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| **The 15th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-15)** | **PRFP-15/OUT-03** |
| 30 August – 1 September 2022, Port Vila, Vanuatu (hybrid) | 13 October 2022 |

Secretary General

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 15TH APT**

**POLICY AND REGULATION FORUM FOR PACIFIC**

1. INTRODUCTION

The 15th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-15) was held from 30 August to 1 September 2022 in Port Vila, Vanuatu, with hybrid format (both physical and virtual/online attendance through APT Zoom meeting). The meeting was hosted by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) and Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator (TRBR), Vanuatu, and supported by the Extra Budgetary Contributions from Australia and Japan.

The meeting was attended by 161 participants from APT Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, International Organizations, and other organizations. Document: PRFP-15/ADM-03 contains the list of participants of the PRFP-15.

1. OPENING SESSION *(Tuesday,30 August 2022, 09:30 – 10:00 hrs., UTC+11)*
	1. **Welcome Remarks by Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General, APT** *(Document: PRFP-15/INP-01)*

Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General, APT, welcomed all delegates to PRFP-15. He mentioned that PRFP-15 had more than 170 registered participants from 17 countries. He added that APT Secretariat planned to make PRFP-15 informative and productive for APT members, especially for the members from the Pacific. He mentioned that PRFP-15 has a special high-level roundtable to share recent policy and regulation issues and experiences, and other sessions covering a wide range of issues from different aspects, from digital transformation, broadband connectivity to cybersecurity and emerging technologies. He thanked Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates for joining and encouraged participants to participate actively and derive the greatest benefit from the PRFP-15.

The full text of his address is provided in Document: PRFP-15/INP-01.

* 1. **Opening Remarks by Mr. John Jack, Chair of PRFP** *(Document: PRFP-15/INP-02)*

Mr. John Jack, Chair of PRFP mentioned that it was his immense pleasure to deliver the opening address at this PRFP-15. He conveyed his sincere thanks and gratitude to the Management Committee of APT for granting approval so that Vanuatu administration could organize PRFP-15 in Port Vila, Vanuatu. He mentioned that this PRFP-15 was the first reunion of APT’s PRFP family after two challenging years of disruption, adaptation and innovation, brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. He emphasized the last two years was a period that we have demonstrated power, values and capabilities of a connected society. He highlighted the importance of ICT in the Pacific region, especially in the area of broadband connectivity, cybersecurity, and disaster management. He congratulated and thanked all participants who joined PRFP-15 for making the right decision to be part of this significant gathering where many unique Telecommunication/ICT development issues and challenges faced by the Pacific communities would be shared and discussed. He looked forward to concrete and positive participation during this gathering.

The full text of his remarks is provided in Document: PRFP-15/INP-02.

* 1. **Inaugural Address by Hon. Bob Loughman, Prime Minister, Vanuatu** *(Document: PRFP-15/INP-03)*

Hon. Bob Loughman, Prime Minister, Vanuatu mentioned that it was his esteem pleasure to welcome all participants and conveyed his heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Vanuatu. He mentioned that we have all witnessed and experienced the power of ICTs and learned many lessons during the pandemic. He mentioned that he strongly believes the PRFP is the right platform for sharing and exchanging all our innovative ideas in terms of ICTs because of the common challenges we face in Pacific region. He also highlighted, as a region, Pacific countries need to move forward together. Regional cooperation through established networks and especially through regional organizations need to speak the one language which must be to elevate the livelihoods of our people, using the technologies such as ICTs. He gave all the very best wishes to the discussions over the 3 days and he mentioned that as a strong advocator for ICT and innovation, he looked forward to seeing the outcomes of this forum. He declared that the PRFP-15 was officially open.

The full text of his remarks is provided in Document: PRFP-15/INP-03.

1. SESSION 1 - PLENARY *(Tuesday, 30 August 2022, 10:00 – 10:30 hrs*., *UTC+11)*
	1. **Adoption of the Agenda** *(Document: PRFP-15/ADM-01)*

Mr. John Jack, Chair of PRFP, introduced the Provisional Agenda of the Meeting. He sought comments on the document. As there was no comment, it was adopted.

* 1. **Outcomes of the 45th Session of the Management Committee of the APT Relevant to PRFP** *(Document: PRFP-15/INP-04)*

APT Secretariat presented outcomes of the 45th Session of the Management Committee of the APT (MC-45) relevant to PRFP. The following decisions were made:

1. MC-45 adopted the report of the PRFP that was submitted as document MC-45/INP-07.
2. MC-45 approved the revised Working Methods of PRFP, which can be found in document MC-45/OUT-04.
3. MC-45 approved the Work Programme on PRFP and the holding of PRFP-15 in 2022.
4. MC-45 approved the Guideline on APT Information/Document Access Policy, which can be found in document MC-45/OUT-08.
5. MC-45 instructed APT Secretariat and APT Work Programmes to review all its documents and its Working Methods for the inclusion of the gender-neutral language.

Secretariat further explained the actions to be taken by PRFP including:

1. Report the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2021-2023 relevant to PRFP to the next session of the Management Committee.
2. Implement the Guidelines on APT Information/Document Access Policy.
3. Review the Working Methods of the PRFP for the inclusion of the gender-neutral language.

The Plenary noted the outcomes of the MC-45 relevant to PRFP.

* 1. **Proposed revision in the Working Methods of PRFP *(****Document: PRFP-15/INP-05)*

The Secretariat introduced the proposed revision in Working Methods of PRFP as contained in PRFP-15/INP-05. The Secretariat recalled the decision made by the MC-45 regarding the instruction for APT Secretariat and APT Work Programme to review all its documents and its Working Methods to implement gender-neutral language. In particular, it was pointed out that the terms such as ‘Chairman’/ ‘Chairmen’ and ‘Vice-Chairman’/ ‘Vice-Chairmen’ to be replaced with the gender-neutral terms ‘Chair(s)’ and ‘Vice-Chair(s)’; and usage of gender-neutral singular ‘they’ when referring generically to a Chair or Vice-Chair, as opposed to gendered pronouns such as ‘he’ or ‘his’.

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and invited participants to look through the document which was available on the website and provide comments and views if any. There was no comment from participants.

1. SESSION 2 – (MINISTERS AND REGULATORS SESSION) ROUNDTABLE ON UPDATES OF POLICY AND REGULATION IN THE PACIFIC *(Tuesday, 30 August 2022, 11:00-12:15 hrs., UTC+11)*

This session was moderated by Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General, APT. He requested the Speakers to deliver their presentations or statements.

* 1. **Statement by Hon. Ped Shanel Agovaka, Minister, Ministry of Communication and Aviation, Solomon Islands**

Hon. Ped Shanel Agovaka, Minister of Ministry of Communication and Aviation, Solomon Islands delivered the statement. He explained the policy and regulatory update for Solomon Islands. He mentioned that Solomon Islands adopted National ICT Policy in 2017 and since then they have priority in achieving the availability/accessibility to broadband services. The government have laid coral sea optic fiber cable with the assistance of Australian government. With the coral sea cable system, they tried to spread its benefits to rural communities and to buy 161 broadband towers from Huawei to cover 50 constituencies of Solomon Islands. In addition, government tried to help people to harness benefits of ICTs. For this purpose, government made amendments to the telecommunications law and made people register SIM cards to prevent cybercrimes. Also, government passed Financial Inclusion Strategy and Electronic Payment Bill to make banking and payment easy in Solomon Islands. Furthermore, government passed Electronic Tax bill under the Digital Government Programme. The government of Solomon Islands faced several challenges such as finance, technology, and partnership, but has been doing their best to overcome the challenges.

* 1. **Statement by Mr. Gerard Metsan, Chief Information Officer, Republic of Vanuatu**

Mr. Gerard Metsan, Chief Information Officer of the Office of the Government CIO, Republic of Vanuatu delivered a statement. He mentioned that after 2009 Vanuatu administration published three main policies in ICT sector; National ICT Policy, Universal Access Policy, and Cybersecurity Policy. Regarding National ICT Policy, he added the implementation of the policy was very difficult because it was too broad. For example, in case of broadband policy, they needed to embark financial inclusion and also embark how to implement schools’ connectivity, etc. Also, it was difficult because people need to change their mindset so that the government could take initiatives. Regarding Universal Access Policy, at first the targeted coverage was 98% of population by 2018. However, because of natural disasters and COVID-19 the time schedule for the implementation of the targeted coverage was forced to extend to 2024. Vanuatu administration also tried to digitalize government services. For this purpose, to share government database and enable people to access all government data easily, they initiated Digital Government Roadmap project with ITU, which plans to build a centralized data system. Regarding the Cybersecurity Policy, since most of the challenges were legal challenges, government tried to establish a well-organized legal framework.

* 1. **Statement by Mr. Teieka Kaoma, Commissioner, Communications Commission of Kiribati, Kiribati***(Document: PRFP-15/INP-06)*

Mr. Teieka Kaoma, Commissioner, Communications Commission of Kiribati, Kiribati delivered a statement. He mentioned that since the development of the Kiribati ICT policy in 2011, a number of reform measures had been implemented as follows: Passing of the new Communications Act 2013 to open up the market for competition, The Telecommunications Authority of Kiribati is now reconstituted as the Communications Commission of Kiribati. 2G and 3G mobile network has been implemented in the outer islands while 3G and 4G mobile network has been implemented in the urban and sub-urban areas. As for the competitiveness of the mobile service, islands were allocated to each mobile service provider with each mobile service provider assisted to expand their network to the outer islands based on a Public Private Partnership financing model. This has been possible through donor funds from the World Bank and the Government of Kiribati. He added that connection to the remote communities, including connections to the remote secondary schools, has been the topic of the Commission’s Universal Access Plan funded by the Commission’s Universal Access Fund.

* 1. **Statement by Mrs. Lefao Unutoa Fonoti, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, Samoa**

Mrs. Lefao Unutoa Fonoti, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Samoa delivered statement. She mentioned that the COVID-19 pandemic brought to the floor the importance of ICT. In Samoa, pandemic was a great time to test their international connectivity since the submarine cable update in 2018. Samoan government procured 40 satellite dishes to make sure all remote schools from remote islands connected to the Internet. Also, Samoan government was looking at investing more infrastructure, and trying to address issues such as natural disasters and climate change. This could be improved when government improve its universal access policy on promoting best practices as well as expertise to make sure such policies and models well placed and executed at the right time. In addition, Samoan government was trying to improve its current workforce in the areas of apps and software development. There was a need to make sure local applications were developed and available. Therefore, accessing a competitive developing market in the region was vital. Samoa continued to strengthen its capacity through digital development and initiatives such as strengthening schools’ connectivity, national digital ID, domestic IXP support, development of e-agriculture tools, supporting for health and transport in various digital transformation initiatives across sector. Also, Samoan government developed relevant policies, adopted regulations and defined sustainable financial models to provide affordable and secure access to ICT services for all.

* 1. **Statement by Ms. Tupou’tuah Baravilala, Acting Permanent Secretary for Communications, Ministry of Communications, Fiji**

Ms. Tupou’tuah Baravilala, Acting Permanent Secretary for Communications, Ministry of Communications, Fiji delivered a statement. She mentioned that Fiji made historic strides in bridging the digital divide in society. 95% of Fijians have access to mobile internet connectivity through 3G, 4G and 4G plus networks. Also, to ensure domestic and regional connectivity resilience, Fiji is doing a feasibility study to build a second fiber cable landing station in Fiji and also have looked at procuring portable emergency communications solutions. The Acting Permanent Secretary shared three national initiatives for meaningful connectivity. One is the telecenter program. They have 26 telecenters nationwide which local communities can use after school hours and which the students can use as computer labs during school hours. Another initiative was the Connectivity Roll out connecting health centers and schools in remote areas in the Northern Division. The Ministry connected 40 sites with desktops, laptops, internet subscription, phone and solar equipment (if needed). The third initiative is the Connecting the Unconnected initiative. To bridge the remaining 5%, using the universal service fund which is provided for in law and partnering with telecommunications providers, the government will internet connectivity to many declared sites. The availability, accessibility and the affordability of digital technology had given them an unmatched opportunity to be able to improve services and increase closer engagement of government ministries and agencies with Fijians. More government services have gone online such as birth registration, company services, timber licensing, passport services, taxation services, superannuation services, and Laws of Fiji Portal. Fiji also provided online GIS platform, land management platform, money wallet services, and digital healthcare, etc. To ensure sustainable, the Acting Permanent Secretary reiterated that we cannot talk about connectivity without talking about cybersecurity and cyber hygiene practices. She highlighted that as SIDS and as a region, we need to be represented in forums and platforms such as the UN Cybercrime Ad Hoc Committee which is looking at a proposed UN Treaty on cybercrime, and the UN Open Ended Working Group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security which is looking at responsible state behaviour in cyberspace. There is also a need to have stronger and closer collaboration in the regional frameworks such as PaCSON, PILON, and Pacific Transnational Crime Network. In February 2021, Fijian Parliament passed the Cybercrime Act and the Government has commenced with reviewing the National Cybersecurity Strategy in the light of the elevated and emerging and evolving threats.

1. SESSION 3 – DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: FROM FIGHTING AGAINST PANDEMIC TO THRIVING IN THE POST-PANDEMIC WORLD (*Tuesday, 30 August 2022, 14:00-15:15 hrs., UTC+11)*

This session was moderated by Mr. Brian Winji, Head of Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator (TRBR), Vanuatu. He requested the Speakers to deliver their presentations.

* 1. **Digital Transformation: From Fighting Against Pandemic to Thriving in The Post-Pandemic World** *(Document: PRFP-15/INP-07)*

Dr. Maria Myutel, Assistant Director, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, Australia presented the document about Australia’s Digital Government Strategy (DGS). The DGS reflects the urgency to drive the digitalization of government services and to create an enabling environment. The DGS targeted that all government services are available digitally by 2025. Also, it means that digital architecture of government is aligned across different agencies and processes, platforms and services can be reused. She added that agencies need to have access to highly skilled digital workforce to achieve objectives of digital transformation. She also mentioned that the Digital and ICT Investment Oversight Framework (IOF) addresses common points of project failure and ensures digital and ICT investments deliver benefits. She highlighted the importance of consistency with terminology and reusing existing resources will help minimize costs since there are a lot of resources (strategies, policies, standards, designs and solutions) out there already.

* 1. **Digital Transformation: From Fighting Against Pandemic to Thriving in The Post-Pandemic World**

Ms. Tupou’tuah Baravilala, Acting Permanent Secretary for Communications, Ministry of Communications, Fiji delivered a statement. She mentioned the pandemic had pushed them to move on to online spaces and widened the current challenges such as limited economies of scale, climate change, digital divide, and inherent costs of service delivery. However, they found that a lot of Fijian businesses began to adapt to the pandemic and government had put in place the necessary social protections and safeguards. One particular initiative was a COVID-19 recovery credit guarantee scheme where $200 million was allocated by government. Government paid the interest component for the first 2 years on behalf of the loan recipients. Also, Fijian government employed digital tools such as e-wallet disbursements of unemployment benefits, superannuation portal, and an Inflation Mitigation Application Assistance system which enables parents to apply for government assistance on behalf of their children. In addition, to fight against COVID-19, they developed and deployed nation-wide digital tools such as the careFIJI privacy-preserving contact tracing app, National vaccination registry system, and careFiji QR code and VAX Check-In. She highlighted this pandemic has proven how adaptable and resilient digital technology can make a society, and for Fiji, they will press ahead with digital transformation as a matter of absolute necessity for long term economic security and prosperity.

* 1. **Government As a Digital Platform (***Document: PRFP-15/INP-09)*

Mr. Sanggoog Lee, Director, Ministry of Science & ICT, Republic of Korea presented about Korea’s initiative, Government as a digital platform. Korean government is trying to build “Digital Platform Government” which means a government that citizens, enterprises and governments solve issues together and create new value via a digital platform which connects all of their data. This means to change the current separate administrations into a connected government where all the data of each administration is shared and government becomes a single AI and data-based digital platform. Korean government is proposing 5 initiatives to implement Digital Platform Government as follows; 1) pilot projects promoting the platform for public services, 2) Re-designing public services as proactive, 3) AI and data-based public administration, 4) A world-leading ecosystem for governmental innovation, 5) Ensuring user’s security and credibility.

* 1. **Discussion**

The Moderator asked Dr. Maria Myutel on whether the Australian experiences can be replicated in the Pacific countries which have less resources.

Dr. Myutel mentioned the work she presented can be replicated since it doesn’t require an extensive infrastructure and a lot of human resources, and it is basically about the mapping of what’s available, what resources are there.

The Moderator asked Ms. Baravilala about the challenges that Fiji faced during the pandemic and how Fiji overcame them.

Ms. Baravilala highlighted a challenge was to ensure that in spite of the pandemic, Fijians still had access to government services and government assistance programmes. So, in responding to the pandemic and in developing the necessary digital tools, the Government had to ensure that the digital tools provided were accessible to users. For example, government utilised mobile e-wallets to distribute assistance funds which could be used by recipients to buy groceries with or transact with cashless, without the need for cash and for the unemployment assistance initiative utilised the USSD platform. Other areas were awareness of cybersecurity practices and digital literacy and Government continues to work with relevant stakeholders in this regard.

The Moderator asked Mr. Lee on what the obstacles expected in achieving digital transformation goals of Korea are and what the ways to overcome the obstacles are.

Mr. Lee mentioned protecting personal information and establishing a reliable security environment would be very important so that all citizens can use digital platform government.

Solomon Islands asked Ms. Baravilala on how Fiji overcame logistical challenges with regard to the use of e-wallet.

Ms. Baravilala advised that Government worked very closely with the service providers to utilise the mobile e-wallets that they provided.

Vanuatu asked Ms. Baravilala.

Ms. Baravilala mentioned that there is no single solution. Fiji undertook a decade-long of consistent, strategic and fiscal and legal reform policies to develop its telecommunications sector. From deregulating the telecommunications sector to taxed incentives and increased closer collaboration with the with the private sector. Fiji took a nuanced approach. She highlighted Pacific countries have commonalities but there’s also unique challenges of each country. The synergies can be leveraged on which is why sharing of experiences and successful initiatives can be useful. However, we should be mindful that a policy that worked well in one Pacific country might not work well in other countries, taking in account the various context and considerations unique to a country.

Australia asked speakers on how to make sure that we don’t leave anyone behind when we digitalize government services.

Mr. Lee introduced Korea’s digital skills training program for elderly people and highlighted the importance of such public training programs.

Ms. Baravilala further highlighted the need for building trust among digital service users, especially for elders is also very important not to leave anyone behind. So, the content needs to be tailored to the appropriate audience. To build this trust and ensure that Fijians navigate safely in cyber space, she emphasized the importance of increasing awareness of cyber hygiene practices.

Dr. Myutel mentioned that understanding specific needs of specific groups is ultimately important with this issue, so tailored programs for specific sectors and specific groups are the answer.

The moderator thanked all panelists for giving a comprehensive description and sharing their views.

1. SESSION 4 – BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY FOR THE PACIFIC COUNTRIES *(Tuesday, 30 August 2022, 15:45 – 17:00 hrs., UTC+11)*

This session was moderated by Mr. Alwyn Danitofea, Director Communication, Ministry of Communication and Aviation, Solomon Islands. He requested the Speakers to deliver their presentations.

* 1. **OneWeb System Overview** *(Document: PRFP-15/INP-10)*

Mr. David Thorn, Vice President APAC, OneWeb, presented the document on overview of OneWeb system. He explained that the OneWeb constellation comprises of 648 Low Earth Orbit (LEO) individual satellites. 588 active satellite equally divided among 12 planes operate at an altitude of about 1200km above the Earth’s surface, and the remainder are spare satellites. They use premium spectrum Ku- and Ka-band and have download peak speed up to 195 Mbps. Their system will cover most of the world by 2023 except Russia and China, etc. He also explained several use cases such as Utility operations, Rural cell backhaul, Community ISP.

* 1. **Complementary Connectivity Solutions for The Pacific** *(Document: PRFP-15/INP-11)*

Mr. Carlos Rey Mureno, Association for Progressive Communications (APC) presented the document. He introduced APC which is an international network of civil society organizations dedicated to ICTs for social justice. He explained on community networks as complementary connectivity solutions. Community network is a system that is intended to help usually geographical communities so that they can use networks by using networking technologies such as WiFi, GSM, and Fiber. He showed several use cases which have been provided by Zenzeleni, Rhizomatica, and B4RN. He highlighted the importance of creating an enabling regulatory environment to vitalize community networks. Also, he highlighted the use of frugal and adapted technologies such as bamboo towers and HF Radios for data transmission.

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* 1. **Pricing Submarine Cable Capacity for Development** *(Document: PRFP-15/INP-12)*

Mr. John de Ridder, Principal, De Ridder Consulting Ltd. presented the document. Regarding the pricing of submarine cable capacity, he mentioned that it is time for a paradigm shift from pricing in scarce capacity to pricing in abundant capacity. Wholesale bandwidth pricing (Gbps) comes from an era of scarce capacity, but where capacity is abundant, it should be priced on traffic (GB volume). In case of traffic pricing the speed is not constrained and it spurs traffic growth. Also, the traffic pricing encourages market entry. As a result, traffic pricing can improve affordability options and user experience, lower entry barriers and level playing field, unlock speeds and increase utility of cables. Also, for retail operators traffic pricing is simpler and guarantee profitability and remove demand forecasting risk.

* 1. **Discussion**

Kiribati mentioned that they don’t have a submarine cable yet but expect to have it in 2025. So, they hope other countries that have experiences with a submarine cable could help Kiribati so that they could regulate the prices and other matters in relation to the submarine cable services.

PNG asked Mr. Thorn to provide some clarity on the affordability issues with respect to the satellite offerings.

Mr. Thorn mentioned that their satellite service is a genuinely affordable service since they have been trying to do the commercial policy, as you pay as you go. Like mobile phone plans, you can turn more capacity up as you require, and there are no punitive overage charges.

Vanuatu asked on how the wholesale price for internet cables is determined.

Mr. Ridder explained the case of Solomon Islands. First, they set a target price and then negotiated. He highlighted if satellite operators don’t use traffic pricing, once you start using traffic pricing, it makes you a bit more competitive.

Vanuatu asked on what would be the best proposals that we can connect populations in the remote areas within the region.

Mr. Mureno mentioned that individual connectivity per user or per household might not happen, so pooling resources from communities and allowing communities to pool a single connectivity point in those rural and remote areas and sharing it can be a solution.

Agreeing with Mr. Moreno, Mr. Thorn also mentioned that the combination of genuine will from community, along with some government funding or other organizations’ funding will increase pressure and improve the connectivity in rural and remote areas.

The moderator thanked all panelists for their informative presentations and sharing their views.

1. SESSION 5 – CYBERSECURITY: REGULATORY APPROACHES FOR MORE TRUSTED INTERNET *(Wednesday, 31 August 2022, 09:00 – 10:15 hrs., UTC+11)*

This panel discussion session was moderated by Mr. Klee Aiken, Director, Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST). The Moderator invited each panelist to make a short introductory presentation before beginning the panel discussion.

* 1. **Introductory presentation**

Dr. James Boorman, Head of Research and Capacity Building, Oceania Cyber Security Centre explained about the Cybersecurity capacity Maturity Model (CMM). The CMM is a national assessment tool to help countries understand their current status by identifying their gaps and needs in cybersecurity capacity. 87 countries have used it to measure progress and refine their cyber strategy and policy framework. Regarding mis- and disinformation, CMM has supported the development of digital media literacy skills so that users could recognize questionable information online and be able to check its validity. The CMM review is using a truly multi stakeholder approach to convene focus groups to identify and explore current priorities, challenges and opportunities. The CMM review can help users to tackle mis- and disinformation online.

Dr. Haesun Chun, Researcher, Institute of Digital Industry & Policy, Korea introduced Korea’s policy to create a safer internet environment for citizens. In 2010, Korea passed new act that made internet service providers be responsible to prevent the circulation of digital sex crime materials online. Thanks to this new act, not only Korean internet service providers but also all large global online platforms like Google, Twitter and Tik Tok mandated to detect and remove illegal content on their services. All large platforms must build a reporting system for digital sex crime materials and the online platforms have to take down the materials immediately upon receipt of the report. Also, all large online platforms were mandated to have a content moderation system that can identify and filter out illegal video footage uploaded by a user in real time. To make this possible, Korean government made an information database that was extracted from all illegal videos and Korean government shared the database with online platforms.

Ms. Tajeshwari Devi, Executive Officer, Fiji Online Safety Commission (OSC) provided an overview of activities of OSC. OSC protects Fijians through their schemes responding to seriously harmful online content by working with social media platforms and law enforcement. They also develop and deliver education and awareness campaigns to prevent online harms. Given the scope and scale of online harms, there was a pressing need to elevate safety including the promotion of human rights, ethics, and child protection. OSC partnered with Australia’s e-Safety Commissioner in January 2021. They have been working together to keep Fijians safe through a range of measures. They have been increasing digital literacy of children and their parents. They worked with other government agencies and elevated online safety into policy and other strategic governments’ documents. They have been providing professional development training and awareness meeting to a variety of organizations. They also partnered with law enforcement and collaborated with social media platforms to ensure harmful content removed quickly.

Mr. Kenny Liew, Principal analyst, Welchman Keen, presented on observations and best practices for data privacy ad protection in the Pacific islands. To help bring people safely and securely, Welchman Keen support government entities in the Pacific Islands with capacity building and training. They conducted 30 trainings from July 2021 to July 2022, benefitting a total of over 800 participants in eight countries. Mr. Liew pointed 5 best practices for data privacy and protection as follow; focus on developing and implementation of a National Cybersecurity Strategy, examine existing legislation to identify areas where data privacy can be further guaranteed by law, ensure that data protection laws provide adequate provisions to ensure national sovereignty and security, develop a cybersecurity training roadmap for government personnel, work with regional and international organizations to develop a regional data protection and sharing regime.

Mr. Dominic Meoli, Assistant Director, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia explained the Australian Government’s approach to cyber security from both the technical perspective and internet security. Specifically, Mr. Meoli focused on the Internet Gateway security. Since Internet gateway is very important in terms of cybersecurity, the Australian Cybersecurity Center was tasked with certifying each internet gateway that the government used. The certification model became outdated, so the Australian government now adopted a more flexible, better future model that the government and industry can come together. They made new guidance for the internet gateway which became effective in July 2022. Mr. Meoli presented 8 gateway security principles; 1) Risk cannot be outsourced, 2) Security management is continuous, 3) Risk is continuously managed, 4) The invisible cannot be protected, 5) Gateways protect organizations and staff, 6) Commonwealth entities have specific obligations, so it doesn’t apply to the private sector, 7) There need to be plan for security flaws, 8) Balance business and security.

Mr. Klee Aiken, Director, Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST) introduced FIRST which is providing training, work on activities and platforms that enable incident response. He highlighted several lessons learned in the area of cybersecurity. First one is to engage widely since there are so many issues and partners who we can work with in this area. Second lesson is to start small with quick wins. We don’t have to do everything at once and don’t need a full strategy. Using existing global level information that’s useful at the local level and tailoring it locally can be a good starting point. He mentioned that, for incident response, there are many good partners in the Pacific region. So, it is vital to have those partners who have an impact. We can learn from them and can really build the trust and the regional community. He added that we can also get help from many international level communities.

* 1. **Panel Discussion**

The Moderator invited Mr. Meoli to comment why the multi-stakeholder approaches are important from Australian perspective.

Mr.Meoli mentioned that regarding the cybersecurity multi-stakeholder approach is absolutely essential. The government of any country doesn’t hold the expertise within the government and they need to seek the expertise from those who do full time job to deliver those services. Researchers, advocacy groups, service providers, and recipient government are all engaged.

The Moderator invited Ms. Devi to explain the local approach that OSC is taking, mentioning that OSC works with a lot of stakeholders.

Ms. Devi pointed out that the multi-stakeholder approach is actually essential for the OSC as well. Since her team is small, it is important for OSC to have the stakeholders available. For instance, OSC is working closely with Fiji Police force since they have expertise in the investigation area and can help OSC reach out to the communities for awareness raising activities. Also, OSC is partnering with the Australian e Safety Commissioner internationally.

There was a question on cross-border regulation from the floor. So, the Moderator invited Dr. Chun to comment her view on how we can effectively address the cross-border challenges around illegal goods, services, misinformation.

Dr. Chun pointed out that what is illegal offline should be also illegal online. The question is whether it is technically possible to apply regional or local regulations to global platform services. She mentioned that since the global platform services are now customized and targeted based locally gathered personal data so even though they are provided globally they are regionally managed in real. So, in this sense, it is neither technically impossible nor difficult to request global platforms to comply with the regional or local rules. She highlighted Korea’s new regulation on illegal online contents can be a good example and it will work in other countries as well.

Mrs. Lefao Unutoa Fonoti, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Samoa commented that the extension of topic will not be good and it is important that we focus to talk about cybersecurity, and other related things like online safety for kids.

Mr. Meoli mentioned that cyber is an incredibly vast topic. The question about crossing borders in terms of cybersecurity, covering things from infrastructure to IT for online harms so it is really difficult. He mentioned that they can provide support to specific countries specific to their needs. They look forward to working with Samoa and many of other participants.

Mr. Kila Gulo Vui, CEO, National ICT Authority, PNG asked Mr. Meoli whether the gateway monitoring and enforcement only applies to the government.

Mr. Meoli mentioned that in regards to the enforcement it is no longer enforced by the Australian Cybersecurity Center. The Digital Transformation Agency (DTA) has the power. The gateway guidance can be applied to private sector as well. The guidance gives the private sector the opportunity to review their own legislation and obligations as well.

The moderator invited Dr. Boorman to mention some insight into the key cyber online digital issues that are being brought up and is of the interest.

Dr. Boorman mentioned that mis- and disinformation online is becoming an increasing problem and this eroding trust in government services. For example, hijacked accounts and fake accounts are used to leak sensitive government information, and during pandemic there were also false and misleading information regarding pandemic. To tackle it, what they recommend is looking at collaborating with between platforms and civil society, using data to understand what’s working and what isn’t and hopefully why, preserving the freedom of expression rights online, so not cutting off access to the platform, and education to build the literacy skills recognizing question information or sources.

Solomon Islands asked to Australia about how to support CERTs and the mechanisms that they have to ensure political interest does not come in to compromise information security or security of people who are using the internet.

Mr. Meoli explained on the importance of CERTs in the Pacific and how Australia supports them and the model they use. Australia support CERTs through one of the programs that they manage and it is the Cybersecurity Services Program. They support the capacity building, the assessments, training, and infrastructure of CERTs through the Pacific. The model that they use intentionally is the muti stakeholder model which means that Australian government is not directly involved in, instead use delivery partners to improve the Cybersecurity Maturity in the region. In regards to how they avoid the politicization of cybersecurity in Australia, Australia has very strict privacy laws, but they also have the information security manual and the cybersecurity controls that direct the ability of government agencies to manage and protect information.

The moderator thanked all panelists for giving a comprehensive description and their views on the challenge and opportunities related to cybersecurity.

1. SESSION 6 – EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES: POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND IMPACTS ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION *(Wednesday, 31 August 2022, 10:45 – 12:00 hrs., UTC+11)*

This session was moderated by Ms. Tepua Hunter, Director ICT, Office of the Prime Minister, Cook Islands. She requested the Speakers to deliver their presentations.

* 1. **Regulations in The Era of Emerging Technologies** *(Document: PRFP-15/INP-13)*

Mr. Ismail Shah, Head of Connectivity and Access Policy for APAC, Meta, presented the document on Regulations in The Era of Emerging Technologies. He introduced metaverse as an example of emerging technologies because metaverse integrate many emerging technologies and trade, interact, train, be present and function in a virtual world as one would in the real world. He presented on the regulatory models. He mentioned that we cannot have technology specific regulations instead we need to see the integrated impact, and as we gain more insight, we can have co-regulations/self-regulations developed. He insisted that working together with all the stakeholders for the benefit of the people, the communities and the world while we have these collaborative regulations.

* 1. **New Satellite Technologies and Services in the Pacific** *(Document: PRFP-15/INP-14)*

Dr. Tare Brisibe, Senior Legal & Regulatory Counsel, Asia-Pacific, SES World Skies presented the document. He introduced SES’s next generation high-throughput and low-latency medium earth orbit satellites (O3b mPOWER). It has resilient, secure networking in the sky & on the ground, intelligent adaptive software with open network transparency, and seamless open network integration. Also, it has electrically steering beam-forming, terabit per second scalable system, and inherent security & flexibility. Adaptive Resource Control (ARC) is the main characteristic of this innovative satellite technology.

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* 1. **Emerging Technologies: Policy Implications and Impacts on Digital Transformation** *(Document: PRFP-15/INP-15)*

Mr. Charles Chew, Policy Director APAC, GSMA presented the document. Regarding the mobile economy Asia Pacific, he mentioned digital connectivity will underpin innovative applications for consumers and new business models for enterprises. Mobile broadband networks cover 96% of the region’s population, but less than 45% of the population access the internet. He explained the current status of the coverage gap and usage gap among Pacific countries and why they happened. Also, he mentioned handset affordability and increase of mobile data traffic in the region.

* 1. **Discussion**

The Moderator asked Mr. Shah on how widely Meta had implemented metaverse solution across organizations and economies.

Mr. Shah mentioned that the real metaverse is still in the future, but some of the components of the metaverse are here such as virtual reality, augmented reality, etc. He explained some examples of metaverse use cases such as training medical doctors, real like virtual meetings. He highlighted to implement full concept metaverse, we need quality network, platforms, relevant expertise and relevant resources.

Samoa asked Mr. Shah to explain an application of metaverse focusing on the relationship between these emerging technologies and climate change.

Mr. Shah explained that the metaverse can be used to educate people about the impact of climate change, for example in 3D environment, and it can convince people to make the right decision.

The Moderator thanked all panelists for their insightful presentations and sharing their views.

1. SESSION 7 – QUALITY OF SERVICE OF MOBILE VOICE AND DATA CONNECTION *(Wednesday, 31 August 2022, 14:00 – 15:15 hrs., UTC+11)*

This session was moderated by Mr. Phillip Henderson, Vice President, Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA). He requested the Speakers to deliver their presentations.

* 1. **Measuring Mobile Voice and Data QoS** *(Document: PRFP-15/INP-16)*

Mr. Jovan Barac, CEO, Peritus Knowledge Services Corporation presented on the document. He highlighted the importance of mobile wireless networks as a core enabler of digital transformation. He mentioned several QoS monitoring principles; 1) Regulators monitor the networks on a continuous basis, 2) The monitoring should be broad-based to take into account all customer’s actual experiences, products, technologies, and geographic locations, 3) Priority area performance should be scrutinized using deep dives, 4) Metrics must be standardized across operators. Then he showed the examples of continuous testing display elements, selection criteria, map, and metrics to monitor, etc. He highlighted state of the art regulation requires a combination of approaches such as continuous testing across the country, intensive on-demand testing and interactive on-demand testing.

* 1. **Impact Assessment of NGSO Mega-Constellations on National Economies** *(Document: PRFP-15/INP-17)*

Mr. Cristian Gomez, Senior Director, Government & Regulatory Affairs APAC, Viasat presented the document. He mentioned LEO activity has been increasing at an exponential rate with inadequate regulation and certain LEO players have been attempting to seize all LEO resources and hobble competition. Also, collision risk and other environmental harms are additive. He mentioned that national regulators are best positioned at the market access stage to ensure safety, equity & sustainability at LEO, so they need to ensure LEO operators share look angles, orbits and spectrum in an equitable fashion and operate reasonable aggregate collision risk profiles. He added that national regulators need to prevent interference into GEOs and examine competitive and environmental effects of granting market access to a LEO system. He recommended a sustainability checklist.

* 1. **IMT Terrestrial Network Guaranteed QoS Network** *(Document: PRFP-15/INP-18)*

Ms. Boya Lyu, Global Mobile Suppliers Association presented the document. She introduced that IMT terrestrial network is excellent for providing the guaranteed QoS service. 5G rollout continues to accelerate and 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) is a key element of the 5G service package. 5G is suitable for the connection to Industry 4.0 and extremely high requirements for some precision industries. She also mentioned 6G research is underway and introduced 6G vision, standards timeframe, and spectrum for 6G. She highlighted coverage as well as capacity remains crucial for providing guaranteed QoS service and therefore additional spectrum in all ranges also important.

* 1. **Kacific’s Approach to Maintain a High QoS** *(Document: PRFP-15/INP-19)*

Mr. John Loke, Chief Technical Officer, Kacific Broadband Satellite presented the document. He introduced Kacific’s outline, coverage and vision. Kacific is providing coverage to 470 million people in developing countries. He also introduced Kacific’s approach to VSAT terminal performance and VSAT platform performance. Regarding VSAT terminal performance, Kacific is trying to clarify service requirements, install equipment properly, and provide adequate support system. Regarding VSAT platform performance, Kacific tries to define the business requirements, prepare service plan, and be constant to review the QoS plan implemented and ensure user experiences maintained.

* 1. **Discussion**

There was a question from the floor which asked if anyone is successfully using quality of service benchmark testing to penalize operators what the challenge would be around it.

Mr. Barac mentioned that the challenges could be measuring the QoS, setting targets for the QoS, and figuring out the measures to address the QoS problems. If there are any QoS problems, government can find the operators and give them a period of time to actually fix it, or in some countries, in the long term, government can bring another operator in the market.

There was another question from the floor which asked Mr. Gomez on how, when, and where we should come in to regulate the pathway belongs to a national space.

Mr. Gomez explained that if satellite companies come to the ICT regulator to request market access (or landing rights), the regulator can impose license conditions. He suggested members to refer to the annex in his presentation material, an example checklist for the license conditions.

The Moderator thanked all panelists for their informative presentations and sharing their views. Also, he thanked APT and the government of Vanuatu for hosting this PRFP.

1. SESSION 8 – CLOSED SESSION FOR POLICYMAKERS AND REGULATORS (*Wednesday, 31 August 2022, 15:45 – 17:00 hrs., UTC+11)*

This session was moderated by Mr. John Jack, Chair of PRFP. He asked Members from Pacific to share their views and information on issues around ICT in the Pacific countries.

Members suggested to encourage Pacific Members to attend the PP-22 to increase the voice on the necessity of ITU presence in the Pacific and decided to propose a creation of a Working Group which would discuss the possible ways of enhancing regional engagement including institutionalized arrangements.

Also, Members nominated Mr. John Jack from Vanuatu as the Chair of PRFP and Ms. Tepua Hunter, Cook Islands and Ms. Lenga Teannaki, Kiribati as the Vice-Chairs of PRFP. (However, after the closed session, Kiribati gave up the Vice-Chair post, and requested to the Melanesian group (Fiji/Solomon/PNG) to replace Micronesian representative). Secretary General of the APT would bring the outcomes of the discussion at the closing Plenary for its endorsement.

In addition, Members suggested the following topics to be included for the PRFP-16. Cybersecurity including PACSON, Capacity building and Digital skills, Digital Transformation, Universal Access, Spectrum Management, “CERT Workshop” as a side event of PRFP, Critical Infrastructure Security, Data Protection & Privacy, developing strategy to strengthen regional engagement (figuring out measures how Pacific countries can work together, how to strengthen Top-level engagement).

Regarding coordination of Pacific during the PP-22, Members suggested to create a PP Coordination Group for Pacific during the PP and Samoa requested to support the nomination of a candidate for ITU DSG from Samoa.

Regarding the host of PRFP-16, APT Secretariat was asked to coordinate the issue with Members and inform the outcomes accordingly.

1. SESSION 9 – IMPROVING DIGITAL SKILLS IN PACIFIC IN A RAPID CHANGING ICT ENVIRONMENT *(Thursday, 1 September 2022, 09:10 – 10:30 hrs., UTC+11)*

This session was moderated by Mr. Joshua Cockerill, Director, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, Australia. He requested the Speakers to deliver their presentations.

* 1. **Improving Digital Skills in a Rapid Changing ICT Environment**

Ms. Gisa Fuatai Purcell, CEO/Regulator, Samoa delivered a statement. She highlighted that each learning institution has its own best practices and one can never find an international best practice for ICTs or for capacity building in this changing ICT environment. She emphasized that it’s really up to each country to look at the issue and then develop best practice, or develop capacity building in their own country. So, first we need to understand our own environment and the current situation in our country. Then when we develop best practice at the regional level and transpose it to the national level, that will be a really good model. She also mentioned we have responsibility to build the younger generation so that the work we are doing now can be carried forward and capacity building or technological advances must be people centered. She shared New Zealand case as an example of national intervention for people centered ICT capacity building.

* 1. **Improving Digital Skills in PNG**

Mr. Dominic Daniel Moros, Principal Policy Analyst, PNG introduced ICT skills framework for dealing with ICT skills gap in PNG and member countries of APEC. The requirements of the framework are different for each economy. However, the framework should contain common skill sets that are central for all economies such as cybersecurity and skills required to grow the digital economy. He mentioned some challenges in PNG such as low literacy rate, lack of skilled teachers, the affordability of ICT gadgets so that people can be able to use ICT skills or tools daily, ICT coverage, improper use of ICT services, low level of participation of government and NGO, etc. The ICT skills framework is expected to be completed by early 2023 and the outcome is expected to be a description of skills at each responsibility level, a skill framework that provide a foundation that is used by everyone including teachers, students, employees and ICT professionals lead to a common understanding of skills and responsibilities in ICT. It will cover training for students and ICT consumers and deal with many other ICT skills related issues. The government of PNG has been working on various aspects of ICT skills and also partnered with related organizations such as ICT companies, schools, education and training providers, etc.

* 1. **Holistic Approach to Cybersecurity Skills and Workforce Development** *(Document: PRFP-15/INP-20)*

Ms. Lara Pace, Head of Capacity Building, Protection Group International presented the document. She analyzed challenges for national cybersecurity workforce development and suggested factors to be considered to build ICT skills. To address immediate national cybersecurity skills development, she pointed out that cybersecurity technical training delivery, Cyber career conversion programmes, Targeted cybersecurity talent campaigns, Training of trainers, and Translation of course materials are needed. In the long term, she highlighted that systemic approach such as human resource investments, technical training, compliance and standards, and sustainability are needed. Also, she mentioned that some important things that enable that systematic approach are cybersecurity workforce framework, learning and development model, assessment and accreditation, and curriculum.

* 1. **Discussion**

The Moderator asked Ms. Purcell on what best practice approaches she has seen in her experience that could be relevant here.

Ms. Purcell highlighted that best practices must be people centered, rather than technology centered. Also, she mentioned that we need to understand our local environment and need to select the appropriate tools to improve digital skills. In addition, she mentioned we need to build monitoring and evaluation system because if we can’t measure, we can’t manage it. Then, she shared some examples of best practices relating to capacity building in Samoa.

The Moderator asked Mr. Moros about some of the first steps that can be taken to start addressing digital skills gaps.

Mentioning his work experience with National Trade Office in PNG, Mr. Moros highlighted that experts with ICT skills in government need to go out and find work that could be helpful to improve digital skills.

There was a question from the floor which asked Mr. Moros on whether PNG has any e-learning opportunities for teachers’ professional development.

Mr. Moros mentioned Department of Education, PNG is targeting to resource the teachers and PNG makes progress but it takes time to implement the ICT skills framework in PNG.

Dr. Jongbong Park from APT Secretariat introduced the APT Capacity Building Programmes such as APT training courses, local training courses, APT scholarship programme, and APT Young Professional and Students programme.

The Moderator thanked all panelists for their insightful presentations and sharing their views.

1. SESSION 10 – IMPROVING DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN THE PACIFIC *(Thursday, 1 September 2022, 11:00 – 12:15 hrs., UTC+11)*

This session was moderated by Mr. Ashish Narayan, Programme Coordinator, ITU. He requested the Speakers to deliver their presentations.

* 1. **Emergency Telecommunications Cluster** *(Document: PRFP-15/INP-21)*

Mr. John Dovale, Pacific Regional Emergency Telecommunication Coordinator, WFP presented the document on Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC). He introduced that ETC is a global network of humanitarian, government and private sector organizations working together to provide shared communications services in humanitarian emergencies. ETC provides services such as telephony, local broadcaster support, internet connectivity, etc. and their activities are coordination, information management and communications, capacity building. In the Pacific, from 2021 to 2022, 12 Pacific Island countries offered ETC services. ETC supported Nauru, Tonga, Vanuatu, etc. Recently, ETC is working with partners to ensure a safe and coordinated use of drone technology in support of ETC operations within the Pacific region. Then he shared photos of their activities in the Pacific countries.

* 1. **Improving Disaster Management in The Pacific** *(Document: PRFP-15/INP-22)*

Mr. Alifeleti Tuihalamaka presented the document. He introduced Emergency Management Act 2007, National Emergency Management Plan (NEMP), national emergency management organizational structure of Tonga. He also explained about the communication cluster in Tonga. The emergency telecommunication cluster (ETC) was established on the 10th November 2016. Even though this kind of emergency communications systems were prepared, all telecommunications services and all satellite backhaul were black out when the volcano erupted early this year. Thanks to the emergency system assistance to Tonga, the communications system steadily restored. The assistances were as follows; 1) NEWS Project Inter-Island VHF radio IP link restored, 2) ITU satellite connectivity provided by Intelsat and Spark NZ, 3) Starlink VSAT relief offer, 4) Assistance from ETC Pacific/WFP. He highlighted that to improve disaster response in Tonga they need to have redundancy (second cable or satellite), dedicated satellite connection for EOCs and government, National Emergency Telecom Plan with ITU.

* 1. **Discussion**

The Moderator invited members to share their experiences with emergency telecommunications.

Samoa shared their experiences related to the tsunami in September 2009. She mentioned that since they had 3 trials before the tsunami, they could have saved more people during the disaster. They used church bells and mobile text messages to conduct those trials.

PNG shared their experiences related to the volcanic eruption in 2018. He mentioned at that time all terrestrial systems were down, so the response effort by the government were severely constrained. He highlighted that in-country capacity is critical during the disaster since it takes time to get some support from outside the country because of the logistics issues.

Cook Islands shared their experiences related to the fire in 2017. She mentioned Cook Islands were in monopoly situation with Blue Sky at that time, so because of the fire they lost connectivity to the outside world. With the support of neighboring country, they switched over to Blue Sky Samoa and restored the connection.

There was a question from the floor which asked Mr. Tuihalamaka on what two or three areas he was critical in improving Tonga’s emergency and disaster management plan are.

Mr. Tuihalamaka mentioned it is important to ensure there is redundancy capacity through satellite during the disaster situation, and Tonga administration is looking into finding ways to put it into their long-term plan, within their Emergency Telecommunications Cluster.

Mr. Dovale added that ETC is going to do more rapid cycles of ICT Capacity Assessment (ICA) that will allow countries and humanitarian actors to know what they have, where it is, who has it, how to tap into that, when needed.

The Moderator thanked all panelists for their insightful presentations and sharing their views.

1. SESSION 11 – PLENARY – WAY FORWARD AND CLOSING

 *(Thursday, 1 September 2022, 14:00 – 15:15 hrs., UTC+11)*

* 1. **Way Forward**

The Chair reported the outcomes of the closed session. There was no comment on the report and the meeting agreed on the outcomes of the closed session.

Members agreed to encourage Pacific Members to attend the PP-22 and to increase the awareness of ITU’s activity in the Pacific and decided to create a Working Group under PRFP which would discuss the possible ways of enhancing regional collaboration including institutionalized arrangements.

In addition, Members agreed the following topics to be included for the PRFP-16. Cybersecurity including PACSON, Capacity building and Digital skills, Digital Transformation, Universal Access, Spectrum Management, “CERT Workshop” as a side event of PRFP, Critical Infrastructure Security, Data Protection & Privacy, developing strategy to strengthen regional engagement (figuring out measures how Pacific countries can work together, how to strengthen Top-level engagement).

Members agreed to create a PP Coordination Group for the Pacific during the PP-22. In addition, there was a request from Samoa to support the nominated candidate for the post of ITU DSG from Samoa.

* 1. **Adoption of Output documents**

The APT Secretariat presented the draft Terms of Reference of the Working Group for Enhancing Regional Engagement which was uploaded as Document: PRFP-15/OUT-02. It was adopted by the meeting.

Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General of APT, asked members whether they want to assign task to Working Group at this meeting as the Terms of Reference referred to. The meeting agreed to assign “to produce a strategy how to engage with international partners until the next PRFP” as a task.

Mr. Kondo mentioned APT Secretariat will help members to manage the Working Group. APT Secretariat will issue an invitation letter to nominate expert(s), and once it is done, Secretariat would require some guidance from Chair of PRFP on what would be the time schedule of Working Group and how to organize the Working Group meetings.

The APT Secretariat presented the Revised Working Methods of PRFP on gender neutrality which was uploaded as Document: PRFP-15/OUT-01. The Secretariat explained the changes which had been presented earlier at the opening Plenary.

As there was no further comment, the meeting adopted the Revised Working Methods of PRFP.

* 1. **Nomination of Chair and Vice-Chairs**

Members nominated Mr. John Jack from Vanuatu as the Chair of PRFP and Ms. Tepua Hunter, Cook Islands as the Vice-Chair of PRFP. Additionally, Vanuatu proposed Ms. Tupou’tuah Baravilala, Fiji as the Vice-Chair of PRFP and Samoa seconded it. The meeting accepted the proposal.

Chair invited the two new Vice-Chairs on to the stage.

* 1. **Date and Venue for PRFP-16**

The meeting agreed that PRFP-16 will be held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

The date of PRFP-16 will be decided by way of consultation among office bearers and APT Secretariat considering relevant events to be avoided.

* 1. **Any Other Matters**

No issue.

* 1. **Closing**

Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General of APT, delivered his closing remarks. He mentioned that we could have very informative sessions covering various ICT issues for the Pacific, including the Roundtable for Ministers and Head of Regulators. He mentioned that he found many takeaways from the discussions and he believed it was same for all. He thanked all speakers, panelists, and moderators for sharing their experiences and insights. Especially, he thanked the host country, the government and the people of Vanuatu, for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements. He also thanked Australia and Japan for their kind support extended to this Forum. He mentioned this PRFP formulated a Working Group and mentioned that APT Secretariat will provide necessary support to the Working Group. He also thanked the Chair of PRFP, Mr. John Jack.

On behalf of Dr. Gregoire Nimbtik, Director General, Ministry of Prime Minister, Vanuatu, Mr. Brian Winji, Head of TRBR, Vanuatu delivered the closing remarks. He congratulated to the APT Management and Secretariat for the successful forum in Port Vila. He also congratulated to the OGCIO and TRBR to successfully make everyone feel at home at the meeting venue during 3 days. He thanked Australia and Japan for their sponsorship. He mentioned this forum had very good discussions and recommendations in addressing challenges we faced in the Pacific so that we do not leave anyone behind. He congratulated all participants including the moderators, panelists, and speakers. He highlighted Vanuatu has been committed to working closely with the APT and all its members in the Pacific and abroad for the brighter future of the Pacific. He wished all participants safe travel back to their home country.

Mr. John Jack, Chair of PRFP, delivered his closing remarks. He commended all delegates for having made time out of busy schedule to attend this important meeting. He mentioned that the PRFP-15 was organized successfully. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the APT Secretariat for the great work in all effort in making this meeting success. He mentioned it was great to see all the colleagues from the Pacific and highlighted the importance of collaboration among Pacific members. He mentioned that PRFP has been and will always be a successful discussion platform for APT Members in the Pacific, and he believed that they would continue to use opportunity like this to share their knowledge, learn from other, and to continue with their regional and international engagement. He mentioned that during the forum they have heard about all the great work that has been happening throughout the region and globally. He thanked all Pacific members for such a wonderful and marvelous work. He also mentioned he want to take this opportunity to recognize the role played by a network of other organizations that have enabled them to deliver on what they are doing. He mentioned that the success of PRFP was the active participation, and he thanked all panelists, speakers and moderators for their contributions. He highlighted that the best way to combat common problems is to work together to reap more benefits from our shared efforts.

The Chair declared PRFP-15 closed.

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