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

Chairman of Working Group 3

**ISSUE PAPER OF WORKING GROUP 3**

1. **ABSTRACT**

1.1 The 1st Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-21 (APT WTDC21-1) considered the structure and terms of reference for the Working Groups. According to decisions of the aforementioned meeting, Working Group 3 (WG3) will consider general ICT development issues including Regional Initiatives.

1.2 This issue paper intends to stimulate discussions and identify possible issues relevant to WG3 that can be developed into APT Common Proposals (ACPs). APT Members are encouraged to actively participate in discussions and provide comments on this paper.

1. **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

2.1 APT WTDC21-1 was held on 24 July 2020 as a virtual meeting, which agreed to the structure and the Terms of Reference for the preparatory process. The specific Terms of Reference for WG3 are to:

* Identify key issues for the regional ICT development, including general policy and cooperation among memberships, taking into account the needs of the region and the relevant Strategic Plan of the APT;
* Discuss and develop proposals for Regional Initiatives for Asia-Pacific region
* Consider Resolutions, Recommendations and Decisions relating to ITU-D relevant to the activities of this WG;
* Consider other matters not covered by WG1 and WG2.
1. **ISSUES**

3.1 WG3 would like to surface the following issues for further discussions. APT Members are also encouraged to raise any other issues relevant to WG3.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Issues** | **Relevant Documents** | **Possible actions** |
| Key issues for the regional ICT development, including general policy and cooperation among memberships, taking into account the needs of the region and the relevant Strategic Plan of the APT | Strategic Pillars and Action Plans of the APT Strategic Plan for 2021-2023 (Annex Ⅰ) | APT members may wish to provide comments with specific proposals on ITU’s role in fostering regional ICT development. |
| Regional initiatives for the Asia-Pacific | Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives from the Buenos Aires Action Plan (Annex Ⅱ) | APT Members may wish to review and update the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives and submit proposals as input documents to WTDC 21-2, where WG3 will focus on developing draft Regional Initiatives to input into the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-21 (RPM ASP).  |
| Resolutions, Recommendations and Decisions relating to ITU-D relevant to the activities of WG3 | A matrix listing all WTDC Resolutions/Recommendations and the Working Group/s responsible for their review/revision (WTDC21-2/INP-xx)Guiding principles for streamlining existing WTDC resolutions (Annex Ⅲ)Proposal for WTDC-21 Thematic Priorities (Annex Ⅳ)Draft Mapping of WTDC Resolutions (Annex Ⅴ)A framework for clustering of existing WTDC resolutions and recommendations (Annex Ⅵ)  | APT Members may wish to review and update Resolutions, Recommendations and Decisions relevant to WG3.  |
| Other matters not covered by WG1 and WG2 | - | APT Members may wish to propose any new issues for further consideration within WG3. |

3.2 In addition, WG3, within the scope of its mandate, would like to highlight that the Working Group on WTDC Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities (TDAG-WG-RDTP) has held three virtual meetings in 2020 and 2021 with the aim of reviewing WTDC resolutions, examine their number and subject matter, and consider streamlining, to avoid repetitions and duplication with the Resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference. It was agreed to build on the principles developed in the previous cycle of ITU-D for the streamlining process and on the progress achieved for WTDC-17. Please refer to Annex Ⅲ, a set of guiding principles adopted by TDAG-19 which will serve as a framework for APT Members to consolidate Resolutions and draft new ones. Also, at its third meeting, four Thematic Priorities were proposed to assist ITU membership in their preparations for WTDC-21. Please refer to Annex Ⅳ, a proposal for WTDC-21 Thematic Priorities provided by the Chairman of TDAG-WG-RDTP. Please also see Annex Ⅴ (Draft Mapping of WTDC Resolutions) and Annex Ⅵ (a framework for clustering of existing WTDC resolutions and recommendations) submitted to the second meeting of the TDAG-WG-RDTP for reference.

3.3 APT Members may wish to provide comments on the discussion areas stated in this section and also propose additional issues, if any, for consideration relevant to WG3.

1. **CONCLUSIONS**

The WG3 Chair and Vice-Chair welcome comments and suggestions from APT Members in relation to this issue~~s~~ paper.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Chair** | **Vice Chair** |
| **Japan**Ms. Memiko OtsukiAssistant Director, International Policy Division, Global Strategy BureauMinistry of Internal Affairs and CommunicationsTel: +81 3 5253 5922Email: m2.ohtsuki@soumu.go.jp | **Malaysia**Ms. Anna Amalina Imam BawehDeputy UndersecretaryCommunications Technology DivisionMinistry of Communications and Multimedia Tel: +60 3 8911 5699Email: anna@kmm.gov.my  |

**ANNEX Ⅰ: STRATEGIC PILLARS AND ACTION PLANS of the APT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2021-2023**

**a. CONNECTIVITY: Enhancing access and efficiency of digital infrastructure**

Taking into account the need to bridge the digital divide within the Asia-Pacific region, APT will assist members to increase broadband penetration with an emphasis on reaching unserved and underserved populations and to people of vulnerable groups focusing on affordability and quality of service and on improving speed, cost management of service, and coverage. APT will also assist members with improving spectrum management practices to mitigate digital infrastructure constraints relating to, and optimize, the use of this scarce resource.

**b. INNOVATION: Enabling conducive environments and harnessing the benefits of telecommunication/ICT**

APT will continue its efforts to foster the development and adoption of the latest innovative telecommunication/ICT. Furthermore, APT will work with all members to develop policy and regulatory environments that enable them to effectively harness the benefits of telecommunication/ ICT innovation as an enabler in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

**c. TRUST AND SAFETY: Ensuring secure cyberspace, security and resilience through telecommunication/ICT**

Recognizing the vulnerability of citizens and members to cyberbullying, malicious cyber activities and natural disasters, APT will assist them to develop and maintain secure, trusted and resilient telecommunication/ICT network services as well as to address challenges related to disaster preparedness, risk reduction and mitigation.

**d. INCLUSION AND CAPACITY BUILDING: Promoting inclusiveness and enhancing digital skills and literacy**

APT will make telecommunication/ICT accessible to everyone in the region, including among unserved and underserved populations1 and geographical regions and people from vulnerable groups2, and to embrace diversity. APT will continue its efforts to strengthen the human and institutional capacity of its members, particularly developing and least developed countries. Furthermore, APT would work with its members to enrich the digital skills and literacy of the citizens to leverage the benefits of telecommunication/ICT.

**e. COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP: Solidifying strategic collaboration with stakeholders**

APT will take a leading role in shaping the development agenda and coordinating regional views on telecommunication/ICT issues. In order to enrich its work and enhance its profile, APT needs to strengthen engagement with potential stakeholders as well as related international, regional and multilateral organizations.

**ANNEX Ⅱ: ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL INITIATIVES FROM THE BUENOS AIRES ACTION PLAN**

|  |
| --- |
| **ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL INITIATIVES** |
| **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, ICT applications and cybersecurity, taking into account the special needs of LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs, and strengthening of human capacity to address future policy and regulatory challenges.
2. Promotion of universal access to telecommunications/ICTs in LDCs, SIDS, and LLDCs.
3. Assistance to LDCs, SIDS 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 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 an inclusive digital society**Objective**: To assist Member States in utilizing information and communication technologies (ICTs) to reap the benefits of the digital economy and in addressing the human and technical capacity challenges for bridging 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 (Dubai, 2014).
3. Development of policies, strategies and guidelines for practical implementation, including for the Internet of Things (IoT) and smart cities.
4. Deployment of ICT/mobile applications to improve the delivery of valueadded services in sectors such as health, education, agriculture, governance, energy, financial services and e-commerce.
5. Identification, collation and sharing of knowledge, best practices and case studies on various telecommunication/ICT applications.
6. Development of cross-sectoral national digital skills programmes for inclusiveness, especially for women, youth, the elderly and persons with specific needs.
 |
| **ASP3**: Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity**Objective**: To assist Member States in the development of telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure in order to facilitate provision of services and applications on that infrastructure.**Expected results**:1. Migration/transition of analogue networks to 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 telecommunication/ICT networks, including 5G and smart grid infrastructure and services
3. Strengthening of capacity to develop and implement national broadband plans in order to provide broadband access to unserved and underserved areas (including support for study of the status of national broadband networks and international connectivity), to promote affordable access, especially for youth, women, indigenous peoples and children, to select appropriate technologies, to develop and use universal service funds effectively, and to develop financially and operationally sustainable business models
4. Promotion of Internet exchange points (IXPs) as a long-term solution to advance connectivity, deployment of IPv6-based networks and applications, and progress in the transition from IPv4 to IPv6
5. Strengthening of the capacity to implement conformance and interoperability (C&I) procedures and testing and to plan resources for C&I programmes, and facilitation of the establishment of common regional and subregional C&I regimes (including the adoption and implementation of mutual recognition arrangements)
6. Attention to spectrum-management issues, including radio-frequency planning, new spectrum-sharing approaches, harmonized spectrum allocation and spectrum monitoring systems, and support for preparations for world radiocommunication conferences (WRCs) and implementation of their outcomes
7. Building of skills for the development and use of satellite telecommunications
8. Strengthening of cooperation with international/regional organizations to enhance regional ICT connectivity, such as the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS).
 |
| **ASP4**: Enabling policy and regulatory environments**Objective**: To assist Member States in developing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks, 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 environment**Objectives**: To assist Member States to develop and maintain secure, trusted and resilient networks and services, and to address challenges related to climate change and disaster management.**Expected results**:1. Compilation of national and/or regional cybersecurity strategies, establishment of national cybersecurity capabilities such as computer incident response teams (CIRTs), and sharing of good practices, through the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI), to nurture a culture of cybersecurity
2. Strengthening of institutional cooperation and coordination among the key actors and stakeholders at the national, regional and global level (including through organizing cyberdrills) and of 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 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 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.
 |

**ANNEX Ⅲ: GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR STREAMLINING WTDC RESOLUTIONS** (ANNEX 1 to document TDAG-WG-RDTP/DT/2)

**A. Guiding principles for streamlining existing WTDC resolutions**

The following guiding principles might prove useful in the work on streamlining resolutions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Principle | Questions |
| Coherence and consistency | Is the resolution consistent with the BDT mandate and the WTDC Action Plan? |
| Overlap and duplication | Is there an overlap or duplication with existing WTDC resolutions or with the Action Plan? Are the goals of resolutions already reflected in the ITU-D Strategic Plan objectives, programmes, regional initiatives (RIs), Study Group (SG) questions, or BDT working methods? |
| Necessity | Is the resolution indispensable? Is there already another WTDC/Council/PP resolution or resolutions which address the same topic or action? Has the resolution already been implemented? |
| Action-orientation and accountability | Does the resolution call for a specific action or outcome? Is there a clear accountability line in the resolution? What are the cost implications of the resolution for ITU-D, in terms of implementation budget and related costs? |

In general, streamlining existing resolutions is preferable to adding a new resolution.

When the actions or activities put forward in a resolution have been implemented or accomplished, the resolution can be viewed as fulfilled and removed.

Editorial revisions of adopted resolutions should be kept to the minimum or to what is strictly necessary for its efficient implementation.

If only editorial updates are required to a WTDC resolution, the need to produce a revised version should be questioned.

**B. Guidelines for drafting new WTDC Resolutions**

New resolutions are intended to define working methodsoraddress issues which are demonstrably new and of highest importance for ITU-D, and which have not been considered in existing WTDC documents or internationally agreed development agendas.

Concretely:

* New proposed resolutions should be aligned and harmonized with existing ones;
* New proposed resolutions should involve a distinct new subject within the scope of BDT and/or an issue that represents a significant new or unaddressed challenge related to telecommunication/ICT development or public policy;
* New proposed resolutions should normally not involve a subject already covered in the WTDC Action Plan and the Operational Plan;
* If an existing Plenipotentiary Conference (PP) resolution identifies a priority issue, the need for a similar WTDC resolution should be carefully considered;
* The need for a new WTDC resolution should be carefully examined if a new proposed resolution involves subjects already covered by internationally agreed development goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the goals of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), as those are also already established as reporting lines;
* A new proposed resolution should specify an expected result(s) or outcome(s) so that its implementation can be measured, in line with result-based management principles. It should likewise specify an appropriate reporting mechanism;
* New proposed resolutions should be backed by more than one Member State Administration.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**ANNEX Ⅳ: PROPOSAL FOR WTDC-21 THEMATIC PRIORITIES**

(Document TDAG-WG-RDTP/20-E)

|  |
| --- |
| C:\Users\comas\AppData\Local\Temp\Rar$DRa0.735\jpg\ITU official logo_blue_RGB.jpg**TDAG Working Group on Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities****21 January 2021, Virtual** |
|  | **Document TDAG-WG-RDTP/20-E** |
|  | **18 January 2021** |
|  | **English only** |
| **Source:** | Chairman, TDAG-WG-RDTP |
| **Title:** | Proposal for WTDC-21 Thematic Priorities |

TDAG, noting that 3.7 billion people remain unconnected, has adopted “**Connecting the Unconnected to Achieve Sustainable Development”** as the theme of the 2021 World Telecommunication Development Conference (Addis Ababa, 2021). Ensuring a ubiquitous, equitable and affordable connectivity has become increasingly more important in the context of the global pandemic that continues to cause serious socioeconomic shifts and an increasing reliance on ICTs. This was also noted in the UNSG's Digital Cooperation Roadmap.

The work of BDT is aligned along Topics that emanate from its objectives, programmes, projects, and initiatives. Hence, such Topics play a key role in facilitating coordination and creating synergies with different stakeholders and within the BDT for achieving ITU-D mandates and objectives. The following are the ten topics based on WTDC-17 Buenos Aires Action Plan (BAP) as presented in Document [TDAG-WG-RDTP/2-E](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-TDAG26.RDTP-C-0002/en) (13 July 2020):

1. Capacity Development
2. Cybersecurity
3. Digital Inclusion
4. Digital Innovation Ecosystems
5. Digital Services & Applications
6. Emergency Telecommunications
7. Environment
8. Networks & Digital Infrastructure
9. Policy & Regulation
10. Statistics

For better impact, more coherence, improved coordination and enhanced clarity, clustering of Topics into Thematic Priorities can be considered by combining related topics. The objective is to present succinct and comprehensive Thematic Priorities that are aligned with the theme of the Conference and at the same time facilitate the work and management of BDT. The Topics that can be considered as supporting components of the Thematic Priorities should emanate from the Addis Ababa Action Plan to be adopted by WTDC-21 and will determine the work of ITU-D over the next four years (2022-2025). In what follows, four Thematic Priorities are proposed to assist ITU membership in their preparations for WTDC-21 and to start discussions in TDAG-WG RDTP with a view to achieving a fit-for-purpose ITU-D:

1. **Connectivity:** The focus of this Thematic Priority is on the deployment of modern, available, secure, accessible, and affordable broadband telecommunication/ICT infrastructure. This Thematic Priority would seek to foster the development of infrastructure and services by utilizing new and emerging digital technologies, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICT. The needs of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS should be prioritized and given due attention. The following topics can be considered as supporting components of this Thematic Priority: ***Future Networks and Digital Infrastructure*, *Cybersecurity****,* and ***Emergency Telecommunications****.*
2. **Digital Society:** The focus of this Thematic Priority is on the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs and applications and services to close the Digital Divides and empower people and societies for sustainable development. This is of critical importance as societies adapt to the changes that are needed to reengineer as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. In doing so, there is need to recognize the important role that women and youth can play in making the digital society a reality. The following topics can be considered as supporting components of this Thematic Priority: ***Digital Inclusion***, ***Digital Services and Applications***, and ***Environment.***
3. **Enabling Environment:** The focus of this Thematic Priority is on fostering an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development. This Thematic Priority comprises key enablers that underpin ITU’s work to deliver on the Connectivity and Digital Society priorities. The following topics can be considered as supporting components of this Thematic Priority:***Statistics****,* ***Digital Innovation Ecosystems, Policy and Regulatory environments****,* and ***Capacity Development****.*
4. **Resource Mobilization and International Cooperation:** The focus of this Thematic Priority is on mobilizing and attracting resources and fostering international cooperation on telecommunication/ICT development issues. This Thematic Priority is also cross cutting by providing the resources and fostering international cooperation to deliver the relevant global outcomes. The following topics can be considered as the supporting components of this Thematic Priority: ***Projects, Partnerships, Membership,*** and ***ITU-D Study Groups***.

The concerns and needs of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS are crosscutting across all Thematic Priorities. Below is a pictorial presentation of the above concepts, mapping thematic priorities to topics and their boundaries.



\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_