Speech of H.E. Majed Almesmar
Chairman of the Conference

Mr. Secretary-General,

Your Excellences,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the smart city of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates!

First, allow me to thank my government for nominating me for the chairmanship of ITU's 20th Plenipotentiary Conference. I want to thank Secretary-General Houlin Zhao and all ITU Member States for entrusting me with the responsibility to chair this most important conference at a time when our world is increasingly dependent on information and communication technologies.

I hope this event will be very successful. And I hope that we will all work in a spirit of consensus, teamwork, mutual understanding, and common approaches.

Rest assured that I will work tirelessly with the vice-chairmen and heads of committees to achieve this. We will work as one team to conduct in-depth discussions on various proposals and views – and reach approaches and agreements that will take into account the needs of all parties.

Personally, I will always be at your service. I will spare no effort to help overcome any obstacle. My door is always open, just as my mind is open to new ideas and approaches.

As you are aware, turning this optimism into solid results needs everyone's support. We need to work as one family to reach our ultimate goal: the success of this conference, for the benefit of people everywhere.

And honestly, I have another reason for encouraging you to accelerate progress: I want you all to have the time to enjoy Dubai and other destinations in the UAE!

Thank you again, and I wish us all a successful conference!