and the staff of the ITU for successfully organizing this very important Conference, and to the Government of the Republic of South Korea and the Busan City Authorities, and its people, for hosting this highest forum of the ITU.

 Ladies and Gentlemen, by the end of this Forum, we will have set a direction and a clear path moving towards 2020 under the vision and framework of "Connect 2020."

 Therefore, allow me now to share with you briefly key developments in the ICT sector in Papua New Guinea just before, and after ITU Plenipotentiary 2010.

 These developments are very much in line with achieving the four complementary goals of Connect 2020, which is to accelerate the growth of ICT nationally, ensure inclusiveness through affordable access; and ensure sustainability and accelerated future growth of ICT.

 Beginning in 2008, the Government of PNG adopted the landmark National ICT Policy 2008 that was primarily geared towards removing the barriers to market entry so as to liberalize the ICT market, and allow for greater competition in all sectors of ICT service provision.

 The reforms, spurred on by the policy, brought about significant expansion in the provision of ICT services over the last six years.

 Whilst fixed line growth was very minimal, access to mobile phones grew dramatically from a modest state of less than 10 percent of the population in 2010 to about 45 percent in January 2014, and prices for calls have fallen by about 65 percent.

 The ICT Policy of 2008 also included the need to connect all our citizens that remain unconnected today.

 A rural communications program is currently being implemented as part of the universal access program of our Government aimed at bringing ICT services to underserved communities of PNG.

 In late 2013, another key ICT policy, the National Broadband Policy, was adopted.

 The policy recognizes the role of broadband accelerating economic and social development objectives.

 Ladies and Gentlemen, under the framework of the National Broadband policy, Our Government is also embarking on a National Transmission Network through an established entity, in connection with PNG's world class Liquefied Natural Gas project.

 Turning to developments in cellular mobile services, LTE spectrum license has been granted to mobile operators which will not only further extend the reach of ICT services and infrastructure, but also support the roll out of mobile broadband services in PNG.

 The PNG Government has also set the target of year 2017 for switch over from analogue to digital terrestrial Television Broadcasting.

 Our Government is equally aware of the threats and challenges brought about by the cyberworld and has recently adopted a National Cyber Policy which paves the way for the development of cyber legislation that will ensure a safe and secure ICT environment.

 Whilst significant progress has been made in ICT sector, much remains to be done in connecting our people particularly advancing the broadband agenda.

 In this connection we believe that ITU will continue to be relevant and will provide guidance and direction in the areas of standards, radiocommunications and development.

 Perhaps a particular focus of the Union in the next cycle should be to assist Member countries in reaching the noble broadband development goals that have been set by the ITU so that all mankind can share the benefits of ICT.

 Ladies and gentlemen, in concluding I take this opportunity on behalf of my Government, to congratulate and thank the outgoing Secretary General, Dr.

 Hamadoun Touré, for his brilliant and capable leadership in taking the Union to greater heights and indeed becoming very visible in the Pacific.

 Our delegation looks forward to working with you all and I express our wishes for a successful conference.

 Thank you for your kind attention; and thank you, Mr. Chairman.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, thank you for sharing your vision for Papua New Guinea with us. We will hear from, Minister of Telecommunication of Nigeria. Nigeria, you have the floor.

 >> NIGERIA: Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Secretary-General of ITU, Distinguished Delegate, I bring greetings of the Government and people of Nigeria. Allow me to commend the Government and people of the Republic of Korea for the warm hospitality and for the ITU made for this conference.

 Dr. Hamadoun Toure and his team for the great work they have done in steering the affairs of the Union over the past four years. As the years go by we see no abating of the infusion of ICTs in every day life. Irrespective of which part of the world we live and regardless of income levels, ICTs occupy several intersections between the needs of the citizens and the resources required to meet them. As more people come online for the first time, more do so using cellular phone and the majority will be from the developing world. Predictions are that mobile phone in Africa will increase 20 fold in the next five years. This is double the estimated growth rate in the rest of the world. In Nigeria we have seen mobile subscriptions increase from 87 million to over $131 million mobile Internet subscriptions stands at 67 million this year. Achieving tele-density of 40 percent the policy focus is in step with the reality of this mobile Internet revolution. We are looking to create a viable environment for the proliferation of lower priced devices, increased investment in network infrastructure and increased availability of spectrum for broadband W the knowledge these will further drive growth. Through the implementation of our national ICT policy, national broadband roadmap, and guidelines for Nigerian content in ICT we are bringing greater clarity and predictability to the Nigerian ICT sector. Importantly the framework is in line with the ITU's Strategic Plan for 2016-2019, particular lip the identified goals of targets of growth, inclusiveness, sustainability and innovation and partnership. With respect to growth, the primary contribution to the telecommunications and information sectors of GDP is growing and stands at we are amplifying benefits in the ago curl sector. For example, a combination of the use of Android app, Facebook and Twitter were instrumental in Nigeria's fight to contain the Ebola virus. With Ebola, time is very important. The phone app helped in reducing reporting times of infections by seventy-five percent: test results were scanned to tablets and uploaded to emergency databases and field teams got text message alerts on their phones informing them of the results. We are sharing the best practices with the rest of the world.

 Nigeria is also using ICTs to build a more inclusive society. Our broadband initiatives which have been implemented across technologies and at various levels of governance are cognizant of the needs of women and girls as well as the marginalized segments of society. The intersecting points between technology and physical aspects of our lives throw up number of challenges. Our experience in fighting terrorism echos that of other countries and we are actively utilizing technology to achieve national security objectives whilst respecting civil liberties.

 Cybersecurity, cyber crime, inappropriate and harmful consent, misinformation and eWaste are some of the issues we have to address.

 Mr. Chairman, Nigeria has been an active member of the Union. We are Vice Chair of a number of Study Groups and have been a member of the Council for over a decade. Nigeria will be putting herself forward for reelection into the ITU Council and we will be honored to again serve the Union in this capacity. Nigeria has invaluable experience to share and we are imbibing best practices from other countries and also mark making concrete attempts as. We are putting forth Mr. Shola Taylor as Nigeria's candidate for the post of Deputy Secretary. Mr Taylor is not only versed in the operation of the ITU having held several full-time and part-time positions within the Union, but has also worked in the telecommunications industry in both developed and developing economies. He fully grasps the broad range of challenges and opportunities that the ITU has to address in the coming years and is extremely well prepared to support the elected Secretary-General in steering the Union to deliver expected outcomes of its stakeholders.

 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your policy statement, in particular your willingness to share this mobile app technology which you are using to address the Ebola issue. Thank you very much.

 Now we will hear from Cameroon, followed by Malawi. I invite the Minister of the Post and Telecommunications Issues of Cameroon. Cameroon, you have the floor.

 >> CAMEROON: Chairman, Secretary-General, ladies and gentlemen, Ministers, Delegates, I am happy to have this honor and privilege today to speak on behalf of the Republic of Cameroon before this august Assembly.

 First of all, I should like to thank the authorities and people of the Republic of Korea for their hospitality, and congratulate you, sir, on your brilliant election to the Chair.

 Ladies and gentlemen, Cameroon has signed the common African proposals and sponsored them. They will be submitted during the discussions. We hope this conference will reaffirm the essential role of the union in the development of telecommunications and ICTs, and strengthen measures significantly to bridge the digital divide. Another battle which requires ongoing utilization of the Union today is cybersecurity. This is the subject of a promulgated 2010 by the President of the Republic of Cameroon. Cybersecurity is a priority in Cameroon today. We have established public key infrastructure, thanks to the support of the Republic of Korea. I should like to thank on behalf of the Government of Cameroon the Republic of Korea. And we are now also implementing a security surveillance mechanism under the impact initiative, working together with ITU.

 As regards development of broadband infrastructure, Cameroon has already laid more than 6,000-kilometers of optic fiber, and we hope to lay a further 4,000 over the next four years.

 Cameroon is committed to the WSIS principles and the Kigali 2007 recommendations for the interconnection of all the major cities and capitals of Africa. The central African backbone project is to interconnect through broadband links the States of the central African subregion.

 As regards to international access, we have two landing points for submarine cables, two Internet exchange points will soon be established in cities to stimulate mobile telephony, a third provider, via tele-and the launch was in September. There are 22 million inhabitants. In our area there is a penetration rate of mobile telephony of 75 percent. Penetration rate of Internet of 6.4 percent.

 Ladies and gentlemen, Cameroon has always worked very hard within the ITU and we have been a member of Council for 35 years. Since 2003, my country has significantly contributed to identifying harmonised frequency bands at the global level for the purposes of use by mobile international telecommunications. At the regional level we are the Vice Chair of the Tariff Group of ITU for Africa, as well as the Permanent Secretariat of the Association of Regulators of Central Africa, RTAC.

 Mr. John, a Cameroon native, has been Deputy Secretary General of ITU; and Mr. Zaurumba of Cameroon was for eight years a member of the RRB, and chaired the Council with brilliance and received the Gold Medal this year. I will stop the list at this stage. This active presence within the ITU is to be continued and strengthened by Cameroon. Now I reiterate the very strong wish of my Government to obtain your votes for the renewal of the seat of Cameroon at Council. We are preparing to elect a new Secretary-General and Cameroon is thinking about that noble son of Africa, a prince of Mali, who took over in Italy in 2006 and continued in Guadalajara in 2010. I'm speaking, of course, of Dr. Hamadoun Toure. I would like to thank him on behalf of the Government of my country for everything he has done and wish him further success. I wish success to all of us in our work. Thank you for your attention.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your policy statement. We really appreciate the hard work of Mr. Zourmba as Chair of the Council. Actually he has done an excellent job as Chair. I also would like to say thanks to recognizing the collaboration and relationship between your country and my country in the field of cybersecurity. Thank you.

 Now we will hear from Malawi and we will take a coffee break. I would like to invite the Minister of information, culture and tourism of Malawi. Malawi, you have the floor.

 >> MALAWI: Thank you to the ITU Secretary General and your team, Your Excellencies, fellow Ministers here present, Distinguished participants from all Member States, Ladies and Gentlemen.

 On Behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Malawi allow me to bring you greetings from the warm heart of Africa.

 Mr Chairman, on this auspicious occasion of the 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference, PP-14, let me start by congratulating you Chairman for your election as the Chair of this conference.

 Let me thank our gracious host, the Government and people of the Republic of Korea for the warm and excellent hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in this beautiful City of Busan.

 Let me also thank the ITU secretary General, Dr Hamadoun Toure and his team for the excellent stewardship of our organization and all member states present here for the commitment shown so far in this conference.

 Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, Malawi as a country recognizes ICT as a key pillar for economic development as evidenced by its inclusion in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategies (MGDS) and the enactment of a National ICT Policy to guide the development of the sector.

 In view of the ITU developmental goals, Malawi has embraced all aspects of The ITU Connect 2020 vision and targets including growth, inclusiveness, sustainability, innovation and partnership.

 The following steps have thus been undertaken:

 Enhancing the legal and regulatory framework through necessary instruments i.e. reviewed Communications Bill, E-legislation Bill and Access to information Bill which will improve ICT utilization and access as well as facilitating easier access to the Universal Service Fund.

 Leveling the playing field by among others implementing a converged licensing framework and reducing the corporate tax for the telecommunications sector.

 Development of a national fibre backbone to connect to the submarine cables through the Regional Communications Infrastructure Project Malawi (RCIP-MW) under World Bank funding in view of the landlocked nature of Malawi.

 Provision of ICT access to rural areas through the Multipurpose Community Telecentres Project as well as the piloting of Television White Spaces (TVWS) project for rural broadband internet access.

 Partnering with other institutions i.e. ITU and Korea Republic for the development of a Wireless Broadband Master Plan as well as SADC on mobile roaming and COMESA on Cyber Security issues.

 Implementation of the digital migration project in line with regional and global deadlines and the harmonization of the digital dividend in order to facilitate socio-economic development of our country.

 Enhancement of financial inclusion for the Postal sector as well as the development of physical addressing and postal code project.

 Partnering with the academia on key Research and Development initiatives as well as encouraging the uptake of ICT by women and girls.

 It is therefore our considered view that the efforts being done by our country will facilitate bridging of the digital divide in line with ITU "Connect 2020" vision, goals and targets.

 As ITU gets to 150 years in 2015, it is our pledge that Malawi will continue to be part of the key players to the realization of the vision of ITU success story.

 In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to thank ITU leadership and more especially Dr. Hamadoun Toure, a son of Africa who has shown great leadership qualities to steer the ITU ship this far.

 As we say in Africa, if you want to go quickly … go alone, if you want to go far …go together, let us all go together as we take ITU to greater heights.

 On behalf of my delegation I wish to express my gratitude to you for the able manner you are handling this conference and I have no doubt that this will be a highly successful Plenipotentiary conference and I wish you well for the rest of the conference.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your policy statement. After listening to your policy statement I have a view that the Connect 2020 has been embedded well in many Member State policies. I'm happy to hear that this Connect 2020 vision is very well received by all Member States.

 Having said that, we will take 15 minutes coffee break. I just want to remind you that we have two receptions which begin at 12:30 and one reception has some distance from here. So I would like to ask you to come back by 11:10, by 11:10.

 This coffee break is kindly provided by Thailand. Thank you, Thailand for providing this coffee break. The venue is the same venue we had the coffee break yesterday. Now we will take a 15-minute coffee break. Thank you.

 (A break was taken.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Would you put your headset on?

 Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, please take your seats. We will soon resume our Fourth Plenary Session.

 Okay. We will resume again with the policy statement of Rwanda followed by Mozambique. I would like to call upon Minister of Communication and Information Technology of Rwanda. You have the floor.

 >> RWANDA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your Excellencies, Heads of Delegations, ITU elected officials, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Rwandan Delegation allow me first of all to join our voices to the previous speakers in expressing our gratitude to the Government of South Korea and the City of Busan for the warm hospitality and all the facilities rendered to us for the perfect stay and suitable working environment provided to us.

 I also wish to thank the ITU for an excellent organization of this meeting, as well as its excellent performance over the last four years under the leadership of Dr. Hamadoun Toure.

 Mr. Chairman, information and communication technologies have become a major driver of the world economy with its contribution to GDP and GDP growth as a factor that is no longer disputed. ICTs represent today one of the major weapons in the fight against poverty, whose objective should no longer be to reduce it but to eradicate it.

 ICT is an the infrastructure of the present and future knowledge economy much in the same way that roads and railways and electricity were for the agrarian and industrial revolutions.

 In that perspective, Rwanda has always been a strong believer in the transformative potential of ICTs and broadband in particular. In this sense, we believe that ICT should be at the center of the sustainable development goals beyond the MGDs deadline in 2015. Over the past ten years, Rwanda has worked with the ITU to promote broadband as an enabler of socioeconomic transformation in Africa and beyond.

 In 2007, Rwanda cohosted with ITU the connect Africa summit, which resulted in more than $70 billion investments in broadband infrastructure in Africa over the next five years that followed the conference.

 In 2013, Rwanda again cohosted with ITU the transform Africa summit. And its objective has been set at 300 billion new investments in the African ICT sector over the next five years. In line with this commitment, the summit adopt the a Smart Africa Manifesto which was further endorsed by the 22nd Ordinary Session of the African Union General Assembly.

 The smart Africa manifest to puts it on the for front of the agendas. Rightfully acknowledge ICT transformative power to increase other sectors like education, agriculture, healthcare, Government effectiveness and transparency, business, and other key sectors.

 The leaders agreed to put the private sector first. They reaffirmed the unique ability of the private sector to increase investments, drive job creation, largely driven by young people, fostering creation.

 Though turn Africa from being a largely passive consumer to a producer of ICTs by supporting the growth and maturity of local innovation ecosystems.

 Rwanda is a proud supporter of the work of the United Nations broadband commission for digital development and our President, His Excellency Paul Kigame has served as Co-chair over the last four years. As it has been announced His Excellency Paul Kigame will join this Plenipotentiary next week.

 Mr. Chairman, in Rwanda, ICTs are saving lives, helping to educate the next generation with initiatives such as one laptop per child. ICTs has driven the transformation of Rwanda into one of the least corrupt and best environments to do business in Africa.

 Allow me, Mr. Chairman, to conclude here by thanking all the participants for their anticipated support to Rwanda to continue serving on the Union's Council. Thank you very much.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your policy statement. We are all looking forward to receiving President Kigame next week in the Plenipotentiary Conference. Rwanda is very well recognized as one of the leaders of the use of ICT and you set a good example for ICT development. One of the good examples of your achievement is the Telecom Society Award which actually awarded to your President, Paul Kigame. Once again, congratulations on that.

 We will hear from Mozambique followed by Jamaica.

 I would like to invite the Minister of Transport and Communications of Mozambique. You have the floor.

 >> MOZAMBIQUE: Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency Secretary-General of the ITU, Distinguished Heads of Delegations of the Member States; Ladies and Gentlemen;

 Allow me start by expressing our thanks for the hospitality provided to the Mozambican delegation by the Government of South Korea.

 It is for me a great honour to participate in this important event.

 In this occasion, I would like to stress that the Republic of South Korea is one of the important cooperation partners for Africa, particularly for Mozambique in various fields.

 Also, we would like to thank the organizers, who have worked hard to ensure that this event would take place.

 This is a great moment where the ITU Members have the noble mission to decide about the future of the Organization as well as the telecommunications development in our countries, regions and in the world.

 In this context, we reiterate our full commitment to work closely with the new Board elected, in order to seek solutions for the challenges arising from the remarkable technological development.

 It is essential that our countries should develop concrete actions to overtake and face these challenges.

 Ladies and Gentlemen, recognizing that we live in a globalized world, characterized by threats, opportunities and great challenges we believe that the combination of government policies and strategies is crucial.

 This harmonization will enable a better planning, coordination of efforts, mobilizing financial and material resources, especially human resources to achieve the ITU Vision 2020 as well as the overall goals of the Telecommunications and ICTs.

 In this perspective, we would like to ensure that the Government of Mozambique will continue with the implementation of policies and strategies aiming to create conditions to increase and improve the conditions to the telecommunications access.

 Mozambique, beside the implementation of the digital migration process, is committed to expand communications in remote areas and the provision of Universal Service Access.

 This is a priority in our national Agenda. We would like to take this opportunity to join our voice to express our appreciation on the achievements of Dr. Hamadoun Touré as the ITU Secretary-General who with his leadership and visions has done efforts to heritage for the future generations and to build our Information Society.

 In Mozambique we are having benefits from ITU programs.

 Finally we affirm the commitment and the availability of the Government of Mozambique to continue to participate in ITU activities, contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the organization. Thank you for your precious attention.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister. Thank you for your concise and very strong message.

 Now we will hear from Jamaica, followed by Swaziland. I would like to invite the Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining of Jamaica. Jamaica, you have the floor.

 >> JAMAICA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It is a great privilege on behalf of the Government of Jamaica to address this tremendous Plenary at this time. I also as the incumbent President of the Telecommunications Union wish to bring greetings on behalf of that body.

 First and foremost I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea and the ITU Secretariat for the successful staging so far of the 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference. I also congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to the Chair and wish you every success as you lead the proceedings of this conference over the next few weeks.

 Today we are at the cusp of the 150th anniversary of the ITU. Indeed, the ITU since its establishment in 1865 has served as a global focal point for Governments and other stakeholders to work collectively to ensure effective and efficient communication, as well as to advance technologically through information and communication technologies. Ultimately for the greater good of mankind. A living legacy of ITU's past endeavors is this ICT enabled society many of us live in today.

 In 1963 Jamaica, having only gained independence less than a year earlier, became the first English-speaking Caribbean country to join the ITU. Since then we have actively worked alongside the ITU to create a better future for the people of Jamaica. Recently we led to the implementation of the Jamaica's eLearning project and the successor tablets in the school project. Review of Jamaica's telecommunication and ICT related legislation, establishment of a framework for cybersecurity and cyber incident response team.

 Today over 50 years later, as Jamaica advances as a country, we are focused on achieving new paradigms in telecommunications and ICTs. As such, we will be seeking to further modernize and transform the ICT framework in Jamaica through the implementation of new and proactive policies as well as the enactment of new laws which support our burgeoning digital economy.

 The Government of Jamaica therefore continues our support for ITU as the leading telecommunications and ICT organization in the world and encourages the improvement of its performance in adapting to the needs of a rapidly changing telecommunications and ICT environment. We encourage the ITU to expand existing programs and to establish new programs which will focus on the developmental needs to small island developing states which tend to be very vulnerable to climatic as well as global economic shifts. We encourage ITU to continue support the work of regional institutions such as the Caribbean telecommunications union which do significant work in support of SIDS, better use of ICTs, we know, can contribute to resilience of our economies to with stand the negative impacts of global, environmental and climate events. While we recognize that more needs to be done, we pause to celebrate along with the rest of the world the significant milestone in the history of the ITU, to truly global agent of change and development. For ITU's legacy to continue to have meaning to bear even greater fruit, our collective action through our deliberations and actions at this and future Plenipotentiaries conferences must result in world where all as expire to and to achieve better life appropriately aid day.

 Finally I encourage the Delegates to support the candidacy of Cuba and that of Barbados for seats. It has been awhile since Caribbean has had a seat on the Council and therefore, we are strongly supporting our partners. I want to congratulate our friend Hamadoun Touré and note the tremendous success of his incumbency and wish him well. We anticipate the incoming Secretary agenda our country gives full support to Mr. Zhao of China. Thank you very much.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your policy statement and thank you for the work for the last 51 years. I think Mr. Zhao will not respond to any kind of congratulatory remark until he gets the vote from the Plenary. I do not give the floor to Mr. Zhao at the moment.

 Now we hear from Swaziland and followed by Chile. Minister of ICT for Swaziland. Swaziland, you have the floor.

 >> SWAZILAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ministers of ICTs, distinguished guests, Mr. Chairman. It is an honor for me to present the statement of the Kingdom of Swaziland during the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2014.

 On behalf of the Swaziland Delegation I would like to express our gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of South Korea for warm hospitality and for hosting the successful Plenipotentiary 2014 conference. Ladies and gentlemen, the telecommunications and information and communication technology sector in the Kingdom of Swaziland is current -- Swaziland is currently undergoing transformation. In 2013 the country passed into law two landmark pieces of legislation: Namely the Swaziland communications commission act of 2013 and the Swaziland electronic communication act of 2013. The first has established an independent industry regulator, the Swaziland communications commission whilst the latter sets the industry standards and roadmap for the transformation of the incumbent operator, the Swaziland Posts and Telecommunications Corporation.

 The country has set itself the task of drafting its broadband strategy. This will encompass expanding the reach of the country's communication backbone to include rural areas. Currently there is a lot of fiber cable and microwave networks with a huge capacity owned by different entities within the country, apart from the telecommunications incumbent operator. Each of the different entities owning these networks utilize less than 10 percent of their capacity. The broadband strategy will help us find ways of integrating some of these networks into the mainstream backbone in a partnership with dithers. I hope -- with different owners. I hope this will increase the backbone reach overnight without much additional capital investment.

 The broadband strategy will also be targeting the quest for increasing Internet bandwidth into the country from the submarine cables across our neighbors, as we are landlocked. We will leverage on the regional SADC initiative, still being ironed out, aimed at helping landlocked countries get better access to submarine cables. Increased participation by the private sector on Internet retail will help spur growth, with our newly created communications regulator authority on the lookout for any discounts or savings to operators trickling down to the consumers. That will ease the burden on the consumer across all communication platforms, which will in turn enhance increased up take of broadband by households and small businesses.

 The digital television network being built at the moment as a result of the digital migration program will remain dedicated, but it was purposely designed to have a big capacity so it can also be used to carry data services to connect outlying Government offices, outlying Government offices and clinics that are currently not connected, to deliver eGovernment services. Government has embarked on a massive eGovernment program aimed at improving service delivery to the nation. The eGovernment program is housed at the Prime Minister's office and it covers a wide range of areas. The implementation of this program is in phases, and the pace is determined by budgetary limitations. It is for this reason that we are grateful to our international development partners who assist us in infrastructure development.

 Ladies and gentlemen, the Government of Swaziland has also started a process through the communications regulator to work with stakeholders and international partners to establish a computer emergency response team, to deal with the cyber threats and also to formulate policies, standards to make sure we have a secure cyber environment in the country.

 In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland is committed to support the ITU strategy plan. And I would like to extend our country's appreciation to the outgoing Secretary-General for his efforts in improving access to ICT services globally. With this brief statement, Mr. Chairman, I wish the Plenipotentiary 2014 conference success full deliberations. I thank you.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Minister, for your policy statement and thank you for sharing your visions and policies with all of us. We will hear from Chile followed by Germany. I would like to call upon Under-Secretary of Telecommunications of Chile. Chile, you have the floor.

 >> CHILE: Thank you very much, Chairman. It is a pleasure to be here at this Plenary and to be heard by all the members. I will be very brief.

 The Chilean Government would like to express its congratulations for the Connect 2020 process carved out by the ITU. We hope that establishing the vision, goals and outcomes which are being promoted there will be one of the valuable results of this PP-14 conference. We believe that the importance of this organization is key for the future development of telecommunications at the global level. Chile is present in Busan because we know there are significant discussions here about the future of governance which require global consensus. We firmly believe that it is necessary to promote the principle of network neutrality, something which Chile has led forward in the world's first law on that topic. The Chilean case demonstrates that network neutrality is compatible with the development of ICTs.

 For that reason, during the term of our President Michelle Bachelet, we will encourage in all international fora the adoption of our vision of network neutrality as well as other principles and practices which ensure that networks remain as free and democratic as possible.

 Friends, we also invite you here to discuss how we can reinforce infrastructure and ICT services including the Internet and the way in which they can contribute to political, social, economic and cultural development of nations. This is very important for rural areas such as certain areas of Chile where it is as important to have good telecommunications as it is to have good roads. And I'm pleased to inform you in this regard that the Government of President Michelle Bachelet has set up a fiber optic project with public investment of almost $100 million which will seek to promote connectivity in Chilean Patagonia, crossing islands, fjords and glaciers, to the extreme south, as far as the Strait of Magellan.

 Projects such as this one such as the fiber optic ring which will be established in the next few years on our continent will reduce the digital divide to a significant degree in rural areas.

 To move forward we also need innovative measures to help telecommunications to be accessible to the majority of our citizens at low prices and to a high degree of quality. And we also need improvements to regulations being applied by ITU's Member States. We will continue to work to these ends. Maintaining high standards in the services available to all Chile's inhabitants.

 Thank you very much. We hope that this conference will be very fruitful for everyone. Thank you.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Excellency, for your policy statement. I believe that the Chile's successes in the field of ICT are widely known. Germany, Commissioner for international cyber policy, federal foreign office of Germany. Germany you have the floor.

 >> GERMANY: Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

 Allow me to express my gratitude to the ITU Secretariat and its departing Secretary General, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, for convening this lenipotentaries' meeting.

 A special word of thanks goes to the government of Republic of Korea for hosting this very important conference.

 Next year, the International Telecommunications Union will celebrate its 150th anniversary.

 The ITU has always been playing a crucial technical role in making communication possible between countries and continents.

 Today, we are once more witnessing a technological revolution: Modern information and communication-technology is linking people and businesses on all continents at a speed and in a scale like never before.

 Information technology is penetrating more and more all fields of our societies and economies and thus creating a host of new chances and opportunities for people and enterprises.

 It can integrate societies, can allow global discourse, not only between leaders, but also between citizens.

 It creates opportunities for education and science.

 The integration of modern information technology in particular into the engineering and production process renders economic production much more efficient.

 All of this has been accompanied and facilitated by the ITU's beneficial work since nearly 150 years.

 The ITU is a true success story.

 In order to follow this highly successful path, ITU should stick to its core competences by technically facilitating the communication under the conditions of modern technology of each generation.

 The ITU should not be politicized. This would overburden this institution.

 Germany supports the important role of the ITU including enhancing the robustness of networks, especially by setting standards.

 We are however opposed to enlarging ITU's mandate into content related issues or into other questions related to the technical management of the internet which would exceed the mandate of the ITU.

 There are other fora to discuss these issues.

 As the internet is created and maintained by the private sector and is used by citizens all over the world, the governance of the internet cannot be legitimately discussed in the restricted circles of government representatives in a technical Organization.

 For further developing internet governance, Germany will therefore stick to the multi-stakeholder model of internet governance.

 Germany is convinced that the growing information and communication technologies must remain based on existing fundamental principles, like the rule of law and the universal human rights.

 The United Nations General Assembly has confirmed that international law, and in particular the UN Charter, is applicable in cyberspace, and that human rights and fundamental freedoms set forth in the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights, the Universal Declaration of

 Human Rights and other international instruments are an essential part of this. We are fully committed to these rights, especially to the right to privacy.

 Providing answers to these questions is important, and needs to be discussed in the appropriate fora.

 On 20 August this year, the Federal Cabinet approved the German Digital Agenda, which is central to our economic and innovation policy.

 We live in a world that is digitally pervaded and becoming even more interconnected.

 This development is having a direct impact on our everyday lives, on the way we interact with each other, on our interdependence, on our work, and on our participation in the society.

 These are all changes that offer major opportunities for Germany, for long-term prosperity and a good quality of life for the people in our country.

 The German Government seeks to actively promote and shape the transition into the digital era. And we are prepared to provide our experiences on that track with all the other Members of ITU.

 Thank you.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your policy statement. The points you raised in the policy statement will be discussed in the whole Plenipotentiary Conference and I believe there is a general consensus on the multistakeholder approach and the importance Internet governance issue.

 Now we will hear from Kuwait followed by Palestine. I would like to invite Ambassador of the State of Kuwait. Kuwait, you have the floor.

 >> KUWAIT: In the name of God the merciful and compassionate, Chairman Min, Excellencies, Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Zhao, Directors of the three sectors, Distinguished Delegate, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure and my honor to convey to you the compliments of the people and Government of Kuwait. We wish you every success for the work of this Plenipotentiary Conference. We would like to say thank you to the Republic of Korea for hosting this conference and making commendable efforts towards the success of this conference. We congratulate you on Chairing this conference and we congratulate the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the various Committees. We wish you every success in your work.

 Ladies and gentlemen, the ICT sector boosts economic activity, which is the main engine for the renaissance of the nation and bridges the digital divide between the peoples of the world, enabling citizens to achieve prosperity and improve their lives.

 Ladies and gentlemen, the State of Kuwait has endeavored for several years now to modernize its infrastructure for telecommunications and to develop ICTs in our society. We have an optical fiber network which covers most of our territory and provides high-speed services. And we are in the second position at the international level in terms of affordable prices for telecommunications services. This can be seen from the report of the telecommunications development Bureau 2013. Weapon are one of the countries which offers mobile telephony services using a broadband network and we very reasonable rates. All of these factors together have enabled us to take a quantum leap forward in dissemination of information and facilitation of access.

 The State of Kuwait has endeavored to build capacities throughout society, especially for young people, women, the elderly and persons with special needs. We are building capacities of these persons and making them more autonomous and our vision is to combat digital illiteracy.

 In 2011 we organized a regional workshop in Kuwait. This workshop was co-organized by ITU. And the purpose was for women's empowerment in the Arab world, helping women to have access to information and promotes the role of ICTs in women's empowerment, and bridging the digital divide between men and women.

 Chairman, the objectives which we wish ITU to adopt and implement in the future include, first of all, interconnection between the networks of the whole world of various countries, using global infrastructure. We also have to remember economic aspects. Secondly, we have to bridge their digital divide and the standardization gap between developed and Developing Countries using all means at our disposal to achieve this.

 Chairman, Heads of Delegations, ladies and gentlemen, the State of Kuwait unconditionally supports the work of ITU because ITU plays an effective and vital role in supporting Developing Countries in all sectors.

 This is an approach which we defend and advocate within our State of Kuwait. This is why the United Nations organization pay tribute to the Emir of Kuwait, and the Emir was designated the leader of humanitarian action. This is the first such distinction received by our Emir.

 And Kuwait hopes to be reelected as a member of the Council for the next four years. I'm very happy to be present here and I wish this conference every success. It is my honor to invite you to the reception to be organized tomorrow between 2100 hours and 2300 hours at the Hotel Haeundae Grand.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, for your policy statement and my sincere congratulations to the Emir of Kuwait as recognized as the humanitarian leader. That is a great recognition of the global community. Congratulations.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Now we will hear from Palestine followed by Niger. I call upon the Minister of Communication and Information Technology of Palestine. Palestine, you have the floor.

 >> PALESTINE: Thank you, Secretary-General, Chairman. Allow me first of all to convey my congratulations to the Chairman of this conference which is being held in this wonderful country of Korea. Korea is a country which has managed to take advantage of the ICTs to spur on economic and social development. Ladies and gentlemen, we fully espouse the mission and principles of the ITU. For that reason, Palestine has participated in and continues to participate in all ITU's activities. Thanks to this fruitful involvement, we have managed to set up a number of programmes and projects. We've also been able to bolster our capacity in Palestine. Because of the circumstances with which we are all familiar, we know how important ICTs are for strengthening international cooperation with a view to peace and security and improving understanding between countries as well as to support economies based on creativity and innovation.

 Chairman, there can only be economic development without occupation. We face an enormous number of difficulties and the most abject form of occupation. But we are dynamic people. This is why we have enjoyed a number of successes in the ICT sector despite the many difficulties which we have achieved. ICTs contribute 9 percent of our GDP and our Government is very aware of the importance of ICTs and adopted a number of legislative and regulatory frameworks in cooperation and partnership with private sector, Civil Society organizations, academic institutions, with all of these we've set up a national plan to meet the needs of our people.

 We also encourage young people to demonstrate innovation and creativity by creating centers of excellence in universities. And working with companies. You will recall that Palestine came in first and second in the Arab contest for digital content which was organized by the ITU. Palestine also won first prize in a contest organized by the Arab organization for ICTs.

 This was for mobile app for individuals with special needs. All of this confirms how dynamic our people is. And how able our people is to contribute to innovation for humanity.

 The challenges which we face and the difficulties and suffering to which we are exposed encourage us to show creativity and innovation, and to harness the opportunities presented to us by ICTs to reduce the effects of our occupation. That occupation has an impact on every aspect of life. And deprives children and whole generations of their right to teaching and education, their right to access ICTs and all related services.

 The state of Israel as an occupying power continues to violate ITU resolutions and ITU conferences. We try to provide facilities to develop our communication networks and to provide services such as 3G. But our situation prevents us from using our international gateway. This is an unacceptable situation which damages the credibility of ITU resolutions. For us this is a serious human rights violation and a violation of all international conventions in this regard.

 Based on the various resolutions taken at the many ITU conferences to have been held, and particularly the resolution adopted at the WICT in Dubai, we trust in Palestine's ability and we know that the ITU will be able to carry forward the resolutions which have been adopted. We will also be able to establish a network using fiber optic technology. Thank you very much for your attention.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Your Excellency, for your policy statement. Now, we will hear from Niger, followed by Turkey.

 I would like to invite Secretary-General, Ministry of post telecommunications and the economy of Niger. Niger, you have the floor.

 >> NIGER: Excellency Chairman, Excellency President of the ITU, Ministers, Heads of Delegations, Distinguished Delegates, I am speaking on behalf of the Minister of Niger, Mr. Abdou Mani who was unable to come to Busan. I should like on behalf of the Delegation of Niger to present to you, Excellency, Chairman, our congratulations on your brilliant election to the head of this conference.

 I should like, Chairman, to express our great gratitude to the authorities and people of Korea for their warm welcome as well as the facilities provided for a pleasant stay in Busan.

 Chairman, the Government of Niger commends recent results of our organization under the leadership of Dr. Hamadoun Touré who has enshrined the principles of inclusion and transparency and good governance. As you know, the Plenipotentiary Conference of our union is the supreme decision making body on accounting, legal, and management issues for better governance and the fulfillment of its mission to connect the world to telecommunications services. In Niger, this mission promoting connectivity is a constant concern of the highest authorities. First and foremost, His Excellency Mr. Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic, Head of State, who in his renaissance program has prioritized development of broadband infrastructures to foster digital communication and build an inclusive Information Society. Our Strategic Plan adopted in 2013 is in perfect harmony with the 2020 vision of the International Telecommunication Union. In order to bridge the digital divide and bring broadband to all, our Government is building optic fiber national backbone of over 5,000 kilometers in accordance with our land management policy to ensure digital inclusion and achieve cross-border broadband connectivity within the objectives of the UEMOA and other communities. We are promoting the universal access strategy and continuing the project to connect the school, connect a community initiated with ITU support to provide high-speed Internet access to all our secondary schools and technical training centers.

 Chairman, one of the major concerns in our states, especially in our area is cross-border crime and ICT is unfortunately one of the tools for cross-border crime. We welcome the effort of ITU to coordinate C52 of the WSIS action lines, building confidence and security in the use of ICTs. But please, ITU, do more so that the United Nations system concludes an international convention on cyber crime to protect our states, citizens and businesses. The Government of Niger hopes that as a result of this conference the ITU will be endowed with managerial tools appropriate to and adapted to the developments in our sector, as well as staff who can lead its governance effectively, efficiently and openly.

 Thus equipped, the ITU must work hard to provide additional support to Member States, especially Developing Countries such as Niger, as they create an enabling ecosystem for the emergence of a digital economy which can make a significant contribution to socioeconomic growth and development. Long live international development for an interconnected world.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Excellency, for your excellent policy statement and thank you for sharing your policy and vision with all of us.

 Now we will hear from Turkey, followed by Georgia. I would call upon the Minister of Communication and Information Technology authority of Turkey. Turkey you have the floor.

 >> TURKEY: Thank you, Chairman, Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. It is a great pleasure for me to address the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2014 of the International Telecommunication Union. This important gathering will shape the general policies and strategies of the Union. I would like to congratulate the administration and Republic of Korea for hosting this important conference and welcoming us in this beautiful City of Busan with the great organization of the event. Having this chance, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for your election as Chairman of the Plenipotentiary Conference of 2014. ITU has always been at the core of dynamic change in the ICT ecosystem. Turkey being one of the founding members of ITU has always supported ITU as constant member for the last three period of time periods. We believe that ITU's leading role in this ecosystem should afford us strength and be expanded. We all know that ICTs are the main instruments for economic and social development in bringing services to people's lives, broadband networks and critical for every nation. Connectivity is very important to accommodate the increasing demand to be online any time and anywhere. To this end, Governments play important roles in forward looking ICT strategies. Turkey is focused on achieving a major set of goals within her strategic vision 2023. In parallel to this strategic vision, in order to enable high-speed ICT broadband access, we took the decision to exclude the fiber from market analysis for the next five years. In addition, with our board decision, the rights of alternative operators ensured where copper network transformed to fiber by the incumbent. We have seen the positive effects of subject decisions by the rapid increase in the number of broadband subscribers in Turkey.

 Also in order to have broadband access in rural areas, wireless infrastructure is established for the settlement areas which have no telephone services, and improvement of GSM coverage is initiated for rural settlement areas with populations of less than 500 inhabitants. Turkey has projects which can demonstrate how broadband in particular can contribute to human capacity and change our daily lives in many ways.

 I am very proud to say that Turkey enjoys new information and communication technologies and services within her strong and sustainable economic growth. Recently Turkey hosted the ninth Internet governance Forum from 2 to 3 September in Istanbul. Many Delegates participated in the Ninth IGF. We believe that outcomes of IGF 2014 reached the discussion at the Plenipotentiary Conference. I sincerely believe that with her rich background and culture, Turkey will continue to contribute to the ITU. Based on her commitment and performance as a Council member, Turkey puts forward her candidature for the Council membership.

 Also put the candidacy of Dr. Ahmet Cavusoglu for the ITU Telecommunications Bureau. With his valuable knowledge and experience, I am confident that Dr. Cavusoglu will provide significant contributions to the work of ITU.

 On behalf of the Government of Turkey, I would like to convey our sincerest thanks to the Secretary-General, Dr. Hamadoun Touré and his team for all the work done in realization of this conference.

 Thank you very much for your kind attention.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, your Excellency, for your policy statement. Indeed the outcome of the ninth IGF which was held in Turkey would be good input for this discussion in this Plenipotentiary Conference. Thank you for hosting that important event. Next we will hear from Georgia followed by van what Tunisia. I invite the Chairman of Innovation and Technology Agency of Georgia. Georgia, you have the floor.

 >> GEORGIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Secretary-General of ITU, Honorable Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, it is a big honor to me to make a speech on the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference which represents major international forum of policy making in ICT field.

 Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you on behalf of the Government of Georgia. Let me also offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government of Republic of Korea for a warm welcome and for the excellent organization of this important conference. Georgia has achieved an important success in the field of information and communication technologies. Particularly in network readiness index Georgia has moved from 88 to 60th place, improved the rating by 28 positions in the past two years. Development rate is one of the highest in this regard.

 According to the World Bank annual report doing business 2014, Georgia ranked eighth in the world for ease of starting and doing business. The registration and issuing personal documents such as passports, ID cards and other types of public services require only 15 minutes.

 And this is achieved due to the effective use of ICT technologies.

 In 2014 by the initiative of the Prime Minister of Georgia, Government approved the concept of access to the broadband Internet for every citizen.

 According to the concept, an open access infrastructure must be developed all over the country. In the nearest future, we will connect all the populated areas to the 100 gigabit per second backbone. During the process of the creating of the major infrastructure the Government will provide positive environment for interested investor as much as possible.

 Within the concept 500 community innovation centers establishment is planned in libraries in the country which apart from the Internet and technologies a provided the process of receiving competitive knowledge and also opportunity of innovation start up development.

 We are reaching the era that the border between virtual and real things is becoming increasingly smaller. We are entering the era that people are able to transfer bits to atoms. Their machines are creating machines. Ladies and gentlemen, the third industrial revolution has already started. In our opinion, international telecommunication union shall be in the center of peace challenges and it shall provide maximum interaction among countries in the process of sharing knowledge and cooperation as well.

 I would like to draw your attention to a discovery of an American mathematician and Nobel Prize winner, John Forbes Nash, who made a significant change in economic theory and general consciousness of humanity. It shows that cooperation and mutual balancing is beneficial for both parties and action against each other are disadvantages for both sides.

 Unfortunately, a lot of injustice is ongoing in the 21st century, including the fact that the occupation of the territory of other countries becomes usual. For violating international norms and international acts, international accords of the Russian Federation are used on the occupied territories of Ukraine to make phone calls. We would like to tell our neighbors that mutual respect and cooperation will be an important basis for development of both countries. Let's live friendly and without opposing each other. And finally, this year on November 24-26 Georgia will host 12 ITU indicators symposium for the first time. I would like to invite you all to the mentioned event. Georgia is full of history and culture, the homeland of wine, with its unique landscape and hospitable people. We are glad to host you at this mentioned event.

 Once again I wish good luck to the work of the conference, prosperity and development to the countries and success to the future activities of ITU. Thank you very much for your time and attention.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank, Your Excellency, for your policy statement. I think all of us are looking forward to the event you will host, the world telecommunications indicators symposium. That is very important event.

 Now, we will hear from Vanuatu followed by Italy. I would like to invite the ICT program manager of Vanuatu Government. Vanuatu, you have the floor.

 >> VANUATU: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, the Republic of Vanuatu joins other esteemed speakers in congratulating Your Excellency, Mr. Wonki Min, for taking up the Chairmanship for this 19th ITU Plenipotentiary Conference. We believe that under your able leadership you will successfully guide our deliberations to its conclusion with fruitful and positive outcomes.

 Mr. Chair, firstly the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu recognizes, promotes and utilizes the role of ICTs and telecommunications as a key enabler for socioeconomical and environmentally sustainable development. Let me begin by giving a summary of our accomplishments. Our success started in the year 2008 when our telecommunications market was liberalized. Then with an estimated 15 percent of the population accessing telecommunications services to a current estimate of 93 percent in just over six years. But we are not stopping here. Our university access policy mandates our operators through a pay or play approach to connect 98 percent of our population to data and voice by the first of January, 2018. We have a Government broadband network throughout the islands of Vanuatu. We have three key policies, namely the national ICT policy, the universal access policy and the cybersecurity policy to lead our technological ambitions. We have a competent and independent telecommunications and radiocommunications regulator. In 2013 we connected to our first submarine cable. We established the only Internet exchange point in the south Pacific. We have an open telecommunications market, and we will continue with support from ITU and our development partners to ensure a socially inclusive and equitable access to ICTs and telecommunications services to bridge the digital divide.

 In support of our initiatives we have identified three market development programs to connect all 514 schools to broadband Internet. Secondly, to distribute tablets to 80,000 students. Third, to install Internet cafes in unserved areas and increase access. Sense achieving our 98 percent target. We are doing so through a grant application program funded by the Universal Access Fund thanks to the Australian Government to provide seed funding, to stimulate a sustainable market and safe use of Information and Communication Technology and telecommunications. We are pleased to say that our first 35 successful applications have been selected out of 369 applications received.

 Mr. Chair, while we continue to celebrate our accomplishments, we are also mindful of the challenges that fast and evolving technologies bring to our rather conservative society. Vanuatu as a small island state is ranked top in the world prone to natural disasters. Hence we need robust ICT solutions. We are also culturally diverse for a population of approximately 260,000 people, with 75 percent living in rural areas, with 125 distinctive languages and cultures, we need access to preserve our rich culture. Our multistakeholder approach works very well for Vanuatu. It is important to have regard to our international regional commitments, including rights and duties as a member of the ITU.

 To this extent, Vanuatu seeks to be an active and constructive player without prejudice to our sovereignty and closely coordinate our actions and positions. We do value learning from experiences of other countries, and note synergies and cost efficiencies that could be achieved in designing, implementing and advocating certain initiatives on a regional and international level. To Dr. Touré, the Government of Vanuatu acknowledges your support to us during your term at the ITU and wish you all the best in your post ITU endeavors. Mr. Chair, in conclusion, the Government of the state of Vanuatu supports the 2020 framework and vision for Information Society empowered about by the interconnected world where telecommunications and ICTs enable and accelerate social, economic, and environmentally sustainable growth and development for everyone. I do hope that the statements and the deliberations that we make at this conference will translate into concrete actions that will lead to a better future for all our people and the wider international community. Long live our aspirations and may God bless this ITU and its members as we strive together. I thank you, Mr. Chair.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Excellency, for your sharing your vision with all of us and for sharing.

 Next country will be Italy, which we will listen in this Fourth Plenary Session.

 And I would like to invite the adviser, Ministry of Economy and Development of Italy. Italy, you have the floor.

 >> ITALY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. President, Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary General, Directors, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to begin by thanking our host, the Government of South Korea, for the hospitality that we were all enjoying.

 Italy has a key objective for the development of telecommunications: Increase connectivity to all citizens to realize the digital revolution everywhere in all the regions of the world. Starting from the digital agenda for Europe, the specific objective of this action can be found in the realization of public and private institutions in the spread of electronic services to all as well as in the development of ultra broadband networks capable of supporting services up to 100 megabits and more.

 I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that during the Italian presidency to the Council of the European Union, three regulatory instruments of great importance in the telecommunications sector in the EU are nearing completion: The package on the digital single market, the directive on networks and information security, and the package relating to the accessibility of websites. Furthermore, last October 14, the regulation on the identification and trust in electronic services for electronic transactions in the internal markets (EIDAS) was finally launched.

 These objectives were addressed and achieved thanks to the work of all European Member States, which have acted as a single entity with a single voice.

 With regard to my country, I would like to emphasize that we are about to make stronger our national broadband plan, developing a national strategy that will serve as a coordination tool for achieving the necessary synthesis between the implementation of the infrastructure and the service development. A substantial set of rules is also being considered to encourage the development of infrastructures and services to 30 megabits and 100 megabits per second.

 In this context in order to really unlock the potential of the digital market we must consider that the Internet is an essential element. The results of the last EU informal Council of Ministers of telecommunications which was held in Italy last October 2 and 3 have established that Europe will act as a single political entity in the debate on Internet governance, in order to further develop relations with all stakeholders involved and support the process of reform initiated by ICANN. Netmundial is recognized to be a good basis for the development of multistakeholder community in a position to represent the evolution of the current Internet governance model.

 The Italian Delegation will make all possible efforts so that this Plenipotentiary Conference is a success. In addition we recognize the activities of the ITU, which also will celebrate the 150th anniversary next year in 2015. In particular, its traditional activities in the field of radiocommunications, standards for telecommunications and development. Through its activities, the Union may reach the 2020 target of the Millennium. As the head of the Italian Delegation, I'm proud of the excellent work expressed by Italy in the Council, and by Alfredo Magenta within the RRB. I am happy to support the reelection of both. Thank you for your time and attention.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Your Excellency, for your policy statement. I would like to say thanks to the Government of Italy to send Mr. Bigi to this conference of the ITU, and we appreciate your work in particular to the ITU.

 That will end our second Agenda Item. Now we will move on to the third Agenda Item which is, two countries are requesting for first I will give the floor to Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia, you have the floor.

 >> SAUDI ARABIA: Thank you, Chairman. I just wish to remind you of the reception which Saudi Arabia is organizing today at 12:45 in Room 3B2. The invitation is general and open to all.

 I should like to take this opportunity to tell you that there will be a lottery for six plus iPhones. There are ten such devices which will be put up for the raffle. I would like to ask all participants to put their card, their visiting card, their business card in the box which will be used to draw lots for the lottery.

 On behalf of the Delegation of Saudi Arabia and the state of Saudi Arabia, I would like to thank you for responding to this invitation.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Saudi Arabia. Thank you for the invitation.

 (Applause.)

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the invitation and thank you for those tempting, tempting lottery presents.

 Now, I will give the floor to Kenya. Kenya, you have the floor.

 >> KENYA: Thank you very much, Chairman and good afternoon. On behalf of the Minister and the Delegation of Kenya at this Plenipotentiary, I would like to invite all Delegates to this conference to a lunch reception hosted by Kenya right to your left as you leave this room. All Delegations are invited. And please, join us to enjoy the sumptuous Kenyan cuisine. Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Kenya, for your kind invitation. Now I give the floor to the Plenary Secretary. You have the floor.

 >> SECRETARY OF THE PLENARY: Thank you.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Secretary of the Plenary.

 (Laughter.)

 >> SECRETARY OF THE PLENARY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to inform Delegates that the United Kingdom will be hosting a reception as well from 12:30 to 1:30. And that takes place at the Park Hyatt Hotel and transport will be provided. The invitation is for Heads of Delegation plus one.

 Also Mr. Chairman, several Delegates referred to the Secretary-General's announcement to do a meeting on Ebola. That meeting will take place next Monday at 1530 in Room C. It will be announced on the screens and also on the website. Also, Mr. Chairman, there are more gifts available for Delegates. I encourage you to go to the gift distribution desk as there are gifts awaiting you from Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Ghana, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Vietnam and India. Thank you very much.

 >> CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary of the Plenary. That will end our Fourth Plenary Session. We will meet at 2:30 for our Fifth Plenary Session meeting. We will begin with the policy statements of Colombia followed by Indonesia and Burundi. The meeting is adjourned.

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