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| APTlogogreen3 | ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY | **Document No.:** |
| **The 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-21 (APT WTDC21-3)** | **APT WTDC21-3/**  **OUT-10** |
| 5-8 October 2021, Virtual/Online Meeting | 08 October 2021 |

Chair, WG2

**APT VIEW[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Asia-Pacific Vision for the ITU Development Sector

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-21 was held as a Virtual/Online Meeting from 5 to 8 October 2021.

The meeting considered a draft contribution outlining high-level views for an Asia-Pacific vision for the ITU Development Sector (ITU-D). This vision outlines APT expectations regarding the role of the ITU-D and highlights priorities for the ITU-D’s focus, taking into account the ongoing and agreed Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) reforms being driven under the Fit4purpose governance and reform agenda.

Following discussions of the contribution, the meeting agreed four (4) priorities for the ITU‑D’s focus as part of the Asia-Pacific vision for the ITU-D.

1. **PROPOSAL**

The Member Administrations who attended the 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-21 propose the following four (4) draft priorities for the ITU-D for consideration at the forthcoming TDAG meeting as well as the second meeting of the Inter-Regional Meeting to Prepare WTDC-21 (IRM-2).

This Asia-Pacific Vision for the ITU-D prioritises a Development Sector that:

1**. Focuses on reducing the telecommunications/ICT divide between developing and developed countries:** The Asia-Pacific Member Administrations support an ITU-D that is focused on reducing the divide between developing and developed countries in telecommunications and ICTs, including in areas of connectivity, the gender digital divide, capacity development and upskilling, and building confidence and security in the use of ICTs. Reducing these divides should be of utmost importance, particularly in Small Island Developing States, Landlocked Developing Countries and Least Developed Countries. Connectivity for remote communities should be a particular focus, as many vulnerable communities are still not fully connected and efforts must continue to reduce these divides which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

2**. Supports a successful WTDC with clear outputs and goals:** The Asia‑Pacific Member Administrations support an ITU-D that facilitates a successful WTDC with clear outputs and goals to ensure that the ITU‑D’s important work can have the most impact where it is needed. Clear outputs and goals will also maximise the use of ITU-D and ITU Member resources, and further enable the delivery of initiatives with genuine impacts for members and stakeholders.

3. **Is results-focused**: The Asia-Pacific Member Administrations support an ITU-D that is results‑focused and adheres to results-based management principles. Commitment to results-based management and performance reporting that focuses on the genuine impact of activities on beneficiaries and a broader assessment of the final outcomes of activities carried out, particularly in the reporting of project deliverables, will allow the Sector to better measure success and improve project outcomes and delivery. This approach will increase the quality of ITU-D projects and increase the positive impacts for beneficiaries of ITU-D projects.

4. **Continues to strengthen the efficient, transparent and accountable operation of the BDT:** The Asia-Pacific Member Administrations support an ITU-D that continues to strengthen the efficient, transparent and accountable operation of the BDT, including regional and area offices in line with the principle, framework, and mechanism established to effectively and efficiently serve the membership's needs. Since BDT is responsible for the organisation and coordination of the work of the ITU‑D and deals mainly with development policies, strategies, programmes, as well as technical cooperation activities to close the digital divide, it is essential to ensure its integrity.

1. This document was considered and accepted by consensus at the APT WTD21-3 meeting held as a Virtual/Online Meeting from 5 to 8 October 2021. The meeting was attended by the Administrations of Australia,

   Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore and Thailand. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)