Sunday, November 8, 2026

STATEMENT BY THE HON. SAMUEL NARTEY GEORGE (MP), MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATION, DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATIONS, REPUBLIC OF GHANA, AT THE DOHA MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE

DOHA, STATE OF QATAR

Minister for Communication and Information Technology of the State of Qatar
Madam SG of the ITU,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Let me first thank the State of Qatar for its warm hospitality.

2. Excellencies, let me begin with a question. Twenty years from now, when historians write about this decade, what will they say?

3. That the digital revolution lifted every nation? Or that it left half the world watching from the outside? The answer depends on the choices we make in rooms like this one.

4. For Ghana, digital is not just a sector. It is an engine of economic growth, better public services and national development.

5. Our priorities are clear. Build the infrastructure. Develop the skills. Create room for innovation. And make sure the benefits reach every part of our society.

6. We are turning these priorities into action. We are upgrading Ghana.gov into a single, integrated gateway for public services. And through a planned National Data Exchange, we intend to connect 48 government data registries. This will help our institutions work together and plan with evidence, not guesswork.

7. Through the One Million Coders Programme, we are investing in our greatest asset: our young people. We are equipping them with practical digital skills for jobs, entrepreneurship and the digital economy. Eleven universities are now embedding its certification in their programmes.

8. In April this year, President John Dramani Mahama launched our National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2025–2035. It will guide responsible AI adoption across key sectors of our economy. Because Ghana refuses to be only a consumer of AI. We intend to build it too.

Distinguished Colleagues,

9. But let us be honest about the gaps. Affordable, reliable connectivity is still out of reach for many rural and underserved communities. Investment in resilient digital infrastructure remains the foundation of meaningful digital inclusion.

10. And a new divide is opening. It is one you cannot see on a coverage map. It is the divide in computing power. In quality data. In the capacity to build advanced technology. For developing economies, this is the emerging challenge of our time.

11. Consider a young innovator in Accra. She has a brilliant idea for an AI tool. But without computing power, quality data or affordable finance, her idea stays just that: an idea. Talent is everywhere. Opportunity is not.

12. So I ask: what is international cooperation for, if not to close that gap? Cooperation must mean investment in digital infrastructure. Transfer of technology. Skills development. And fair access to emerging technologies. Not charity. Partnership.

13. We encourage stronger partnerships between governments, development institutions and the private sector to close the financing and capacity gaps that developing countries still face.

14. Excellencies, progress must also be safe. Innovation without trust will not last. A digital economy without trust is a house built on sand. Every new service we launch, and every AI system we deploy, must come with safeguards.

15. That means stronger cybersecurity. Sound data governance. And digital trust that protects citizens and businesses alike. Safety cannot be an afterthought. It must be built in from the start.

16. As we prepare to launch the Doha Ministerial Declaration, Ghana welcomes this opportunity to strengthen international cooperation for an inclusive and sustainable digital future. This is why Ghana is particularly concerned about the safety and resilience of civilian

public digital infrastructure, especially during periods of conflict. This is why we have submitted a proposal to address the sustainability and resilience of public digital infrastructure. The world does not need another declaration that gathers dust.

17. Let this one be different. Let it be the basis for practical partnerships that meet the real infrastructure, financing and capacity needs of developing countries.

18. And let it be measured not by the words we sign, but by the infrastructure built, the skills gained and the lives changed tomorrow.

19. Ghana remains committed to working with all Member States and international partners to advance these shared priorities. The question for all of us is simple. Will we be remembered for what we declared, or for what we delivered?

Thank you.