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| APTlogogreen3 | ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY | **Document No.:** |
| **The 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-21 (APT WTDC21-2)** | **APT WTDC21-2/**  **INP-xx** |
| 24-26 February 2021, Virtual/Online Meeting | 25 January 2021 |

Chairman of Working Group x

**ISSUE PAPER OF WORKING GROUP X**

1. **ABSTRACT**

The 1st APT preparatory meeting for the WTDC-21 (WTDC-21-1) agreed the structure, working methods and work plan, and elected the office bearers, for the APT preparatory process for WTDC-21.

According to decisions of that meeting, Working Group 2 (WG2) will consider matters pertaining to the Working Methods, Declaration and Action Plan for WTDC-21.

The intention of this issue paper is to stimulate discussion on issues relevant to WG2 to assist with the development of input from APT Members for ITU Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs) and Inter-regional Preparatory Meetings (IRMs) for Asia and the Pacific (ASP) and to contribute to the development of APT Common Proposals for WTDC-21. APT members are encouraged to actively participate in discussions and provide comments on this paper.

1. **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

APT WTDC21-1 was held as a virtual meeting on 24 July 2020. At the meeting, APT members agreed to the structure, working methods, work plan, and office bearers for APT WTDC-21. As proposed at the meeting, the specific terms of reference for WG2 are to:

* Review the ITU-D's Working Methods, particularly in regard to the organization of and procedures associated with meetings of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG) and Study Groups, in the interests of optimizing and enhancing their effectiveness and efficiency during the forthcoming period.
* Identify any issues that need stronger support and commitment of the APT Members and to prepare draft inputs for the WTDC Declaration and Action Plan.

APT WTDC21-2 will be held on 24-26 February 2021.

1. **ISSUES**

## **3.1 Working Methods**

ITU-D Study Groups

WG2 will consider how best to contribute to ITU-D Study Groups. These are:

Study Group 1 (SG1): Enabling environment for the development of telecommunications/ICTs

Study Group 2 (SG2): ICT applications, cybersecurity, emergency telecommunications and climate-change adaptation.

The fourth annual meeting of SG1 will be held from 22-26 March 2021, and the fourth annual meeting of SG2 from 15-19 March 2021.

Members are requested to provide input/comment on how best to engage with WTDC Study Groups including in relation to the framing of Study Group Questions.

TDAG Working Groups

Three TDAG Working Groups were established to progress work in the lead up to WTDC-21. These are: TDAG Working Group on Preparations (TDAG-WG-Prep), TDAG Working Group on Standard Operating Procedures (TDAG-WG-SOP) and TDAG Working Group on Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities (TDAG-WG-RDTP). Of these, TDAG-WG-Prep and TDAG-WG-SOP have concluded, and the TDAG-WG-RDTP is still under way.

Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs) and Inter-Regional Meetings (IRMs)

Dates for the next ASP RPM:

WTDC-21 RPM for Asia and the Pacific: 9-10 March 2021.

As decided by TDAG at its meeting on 23 November 2020, there will be three Inter-regional Meetings (IRMs) in the months leading up to the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2021. These are scheduled for the following dates:

IRM-1 11 March 2021

IRM-2 12-14 May 2021

IRM-3 16-17 September 2021

The aim of the Inter-Regional Meetings is to foster inter-regional discussions and identify common positions and agreement on key issues ahead of WTDC-21. IRMs will strengthen the preparatory process, and will address Study Groups and Study Questions and related matters and develop guidelines and text for the WTDC-21 Declaration.

Members are requested to provide input/comment on how best to utilize the ASP RPM and IRMs in the lead up to WTDC-21.

## **3.2 Declaration**

The Terms of Reference of TDAG-WG-RDTP include work on the WTDC-21 Declaration. The next meeting of this Working Group will be on 21 January 2021.

Members are requested to provide input/comment on how best to engage with TDAG-WG-RDTP, specifically in relation to its work on the WTDC-21 Declaration.

## **3.3 Action Plan**

Initial information on the Addis Ababa Action Plan can be found at the following link:

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC21/Pages/RoadToAddis/Road-To-Addis.aspx>

Members are requested to provide input/comment on the ITU-D Action Plan once a preliminary draft is available.

1. **CONCLUSIONS**

The WG2 Chair and Vice-Chair welcome comments, suggestions, additions and amendments from APT Members in relation to this issues paper.

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