SUSAN OTIENO:
You are reminded to leave the receivers on the table once the event is over. Thank you.

(Music plays)

SUSAN OTIENO:
Good evening again. My name is Susan and I will be your MC for this welcome. I will request us to stand for the national anthem.

(Ugandan national anthem plays)

Take your seats.

First of all, I would like to remind us remind us, those who will need translation, channel number one is English, channel number two is French. I would like to invite our local host, Mr Badru Ntege for that welcome remarks.
(Applause)

BADRU NTEGE:
Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

Actually, I wonder why I take the photo without the anthem, because usually we have it with the government in place. That should have happened.

Honourable minister, ladies and gentlemen, as a local host I'm humbled for what we have today. We have actually managed to achieve to host the African summit in Uganda. I would like to welcome everybody to Kampala and the beautiful weather, that you have all enjoyed it. I'm extremely humbled to see a variety of distinguished guests in this room. From all African and African states from different backgrounds. All sessions recognise we all share a deep interest and commitment to the growth and sustainability of the Internet.

Your presence here today is crucial because the Internet is where it belongs in Africa, on top of the technical and the political agenda.

And I am the support of everyone in this room to make sure that it stays at the top of that agenda.

A few days ago, we visited the Honourable Minister and it did not take more than a few minutes to convince him he should be here. Not only that, we took a picture and it went viral, he tweeted.

Thank you, Honourable Minister. We know that you and the Internet are very close together.

After 20 years of hard work, we now must make sure that we continue. AfNOG is an organisation that has helped us understand the Internet as Africans. Using the Internet is not owning it but the ability to understand the technical, the ability to have the capacity to design solutions and to maintain the Internet is critical.

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For that, we thank all the volunteers who have made it happen. We must remember that we are here and that the Africa Internet Summit is here because of the dedication of a few members of the African community and our friends who came together and said that we must find a way of training Africans to be able to own this.

I personally got involved in this in 2003 when, under my ISP, we hosted AfNOG. Then, it was a young organisation.

I look around the room and I see some of the participants from that event and those participants have grown and their careers have grown, so we owe a lot to the Internet and the capacity building that drives us.

As we look around, we are looking at a world where harnessing globalisation is as important as consolidating social cohesion - where inequalities are the biggest obstacle of the path to excellence and those inequalities have ceased to become financial but our intellectual and intellectual means that the conversations that we have around here, the networking that we do, the fact that we are sitting in a room and we have participants and visitors from over 40 countries at my last count, that is testament to the fact we are all here because of the Internet.

This morning in the AFRINIC working group, we had an interesting conversation and when I said the word OTT, everyone thought about tax. OTT is a technical term. The budget was read out. How many people can tell us about the content of the budget?

Some people thought it was OK, some people did not. It brought the conversation across the spectrum and a touch from the market trader to the doctor to the men in the offices. It was about the Internet.

We cannot ignore the impact of the Internet from an economical view. I will not delve deeper into that point, but it was a testament to understand that the Internet is working, and its usage is important to all of us.

What we have is a meeting space that allows us to openly discuss and challenge each other and make friends and create business relations, and to interact with government.

We have different sessions that allow us to do that. As we move on, we must remember that sustainability is not about business only. Sustainability is not about politics only. Sustainability is about the commitment, the commitment that we are custodians and we are passing this process over.

This inspires my company to make sure that we host and make sure we give the community here the best of Uganda and I am sure you have had the best of Uganda but the best that you have had is about 20% of what we can deliver so, on that one, I will say that they are is a lot more to come.

As I conclude, when we look at the Internet, I want us all to take away the notion that the Internet is not about bits and bytes - not about IP addresses only. It is becoming part and parcel of everything that we do and part and parcel of how the next generation, our children, are going to use the Internet and how they will grow their businesses and being able to understand that, being able to realise the economic impact of that, that should be the conversation that we continue to understand.

We should go beyond the IP packets undercut the social impact that the Internet brings and, on that note, I would like to say thank you very much for being here in Kampala. Thank you very much for all the amazing conversations we have had all along.

Minister, thank you very much for honouring the event. I cannot conclude without thanking the sisters and the support that we have had from government. We have had support from the regulator, who has made sure that last week we had 60 Ugandans trained in networks and systems.

Honourable Minister, our target and our promise to the regulator is that over the next 18 months, these Ugandans will be around the country training.

We do not want any more to see a system engineer have to travel from Kampala around the country. We will go to those areas myself. That is the ethos that AfNOG tells us.

It is the ability to say we are going to create a space, and anyone can come and build. We believe we are just at the beginning of the impact of the Internet.

As we celebrate 20 years of AfNOG and the 30th summit of AFRINIC, we believe there is a lot more to come and we believe that the cohesion of the community, with the commitment, dedication, we have a lot to go.

The government and private sector will be big supporters. We have several sponsors who are helping us. The combination of the private sector and the government, academia, that is what will create the Internet of the future that we are looking for.

On that note, thank you very much and welcome to Kampala.

(Applause)

SUSAN OTIENO:
Thank you very much. At this juncture, I would like to invite Prof Nii Quaynor to give us his remarks.

NII QUAYNOR:
Good afternoon. AfNOG! AfNOG!

ALL: Success.

NII QUAYNOR:
AFRINIC. As you know, I like to move emotion around. Help me to do that. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I thank everyone for making the journey to AIS '19 and I am very pleased with the commitment that we are seeing.

The interest of the technical community to get together at least once a year is highly commendable, considering the effort it takes to make the pilgrimage to AIS. This commitment is highly appreciated.

It was proposed in 1998 that we build a variety of Internet technical institutions that we called AF Start and there are several of them. We built these over the decades, each facing different challenges.

Along the way, we decided to meet and create an environment where these organisations can co-locate for meetings and events and that is the African Internet Summit.

Honourable Minister, we have in our midst several of the global leaders of the Internet with their African colleagues working together to make the one Internet better for all of us.

We trust that our approach to making decisions harnesses across a wide range of expertise from many disciplines to address Internet development is a good way to make progress.

This is very effective when different parties own different parts of networks. This enables cooperation to create a common good for all of us.

We have come here to work together, meet old friends, make new friends, and, most importantly, to be happy. We should not miss that opportunity.

There are no challenges a determined community with goodwill cannot solve and I urge all of us to work to improve things at this AIS. I wish you all a very good meeting. You very much.

(Applause)

SUSAN OTIENO:
Thank you very much. We will proceed with the speeches. At this juncture, I would like to welcome Dr Christian Bope to give his remarks.

CHRISTIAN D BOPE:

TRANSLATION:
Honourable minister, good afternoon.

CHRISTIAN D BOPE:
It is my pleasure to speak to you and to welcome you almost cordially to the opening of the Africa Internet Summit, 2019. Welcome to Uganda.

On behalf of AFRINIC and our partners I wish to thank the consultant for hosting us for the meeting but, most of all, we are here to honour the delegation here.

We have 572 delegations on site from 47 countries as we speak, and more are streaming this event session live.

This is the first time the joint meeting is taking place in Uganda as the Africa Internet Summit.

The summit is a vital avenue for engagement with our members, the community, and other stakeholders.

Most importantly, the summit ensures collective decision-making and helps us to align a

mutual common goal on developing the Internet in Africa.

Over the last 15 years, our discussions and deliberations have contributed to transform employment in Africa and Internet usage and access has increased exponentially.

Ladies and gentlemen, economic indicators underscore that Africa is on a sustainable growth path with an economy growth to accelerate to 4.1% in 2019.

The role of the Internet in development has also been well recognised by the known relationship between improved connection and GDP growth and we must evaluate the role we are playing in the growth.

We are bringing transformation in our economies and improving the lives of millions of individuals on the continent.

AFRINIC contribution to the development and progress is conveyed in the number of resources allocated to Internet service providers and users over the years.

AFRINIC has achieved this distribution of resources to over 400 million people across the continent. We are proud to be part of this journey.

Increasing Internet access means that more work is required. Given that the Internet growth is at the stage, we should write our policies to be put in place to support the development in our country and the African regions.

As such AFRINIC meetings provide a forum to strengthen policies and promote technical discussions on Internet issues in Africa.

During this meeting we shall also be discussing collectively how to further enhance the Internet number resource management in support of local policies.

At this meeting we shall be looking at ways to strengthen our policy development process. We shall also be seeking to put in place better mechanisms to manage resources and our IPv6 distribution as well as how to smoothly transition from IPv4 to IPv6.

Crucially, Africa also needs to ensure that Africa's unconnected do not get left behind and that every device now and, in the future, can be assigned its own unique IP address so that it can connect and communicate to the global network. We must work with all stakeholders to ensure that we can reduce the number of unconnected within the continent. Above all, we must work to grow and strengthen our Internet institutions.

AFRINIC has supported the growth of local Network Operator Groups, research networks, as well as local Internet Governance Forum initiative.

I'm happy to report that AFRINIC's position in the Internet ecosystem continues to grow by day. On behalf of the AFRINIC Board I wish to thank our members and the community at Large for the immense support that enabled us effectively to discharge our duties in 2018.

In closing, I would like to thank our meeting sponsors for the most valuable support for this meeting. ICANN, ISOC, MTN Uganda, SEACOM, CSquared, UIXP, Larus Cloud

Services, Network the World, Ghana Dot Com, TNC, ICCC. Thanks to them.

I hope you will get the most out of this conference and I wish you, and especially to our network outside Kampala, a very good day. Thank you.

SUSAN OTIENO:
Thank you very much. At this juncture I will welcome out localhost again. Thank you.

BADRU NTEGE:
Thank you. Before I welcome the Minister, I will share a story that I spent with the Minister. We were in a workshop in Nairobi and we went through the normal openings. After the opening all the African ministers left and I spent the whole day with the Minister. He did not leave. So that, to me, was the first time that we have the right minister.

We spent a full day with him, all the workshops and meetings. So, I'm sure the sector has a very good person. The honourable minister let me welcome you to the podium.

(Applause)Localhost

FRANK K TUMWEBAZE
Mr Badru Ntege, the national host of this course was conference. The localhost was hosting the conference, is very interested. The representatives of the different partners, distinguished guests from the G-7 countries. Ladies and gentlemen, this afternoon. My sincere apologies if I came in late. The today is the cabinet day. But I had to get excused from the president chairing to open the conference. He told me to welcome all the existing delegates from the seven countries, welcome to Uganda.

(Applause)

It is not only Uganda; it is beautiful Uganda.

(Applause)

And it is not only beautiful Uganda, it is Africa. Socially, as he talked about the Internet, you are in the right place you have the right mind, the ambience that will enable you to go through this very complex discussion that you have been seriously fighting with cyber security, digital transformation, IPv6.

If the temperatures went image, you wouldn't have managed to dissect the topic. You would have been rushing to change your tickets. So, when you go back, take our regards and that Uganda is not a closed country.

We are open to everybody and we are the best investment destination anybody can think about. And now that you have come here to discuss the Internet, which is a major tool for enabling transformation in all other sectors, it makes our investment environment better.

As your keynote speaker, I don't have a little speech, written speeches tend to limit you to read what you have. But with the situation we need to think loud and out-of-the-box. I come to address you on essential issues of the Internet. Point number one, how do we make the Internet affordable for everyone?

I want to demonstrate this. You call this safe water, and now there is trouble for government, for international agencies, to make sure that safe water coverage which is everybody. But when we are growing up, some of us, it is not safe water.

The issue is water, isn't it? The issue was water for everybody. You're talking about safe water, but we first struggled to get the water. The issue of safety is for others to know how to call the water. Boil the water, put it in the pot. If you come from any part of Africa, you know what a pot means. I wish I knew all the languages.

It is made from clay. It was used to keep water for drinking for your homestead, because it would make it sure. They would put it in there. So, our mothers would just get a clean piece of cloth, and use it as a filter. A first ball the water. If you were a lousy mother, you would consume it as you got it from the river. So now use of water? It started as a revolution. Everybody needs water.

There is no struggle for chicken. Is it chicken? We don't need chicken for all. You boys I am Some people could be vegetarian. But you need water for everybody.

This is the Internet. The Internet is now at all for all.

In 2017, Uganda posted the Commonwealth heads of government state meeting, known as CHOGM. Internet connectivity was very pronounced. But who really knew? We struggled with the Infocoms and nobody knew the Internet. By that it was all about email, email. Even telecom companies, the issue then was voice connectivity.

I am sure, little did they know that data, data trade and the future could take a voice. Sooner or later, they may even offer the voice for free. He wants to be able to do this.

The struggle we have now is, how do we make Internet cheaper and affordable for everyone?

The way water was made accessible. And safe is my second point. And that's why we are talking about cybersecurity. If there are no issues of security, then you wouldn't be talking about cybersecurity.

We want the Internet to be a positive tool. You have telecom companies in this conversation. Regulators made from different countries, even ministries. We meet at the ITO, the different Africans organisations where we belong to the Commonwealth. We are sharing experiences. What you need to add to the conversation is, how do we sustainably deploy and take broadband to the most rural action affordable cost? Access broadband.

The recent government of Uganda, we have looked at a hybrid policy, only the infrastructure can deliver broadband. We believe optic fibre can take broadband to most parts of the country. But we also recognise it has limitations.

It will not go to the mountains. It is prone to vandalism. So, it may not give you, even 70% universal connectivity may not be achieved. But also, optic fibre was a game changer in the broadband connective struggle for most countries, especially in Africa. The cost was expensive. Now, different technologies have managed to give us better satellites and cheaper.

So optic fibre is one common tool for infrastructure. And I want to thank the telecom companies and other ISP providers who have invested in infrastructure. I think we should give them a round of applause.

(Applause)

Because if they were not doing that, they would leave the infrastructure B. If you imagine, a tax company building a road, would it make sense? Imagine an airline constructing an airport for himself. It is the same logic. Road infrastructures left to government. But because governments have not seen the critical need of connectivity, they first attend to the other pressing issues of infrastructure.

But now, government is also a need to complement the telecom companies in building this infrastructure. The ownership and investment costs in this infrastructure are not heavy, and it forces them to press the services high because of the costs.

The government has been investing in optic fibre and recognise other forms of broadband connectivity such as microwave and satellite.

The question is, how do we ensure that private infrastructure and public complement each other without seeming as if one wants to edge the other out of business?

We want to complement the government to make broadband infrastructure and I feel that would be good for the sector. If you leave it to the telecom companies, then you will never deliver Internet cheaply as a common utility to the citizens.

I do not know whether something like this will feature in the conversations but if it does not, please devote time while you are here to discuss it.

We do not know what will happen. It was put in place in 2006 in Uganda, but the sector was there. You people in the sector perhaps know more than the government people know.

Any time Badru knocked at my door, I will answer. For me, a very important stakeholder. For me, getting Internet cheaply should be a huge concern. It should be a huge concern of all the partners and of the international Communications Union to make sure everyone is educated successfully.

If they don't get access to the Internet, then we cannot talk about transformation and we cannot talk about inclusion. How are you including me if I have no viable connectivity?

That is a point that I request that we take more time to look at.

The second point is the safety of the Internet, the safety of the Internet. How secure online am I? How are my accounts secure? How are the banks secure?

Banks must be secure. We must really investigate this. It is like gun control - it is not that guns are bad, they can be tools of defence, but they can also be tools of attack.

Safety is about defence and attack. On the Internet, we don't want attack. We want to

use the Internet to break the barriers of our businesses.

We want to use the Internet to connect the unconnected and to reduce the cost for business and we want to use the Internet to create opportunities for those people who engage their brains to export their intellectual capital.

That is my third point and perhaps the last one. How can we create jobs in the ICT sector? We must create jobs in the ICT sector to enable people to invest heavily in these infrastructures and believe the ICT sector is important.

Do we tax foreign content over the top or not? It is not just in Uganda. They have the Commonwealth organisation on this, and the point is that it is because there is imbalance of content export over the Internet.

If the East African region can redevelop as much applications and we can put them online for people to consume, then the imbalance will be no more.

I am talking about innovation. How do we create as much opportunity as possible in Africa? That is when the Internet will be balanced.

We shall not be at the receiving end of only consuming other people's solutions, we also want to use the Internet to export our content and this is something that we need to discuss in Uganda, Nigeria, Cameroon - how can this regional or global acceptability?

Here, I am really appealing to multinational IT giants. We have been supporting you, for sure. We have been consuming a lot of your solutions. Our Treasury and central banks are powered by your solutions.

We must develop the young talents to be able to also trade in innovations. New advancement in technology must be therefore these younger people and if Oracle is providing a solution, let the people be from the host country.

(Applause)

That is how the Internet will be seen - as a global equaliser, a global unifier, and that is how I want to appreciate it more. It is a very good word - where there are no customs officials, people to tell you to remove your shoes to be checked.

It will be an equaliser, a unifier, it will be good for all. In international law, there is something that they say that means 'good against all' and it means it will go for everybody and we want the Internet to be good for all.

It will be good for all if the empowerment reaches everybody.

Those are my three takeaways and do not leave them out in this conversation. I challenge the local host, let's share systemising ICTs.

We could even have a local country discussion with the telecoms about you, the other people, what are the takeaways from here? How does this speak to our policy? What can be reformed?

We are open to reform because the ICT sector is a dynamic one. How do we make sure

the Internet is accessible, reliable and affordable? How do we make sure it is secure and how do we ensure it is a fair trade for everybody?'

Welcome again, enjoy, and if you can, getting residency is very easy here and you can stay with us if you prove that you are here for no other purpose but to enjoy our beauty. God bless you.

(Applause)

SUSAN OTIENO:
Another round of applause.

(Applause)

HON. FRANK K TUMWEBAZE:
When the Bishop is finished preaching, they say blessings. You should have time for God. You are busy with your guidance, you don't pray.

Having said that I have said, it is my pleasure and my honour to declare the Africa Internet Summit in Kampala this year open.

(Applause)

SUSAN OTIENO:
On that note, you can all apply for residence permits.

OK, we have come to the end of the opening ceremony and I have a few announcements.

After all, there will be a welcome reception taking place on the poolside terrace and we just go from the ground floor, up to the poolside, it starts at 6:30 and it is sponsored by the Uganda Internet Exchange Point.

The hashtag is #AIS19 and #AIS Kampala. You can tag yourself on the posts and use those hashtags.

At this juncture, you are free to leave. I was your host, Susan Otieno. Thank you and see you later.

(Applause)