

Speech by Her Worship Cllr Fawzia Peer, at the
Opening Reception and gala dinner of the ITU
Telecom World 2018 conference – 10 September 2018

- His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa
- Mr. Houlin Zhao: ITU Secretary-General,
- Excellency's Presidents and heads of state from all participating countries,
- Honourable Ministers of Telecommunications from around the world.
- The Honourable Minister of Post and Telecommunications Mr Siyabonga Cwele
- The Honourable Premier Mr Willies Mchunu
- Members of the Provincial legislature
- Members of the executive and councilors of the eThekweni Municipality
- Partners and sponsors of ITU Telecom World 2018
- Ladies and gentlemen
- Good evening

On behalf of the eThekweni Municipality I wish to extend a warm welcome to you all. It is an honour for me to be welcoming you all in this great Inkosi Albert Luthuli Convention Centre, Named after the first African Nobel Peace Laureate from our region.

It is indeed a proud moment for me to be standing before you and welcoming you all this important conference in our city in the month of Spring. A time for growth, peace and celebration of heritage.

Today we also celebrated World Arbour day – a day that should all commit to ensuring that we preserve and plant trees for a cleaner environment.

Today I also wish to convey my good wishes to all Jewish and Muslim communities that are celebrating Rosh Hashanah and Muharran respectively.

This year we also celebrate the centenary of our great former President Nelson Mandela and Mum Albertina Sisulu – a women of fortitude.

Ladies and gentlemen, Information and communication technologies (ICTs) form the backbone of today's digital economy and have enormous potential to *fast forward* progress on the SDGs and improve people's lives in fundamental ways.

Programme Director, I am pleased that the International Telecommunications Union has ensured that all programmes and projects will support the United Nations achieve its sustainable development goals. I am pleased that the ITU is making steady progress in Sustainable Development Goal number 4. This will support efforts of countries, regions and cities to become more resilient and to promote education and knowledge sharing through ICT.

The city of Durban is a proud member of the C40 Global cities movement and the 100 Cities Resilient Cities Movement. All these campaigns will make cities more prepared to deal with the impacts of Climate Change.

ITU Telecom World as a global platform for accelerating ICT innovations coming to Durban will have important benefits to our city, our province and indeed our country and continent.

I am sure that your deliberations and outcomes will go a long way in support Africa's meaningful participation in the 4th Industrial Revolution and ensure that innovations in telecommunications can contribute to the following;

1. Stimulate job creation, especially amongst our youth and women owned enterprises.
2. Contribute to technology driven ideas for safety and security.
3. Contribute to education and training.
4. Contribute to technology driven solutions to food security and agriculture in general.
5. Ideas to use technology and ICT to strengthen systems of governance and democracy.
6. In essence connecting the world through effective and cost appropriate telecoms and ICT will improve the platforms to share knowledge, grow local economies and promote world peace.

7. Accelerating innovation through technology disruption and enhancement will stimulate local economy's.
8. Unlocking potential - Turning ideas into action by introducing innovations, businesses and technologies to investors, influencers and policy-makers.
9. Maximising impact by Collaborating across sectors, borders and industries to take innovative solutions to scale in developed and emerging markets.

I am sure that your conference in our great city will come up with relevant ideas to deliver economic development and social good faster through its exhibition for digital solutions, forum for sharing knowledge, and networking hub connecting nations, organisations and individuals.

I am pleased that ITU Telecom World has brought together the smartest ideas and entrepreneurial spirit of digital start-ups and ICT SMEs together with governments, regulators, industry leaders, consultants and experts from emerging and developed markets around the world. This will undoubtedly stimulate economic growth and inspire new ideas for sustainable development.

This conference will also enhance platforms for a better connected world and therefore creating a better life for all our people.

In conclusion, I wish you all a successful and productive conference. Please take time out to enjoy the great sights, sounds and tastes of Durban. Thank you for choosing Durban as the venue for the 2018 ITU conference.

I thank you.