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| APTlogogreen3 | ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY | **Document No.:** |  |  |
| **The 4th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-21 (APT WTDC21-4)** | **APT WTDC21-4/**  **OUT-12** |  |  |
| 24-28 January 2022, Bangkok, Thailand (Hybrid) | 28 January 2022 |  |  |

Chair, WG3

PRELIMINARY APT COMMON PROPOSAL

**Proposal to Add new Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives, and to suppress existing Regional Initiatives**

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| **Priority area:** (Please mark “X” in front of the appropriate item)  \_\_\_ Declaration  \_X\_Thematic Priorities, Action Plan, Regional Initiatives and SG Questions  \_\_\_ Working Methods  \_\_\_ Resolutions and Recommendations  \_\_\_ Other proposals  **Summary:**  Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) Member Administrations have developed and endorsed Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives.  **Expected results:**  That the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives APT Member Administrations have endorsed be included in the relevant section of the Action Plan of World Telecommunication Development Conference for implementation in accordance with Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017).  **References:**  Buenos Aires Action Plan, Part C – Regional Initiatives, Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives (pp.167 - 172); WTDC Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017). |

**PROPOSALS**

APT Member Administrations propose to include the following Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives in the Action Plan of World Telecommunication Development Conference and suppress the Regional Initiatives for Asia-Pacific region containing in the Buenos Aires Action Plan, Part C – Regional Initiatives, Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives.

Draft Asia-Pacific regional initiatives

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| **(Draft) Regional Initiatives of ASP (2022-2025)** |
| **ASP1:** Addressing special needs of least developed countries, small island developing states, including Pacific island countries, and landlocked developing countries  **Objective**: To provide special assistance to least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), including Pacific island countries, and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) in order to meet their priority telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) requirements.  **Expected results**:   1. Development of policy and regulatory frameworks for broadband infrastructure and ICT applications and cybersecurity, taking into account the special needs of LDCs, SIDS, including Pacific island countries, and LLDCs, and strengthening of human capacity to address future policy and regulatory challenges. 2. Promotion of affordable and meaningful broadband universal access in LDCs, SIDS, including Pacific island countries, and LLDCs. 3. Assistance to LDCs, SIDS, including Pacific island countries, and LLDCs in adopting telecommunication/ICT applications in disaster management relating to disaster prediction, preparedness, adaptation, monitoring, mitigation, response, rehabilitation and recovery of telecommunication/ICT networks based on their priority needs. 4. Assistance to LDCs, SIDS, including Pacific island countries, and LLDCs in their efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs, the Samoa Pathway for SIDS and the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs. |
| **ASP2:** Harnessing information and communication technologies to support the digital economy and inclusive digital societies  **Objective**: To assist Member States in utilizing information and communication technologies (ICTs) and emerging technologies to reap the benefits of the digital economy by addressing the human and technical capacity challenges, including improving and expanding digital skills to reduce the gender gap, and assisting vulnerable groups[[1]](#footnote-1) to bridge the digital divide.  **Expected results**:   1. Planning and elaboration of national strategic frameworks on the digital economy as well as associated toolkits for selected ICT applications and services. 2. Establishment and annual updating of a repository of all work done within ITU relating to the digital economy since the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017). 3. Development of policies, strategies and guidelines for efficient and timely implementation of the digital economy including the use of the Internet of Things (IoT), ICT-centric applications and platforms, AI, 5G and big data. 4. Acceleration of digital infrastructure readiness by timely deployment of optical fibre, 4G and 5G technologies as well as that of ICT/mobile applications to improve the delivery of value-added services in sectors such as health, education, environment, agriculture, governance, energy, financial services, and e-commerce. In doing so, economic recovery funds and resources of development banks can also be utilized. 5. Identification, collation and sharing of knowledge, best practices and case studies on various telecommunication/ICT applications. 6. Development of cross-sectoral national/regional programmes on digital literacy and skills for inclusiveness, especially for women, youth, older persons and persons with specific needs 7. Enhancement of international cooperation related to new and emerging technologies pertaining to telecommunications/ICTs to ensure that all countries on the global value chain can benefit from digital transformation. |
| **ASP3**: Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity and connecting the unconnected  **Objective**: To assist Member States in the development of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure in order to facilitate the provision of services and applications taking into consideration the availability, affordability and accessibility of the infrastructure for connecting the unconnected.  **Expected results**:   1. Migration/transition of analogue networks to appropriate digital networks, application of affordable wired and wireless technologies (including interoperability of ICT infrastructure) and optimized use of the digital dividend. 2. Maximized use of new and emerging technologies for the development of communication networks, including 5G and smart grid infrastructure and services. 3. Review and revise, if necessary, existing national broadband objectives and enhance capacity to develop and implement national broadband plans (including support to study the status of national broadband networks and international connectivity) in order to provide broadband access to unserved and underserved areas; promote affordable access, especially for youth, women, indigenous peoples and children; select appropriate technologies; develop and use universal service funds effectively; and develop business models that are financially and operationally sustainable. 4. Promotion of Internet exchange points (IXPs) as a long-term solution to advance connectivity and deployment of IPv6-based networks and applications and facilitation of the transition from IPv4 to IPv6. 5. Strengthening of the capacity to implement conformance and interoperability (C&I) procedures and facilitating the establishment of common regional/subregional C&I regimes (including the adoption and implementation of mutual recognition arrangements). 6. Paying attention to spectrum-management issues, including radio-frequency planning, harmonization of the use of spectrum allocated and identified for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT), enhancement of spectrum monitoring systems, and facilitating implementation of WRC decisions. 7. Building of skills for the development and use of terrestrial and space services. 8. Enhancing regional ICT connectivity and strengthening cooperation with international/regional organizations in programmes such as the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) |
| **ASP4**: Enabling policy and regulatory environments to accelerate digital transformation  **Objective**: To assist Member States in developing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks, digital services across various sectors of the economy, fostering innovation, enhancing skills, increasing information sharing and strengthening regulatory cooperation, thereby contributing to a supportive regulatory environment for all stakeholders.  **Expected results**:   1. Sharing of information on developments in policy, legal and regulatory frameworks as well as market developments in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector and the digital economies it enables. 2. Development, implementation and review of strategies, policies and legal and regulatory frameworks, including for next-generation universal service obligation (USO), consumer protection, transformation of small; and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to digital enterprises, and innovation and entrepreneurship. 3. Encouraging inclusive dialogues and strengthening cooperation among national and regional regulators, policy-makers and other telecommunication/ICT stakeholders, as well as with other sectors of the economy, on topical policy, legal, regulatory and market issues. 4. Strengthening institutional, human and technical capacity on topical policy, legal and regulatory issues, as well as on economic and financial issues and market developments. 5. Improved awareness of policy and regulatory frameworks relating to data privacy and cross-border data. 6. Development of strategic frameworks to support research and development activities in ICT in developing countries |
| **ASP5**: Contributing to a secure and resilient ICT environment  **Objective**: To assist Member States to develop and maintain secure, trusted and resilient networks and services, and to address challenges related to climate change and the management of global pandemics and disasters.  **Expected results**:   1. Compilation of national/regional cybersecurity strategies, establishment of national/regional cybersecurity capabilities such as computer incident response teams (CIRTs), and sharing of good practices to nurture a culture of cybersecurity. 2. Strengthening of institutional cooperation and coordination among key actors and stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels (including through organizing cyberdrills) and enhancing the capacity to address issues related to cybersecurity. 3. Development of national emergency telecommunication plans and ICT-based initiatives for providing medical (e-health) and humanitarian assistance in disasters and emergencies. 4. Incorporation of disaster-resilient features in telecommunication networks and infrastructure, and development of ICT-based solutions (including the use of wireless and satellite-based technologies) to enhance network resilience. 5. Development of standards-based monitoring and early-warning systems linked to national and regional networks, and enhanced use of active and passive terrestrial/space-based sensing systems for disaster prediction, detection and mitigation. 6. Formulation of comprehensive strategies and measures to help mitigate and respond to the devastating effects of climate change, including e-waste policy |

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1. Refers to people with specific needs, including children, women, older persons and persons with disabilities. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)