



Secretary General

## **WELCOME ADDRESS**

Her Excellency Dr. Yukari Sato, State Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications,  
Government of Japan,

Mr. Yoichi Maeda, Chairman of APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-16,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the 1st Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-20 (APT WTSA20-1) in this vibrant city of Tokyo, Japan.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Her Excellency, Dr Yukari Sato, State Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan, for graciously preside over this opening ceremony to inaugurate the meeting.

I would also like to express my sincere gratefulness and appreciation to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan, for hosting this important meeting as well as the 31st APT Standardization Program Forum (ASTAP-31) from 11 to 15 June 2019.

I would like to thank Mr. Yoshi Maeda, the Chairman of the APT Preparatory Group for WTSA-16 for his leadership for the works of the preparatory group.

I would like to thank all delegations for your presence in this meeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2020 (WTSA-20) will be held in the 4th quarter of next year. This APT WTSA20-1 is the initiation of the preparatory works of the APT for the WTSA-20.

This meeting will establish the structure of the Preparatory Group, elect the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, consider the nomination of other office bearers of the Preparatory Group, adopt the working methods and develop the work plan for the preparatory works of the Group for WTSA-20. The APT is planning to have four preparatory meetings for the APT-WTSA-20, one meeting in 2019, which is today's meeting and three meetings in 2020.

The work of the APT Preparatory Group is driven by the input contributions by APT Members. These contributions would enable the Preparatory Group to identify important issues and to prepare common proposals that would correctly reflect the views of the region. The preparatory meetings provide a platform for coordination among APT members to discuss and align their views and generate coordinated outputs as the Preliminary APT Common Proposals for the ITU World Assembly.

Hence, the role of the office bearers is very important to facilitate and assist the work of the Preparatory Group. Continuous and active participation of all APT members as well as the office bearers in all preparatory meetings is absolutely essential for the successful preparation works. I would like to ensure that APT Secretariat will provide support and facilitate the preparatory process for fruitful outcomes.

At previous ITU World Telecommunication Standardisation Assemblies, the APT Common Proposals that had been preliminary prepared by the APT Preparatory Groups were well received and recognized. I am confident that this Preparatory Group will also have excellent preparation and develop APT Common Proposals that will uphold the regional interest for submission to WTSA-20.

Excellency,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to mention two important issues.

Firstly, this year the APT celebrates its 40th anniversary. Since its establishment in 1979, APT has been continuing to promote and facilitate the development and growth of regional telecommunication and ICT sector with the strong and constant support and cooperation from APT members. Over the years, APT work programmes have been enhanced to cover more aspects and wider scope of telecommunication and ICT.

Secondly, the APT will organize the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 from 25 to 26 June this year in Singapore in commemoration of its 40th Anniversary. It is expected that the Ministers will adopt the Ministerial Statement which will provide high-level policy guidelines on the development of telecommunication and ICT in the Asia-Pacific region for the next five years.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation once again to Her Excellency Dr Yukari Sato, State Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications, for her kind presence, and to the host, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, for the warm hospitality and excellent preparation.

I wish you all a successful meeting and fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.

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