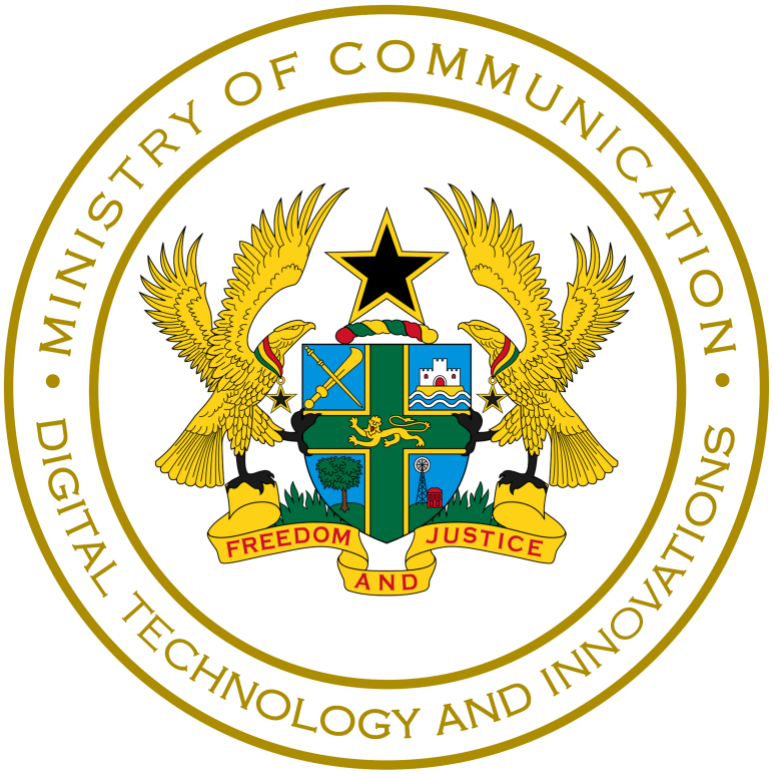

Monday, November 9, 2026

POLICY STATEMENT BY THE HON. SAMUEL NARTEY GEORGE (MP), MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATION, DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATIONS, REPUBLIC OF GHANA, AT THE 2026 ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (PP-26)

DOHA, STATE OF QATAR

1. Mr Chairman, Madam Secretary-General, Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, distinguished delegates.

2. I bring warm greetings from His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana. I thank the State of Qatar for its gracious hospitality. Doha has made us all feel at home. Mr Chairman, congratulations on your election. Madam Secretary-General, we commend your stewardship of the Union.

3. Excellencies, let me begin with a simple truth.

4. **A signal is not a connection. A tower is not a transformation.**

5. Coverage means little if people cannot afford it, cannot trust it, and cannot use it.

6. So Ghana is completing 2,016 rural telephony sites. We are upgrading our 2G and 3G rural telephony network to 4 G/5G-ready under President Mahama's visionary 'New Economy Policy'. We have opened up 5G spectrum licensing. By March 2027, when Ghana turns seventy, 5G will reach more than seventy per cent of our people.

7. Our rule is simple. Coverage must become usage. Usage must become impact.

8. We are building a National AI Compute Centre to support research, innovation and enterprise, while promoting responsible, ethical and inclusive AI. We are training One Million Coders because people are at the centre of our digital transformation.

9. As a Tier 1 country in the Global Cybersecurity Index, we stand ready to share what we know in establishing Computer Emergency Response Teams and Child Online Protection protocols with fellow Member States, through the ITU, because a network without trust is a network without users.

10. Mr Chairman, this is not only Ghana's story. As Chair of the African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Communication and ICT, I speak with a continent in mind.

11. **More than half of Africa is still offline. Half. In 2026.**

12. So as we shape the Strategic Plan for 2027 to 2030, Ghana asks for a Union that measures success not in resolutions, but in results. In villages connected. In investment mobilised for the last mile.

13. And we ask that equitable access to spectrum and satellite orbits, enshrined in Article 44 of our Constitution, remains a promise kept. The sky belongs to every nation. Not only to those who reached it first.

14. Mr Chairman, Ghana has served this Union as a builder of consensus, and as Chair of the Commonwealth ITU Group. On that record, Ghana stands for re-election to the Council for Region D.

15. We also present Ing. Edmund Yirenkyi Fianko, Director-General of our National Communications Authority, for re-election to the Radio Regulations Board with two decades in spectrum management. The only sitting African member standing for re-election. A steady custodian of a global public trust.

Excellencies, Ghana respectfully seeks your support for both candidatures.

16. In 1957, Kwame Nkrumah declared that the independence of Ghana was meaningless unless it was linked up with the total liberation of Africa.

17. Seventy years on, Ghana says this:

18. **No nation is truly connected until every nation is connected.**

19. Let us leave Doha having built more than networks—a world where no one is left on the other side of the signal.

I thank you.