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|  | ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY | **Document No:** |
| **The 21st APT Policy and Regulatory Forum**  **(PRF-21)** | **PRF-21/OUT-02** |
| 19 – 21 July 2021, Virtual/Online Meeting | 15 September 2021 |

Secretary General

**SUMMARY RECORD OF**

**THE 21ST APT POLICY AND REGULATORY FORUM**

1. INTRODUCTION

The 21st APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-21) was held virtually from 19 to 21 July 2021.

The Forum was attended by 266 participants from APT Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, International Organization and other organizations. Document: [PRF-21/ADM-03](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21_ADM-03-Participant_List_21_July_2021.pdf) contains the list of participants of the Forum.

1. OPENING SESSION (Monday, 19 July 2021, 10:30 – 10:45 hrs., UTC+7)
   1. **Welcome Remarks by Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General, APT**

Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General, APT, welcomed all delegates to the Forum. He introduced five Strategic Pillars of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2021-2023 which was adopted at the 15th Session of the General Assembly of APT (GA-15), and then highlighted four features that illustrated the PRF-21 considering the strategic pillars and the current situation of the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that PRF-21 would review the Working Methods and follow up the discussion on the establishment of Rapporteur Group along with its Terms of Reference. He also informed that there would be a back-to-back workshop as part of PRF-21 as suggested at the PRF-19 which would focus on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and cybersecurity.

The full text of his address is provided in the Document: [PRF-21/INP-01](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-01_Welcome_Remarks_of_Secretary_General.pdf).

* 1. **Opening Remarks by Mr. Wangay Dorji, Chairman, PRF**

Mr. Wangay Dorji, Chairman, PRF, delivered his opening remarks. In his speech, he highlighted that PRF was one of the most important platforms where members come to discuss and share issues of common interest, and it was not just a forum but also an opportunity to network with other colleagues to be able to support each other. He commended APT Secretariat in doing an excellent job in preparing the agenda and programme for PRF-21, especially for having a Ministerial Session and for bringing together the 3 important stakeholders - the policy makers, the regulators, and the service providers. He recalled that he had shared this concern during PRF-19 in Kingdom of Bhutan and thanked APT Secretariat for taking his concern seriously and putting it into action. He also thanked all Vice-Chairmen for supporting him during his two terms as Chairman of PRF. He urged all participants to make good use of the platform and focus on how we would be able to make Asia Pacific a better-connected region in the world so that we would be equally able to compete with other regions.

1. SESSION 1 - PLENARY (Monday, 19 July 2021, 10:45 – 11:15 hrs. UTC+7)
   1. **Adoption of Agenda** (Document: [PRF-21/ADM-01](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-ADM-01_Provisional_Agenda.docx))

Mr. Wangay Dorji, Chairman of PRF, invited APT Secretariat to introduce the document. APT Secretariat briefly introduced the Provisional Agenda of the Forum. The Chairman then sought comments on the document. Since there was no comment, the Agenda was adopted.

* 1. **Election of Chairman of PRF** (Document:[PRF-21/INP-03](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-03_Election_of_Chairman_of_PRF.pdf))

The Chairman invited Secretary General to introduce the election process. The Secretary General informed everyone that according to the Working Methods, the Chairman would be nominated by the Forum each year on a consensus basis where possible from the host country, and if there was no host country, the chairmanship remained with the existing chairman for another year. However, incumbent Chairman has informed APT Secretariat that he could not continue his chairmanship due to domestic changes in his role. Further, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has been contacting APT Secretariat offering to host PRF-21 since the beginning of the year. Following their request and based on the Working Methods, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam indicated they were ready to make a nomination for the post of Chairman if necessary. The Secretary General also informed the Forum that the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam had nominated Mr. Trieu Minh Long, Director General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Information and Communications, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, as the candidate for the Chairman of PRF.

The Chairman of PRF thanked the Secretary General and sought approval of the Forum regarding the nomination of Mr. Trieu Minh Long. Lao People's Democratic Republic supported the proposal from Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and thanked the Kingdom of Bhutan for hosting PRF-19 which was the last face to face meeting of PRF and thanked Mr. Wangay Dorji, Chairman of PRF for his leadership during his tenure. With the exclamation of the Forum, Mr. Trieu Minh Long was elected as the new Chairman of PRF. Mr. Wangay Dorji handed over the Chairmanship to Mr. Trieu Minh Long.

Mr. Trieu Minh Long, the new Chairman of PRF, thanked the outgoing Chairman, then delivered a short remark and presided over the Forum.

* 1. **Outcomes of the 15th Session of the General Assembly of the APT and 44th Session of the Management Committee of the APT relevant to PRF** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-04](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-04_Outcomes_of_GA_15_and_MC-44_relevant_to_PRF.docx))

The Chairman invited the APT Secretariat to present the document. APT Secretariat presented outcomes of the 15th Session of the General Assembly (GA-15) of the APT and 44th Session of the Management Committee of the APT (MC-44) relevant to PRF. He further explained the actions to be taken by PRF includes:

1. Considering the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2021-2023 and implement the Strategic Plan within the scope of PRF;
2. Reporting the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2021-2023 relevant to PRF to the next session of the Management Committee;
3. Following the Guidelines for Remote Participation to the APT meetings; and
4. Providing views on proposed draft Guidelines on Public Access to APT documents including proposed category of information for public access to be reported to future WGMC meeting and subsequent MC.

He mentioned that item 4 required further time to discuss it in detail. APT Secretariat has arranged Ad-hoc Group session to discuss the item together with the review of the Working Methods discussion.

The Plenary noted the outcomes of the GA-15 and MC-44 relevant to the work of the PRF.

* 1. **Review of the Working Methods of PRF** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-05](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-05_Proposed_revision_in_the_Working_Methods_of_PRF_16072021.docx))

The Chairman requested the APT Secretariat to make a brief introduction to the proposal before tasking the Ad-Hoc Group for further consideration.

APT Secretariat introduced the proposed revision of Working Methods of the PRF as contained in PRF-21/INP-05. He recalled the previous discussion at the PRF-19 in Kingdom of Bhutan on the suggestion to establish the Rapporteur group. He mentioned that APT Secretariat had conducted a study on the history of Working Methods and Structure of PRF since its inception in 2001. It was realized that there had been a number of discussions on the establishment of Rapporteur group and proper governance and management for the work of PRF. He highlighted the discussion at MC-32 on having a designated Chairman, and instructed PRF to revise the Working Methods. He mentioned that the Secretariat understood the suggestion to set up a Rapporteur group, and was in line with the discussions during the past PRFs. In this regard, Secretariat had provided the draft term of reference of the Rapporteur group as in annex 1 to facilitate the discussion. He also mentioned about the proposal to have a designated chairman with two Vice-Chairmen for better management of PRF. He informed that further discussion could be made at the Ad-Hoc Group session.

The Chairman proposed to task the Ad-Hoc Group to further discuss on the issue of the Document Access Policy and review of Working Methods of PRF including any spin off issues. He invited APT Secretariat for the nomination of the Ad-Hoc Group.

APT Secretariat informed that it had consulted with some Members who were interested in these topics and proposed Ms. Phavanhna Douangboupha from Lao PDR as the candidate for the Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Group ,who is currently the Vice Chairman of the Management Committee of the APT and had experience in the various APT Work Programmes.

The Chairman sought approval from the Forum, and since there was no comment, the Forum agreed to nominate Ms. Phavanhna Douangboupha as the Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Group to consider the issues of Document Access Policy and review of Working Methods of PRF including any spin off issues and to report to the closing Plenary.

Ms. Phavanhna Douangboupha delivered short remarks on her appointment.

1. SESSION 2 - MINISTERIAL SESSION : COMBAT COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION (Monday, 19 July 2021, 11:30 – 12:45 hrs., UTC+7)

Moderator: Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General, APT

* 1. **Presentation by H.E. Bolor-Erdene Battsengel, Chairwoman, Communication and Information Technology Authority, Mongolia** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-06](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-06_Combat_COVID-19_Pandemic_and_Digital_Transformation_-_Mongolia.pdf))

H.E. Bolor-Erdene Battsengel, Chairwoman, Communication and Information Technology Authority, Mongolia, presented the challenges and successes of digital transformation during the pandemic in Mongolia. The presentation discussed challenges successes in handling those challenges including increasing demand for e-services due to the restricted lockdown, importance of providing information on the pandemic to the citizens through one phone number, and placing them at one web site, the need of contact tracing methods during the pandemic, requirement to develop an online system for providing PCR test results and making appointments, the need to issue digital certificate of COVID-19 vaccinations, need to have a dashboard for the state emergency commission, and of the need for online learning system and data-free service for the target groups. The detail presentation is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-06.

* 1. **Presentation by H.E. Puthyvuth Sok, Secretary of State, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Kingdom of Cambodia** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-07](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-07_Combat_COVID-19_Pandemic_and_Digital_Transformation_-_Cambodia_Kingdom_of.pdf))

H.E. Puthyvuth Sok, Secretary of State, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Kingdom of Cambodia, presented the Cambodia Policy Framework on Digital Economy and Society. The presentation discussed phases of the policy framework i.e. Digital Foundation, Digital Adoption, and Digital Transformation, and further explained 5 Strategic Thrusts of Digital Economy and Society i.e. Digital Infrastructure, Digital Trust and Confidence, Digital Citizen, Digital Government, and Digital Business. He then presented on Combat COVID-19 Pandemic in Cambodia. The presentation also covered the current information systems related to COVID-19 and development approach, digital healthcare architecture, and regulation/policy/standard/compliance. The detail presentation is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-07.

* 1. **Statement by H.E. Dr. Santisouk Simmalavong, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Technology and Communications, Lao People's Democratic Republic** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-08](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-08_Combat_COVID-19_Pandemic_and_Digital_Transformation_-_Lao_Peoples_Democratic_Republic.pdf))

H.E. Dr. Santisouk Simmalavong, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Technology and Communications, Lao People's Democratic Republic, delivered his statement. He highlighted the challenging situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and mentioned that Lao PDR had anticipated the danger and started to prepare for it at an early stage, and the government had made decisions and adjusted on measures in each phase accordingly. He also shared lessons learned from difficulties with the pandemic. Finally, he shared experience on domestic Telecommunication/ICT utilization to deal with the pandemic. The full text of his statement is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-08.

* 1. **Statement by H.E. Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Islamic Republic of Pakistan** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-09](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-09_Combat_COVID-19_Pandemic_and_Digital_Transformation_-_Pakistan_Islamic_Republic_of.pdf))

Mr. Ajmal Anwar Awan, Member, International Coordination, , Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, delivered the statement on behalf of H.E. Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Islamic Republic of Pakistan. He mentioned that the year 2020 and 2021 had been overshadowed by COVID-19, however, the Government of Pakistan had played a significant role in digitally connecting the country in these testing time. He then highlighted steps taken by the Ministry of IT & Telecom, various entities and telecom regulator to facilitate the flow of communication, e-Education, e-Health and business services. He added that one of the challenges was that the urban areas use online services, but the rural areas and elderly still need education and training to use online services. The full text of his statement is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-09.

* 1. **Presentation by H.E. Newin Chochaiyathip, Vice Minister, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Kingdom of Thailand** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-10](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-10_Combat_COVID-19_Pandemic_and_Digital_Transformation_-_Thailand_Kingdom_of.pdf))

H.E. Newin Chochaiyathip, Vice Minister, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Kingdom of Thailand, presented Thailand’s Lesson Learned on combat COVID-19. The presentation highlighted that ICT played a significant role in fighting against COVID-19 crisis and help to avoid the risks and spreading of COVID-19, provide the right information, facilitate work from home policy, and response and mitigate the global crisis. He then talked about vaccination rollout, home isolation, village health volunteer, Phuket Sandbox, and Smart Pier project. The presentation also covered Digital Transformation in Thailand and 6 strategies of Digital Thailand plan. The detail presentation is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-10.

* 1. **Statement by H.E. Nguyen Huy Dung, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Information and Communications, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-11](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-11_Combat_COVID-19_Pandemic_and_Digital_Transformation_-_Viet_Nam_Socialist_Republic_of.pdf))

H.E. Nguyen Huy Dung, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Information and Communications, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, delivered his statement. He mentioned that digital transformation was an irreversible trend of the development and there would be events or incidents that happen as catalysts to enable breakthrough and leapfrog step forward, and COVID-19 was considered a push in this regard. He mentioned that COVID-19 also brought opportunities and digital transformation of education, healthcare, and development of e-commerce were typical examples. The full text of his statement is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-11.

Secretary General summarized that there were many elements that could be observed in each country. However, the success in those countries were different in their contexts and sharing these experiences and information was very important and useful for all APT Members. He mentioned that APT Secretariat would like to have this kind of Ministerial Session at the next PRF so that all APT Members could benefit from this session. He thanked excellencies for their times, participations, and insights.

1. SESSION 3 – REGULATORS’ ROUNDTABLE: ROAD TO 5G – CHALLENGES AND BEST PRACTICES (Monday, 19 July 2021, 13:00 – 14:15 hrs., UTC+7)

Moderator: Mr. Ilyas Ahmed, Chief Executive, Communications Authority of Maldives

* 1. **Presentation by Republic of Korea** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-12](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-12_Road_to_5G_-_Korea_Republic_of.pdf))

Mr. Seong Gyu Kim, Director General of International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Science and ICT, Republic of Korea presented the document. He first introduced 5G status in the Republic of Korea in terms of coverage, quality of service, 5G subscribers/base stations, He then talked about 5G spectrum auction, how it worked, what the restrictions were, the bidder’s responsibility in terms of license term and mandatory network installation, and the results of the auction. His presentation then discussed 5G+ Strategy to build a 5G ecosystem including its goals and key points, implementation framework, 5G investment & regulatory improvement, public investment to develop converged services, and challenges in 5G deployment. The detail presentation is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-12.

* 1. **Roundtable Discussion**

The Moderator invited panelists to make a short introductory remark on policy and regulatory framework of 5G followed by questions and answers.

Dr. P. D. Vaghela, Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, mentioned that the presentation made by Republic of Korea would be a good lesson learned for India. He then highlighted the importance of harmonized spectrum, role of government and industry in order to actualize the economic benefit of 5G. A flexible forward looking technology neutral framework was also needed. He also talked about spectrum auction in India, importance of fixed wireless access and satellite communication for backhaul, right of way issue, infrastructure sharing, ICT readiness index, data protection security, etc.

Dr. Fadhlullah Suhaimi Abdul Malek, Chairman, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission, highlighted that their approach to 5G worked on the premise that they faced during the massive pandemic of COVID-19 and the keys were that services must be affordable, services need to be equitable, and need to be supported by healthy industry. Malaysia has declared telecommunication as public utility which allow many things to be expedited. He also talked about National Digital Network Plan, the spectrum allocated for 5G, special purpose vehicle to provide 5G, plan for rollout of 5G service, mandatory standard of quality of service.

Mr. Nguyen Phong Nha, Deputy Director General, Viet Nam Telecommunications Authority, shared Viet Nam situation on 5G where Viet Nam had issued license for 5G trial since 2019 which allowed operators to implement 5G trial. It also allowed operators to commercially test 5G in small areas in 5 major cities. Before 5G licensing, it allowed operators to expand the testing area according to their need for full assessment report. He mentioned that Viet Nam intended to issue license in 2022.

Mr. Subrata Roy Maitra, Vice Chairman, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), shared the Bangladesh roadmap for 5G deployment to introduce 5G by 2021. He then talked about some statistics including the penetration rate of the mobile handset, mobile phone users, internet users. He mentioned that it was committed to launch 5G by this year, 2021. He then introduced preparations made by BTRC to launch 5G including spectrum allocation for 5G. He also talked about unified guidelines for all previous generation of mobile communication which would be finalized soon, the 5G roll out plan, market readiness issue, etc.

The Moderator posted questions to Republic of Korea regarding the 5G services through Multi-Operator Core Networks (MOCN) and converged services in various industries. Mr. Seong Gyu Kim gave explanation on providing 5G services MOCN in rural, coastal and remote areas including the details of the MOCN plan, the quality control, and sharing of information through hotlines between carriers. He also explained Republic of Korea case to utilize 5G field to address or mitigate social problem, including safety issues, medical services, etc.

The Moderator posted questions to Malaysia on how 5G would change the country as it was still in need of lower band spectrum and asked about the usage of Special Purpose Vehicle. Dr. Fadhlullah Suhaimi Abdul Malek provided some figure of the 4G coverage and mobile phone penetration and explained about the challenge to have adequate spectrum to be able to cater for higher traffic and the refarming exercise that had been done in 2017. He also explained about Special Purpose Vehicle to provide 5G and how well it was utilized to fill in the gaps of coverage.

The Moderator posted questions to Republic of India regarding 5G spectrum allocation and 5G ecosystem. Dr. P. D. Vaghela explained the issues faced in 5G spectrum allocation. He mentioned that for spectrum technology, India had become neutral since the last 7-8 years. Therefore, 5G can be launched in any IMT spectrum band. He highlighted the spectrum that had been earmarked for IMT and the problem on part of the C-band that had been used for satellite services. He also explained the policies for building the 5G ecosystem in India.

The Moderator posted questions to Socialist Republic of Viet Nam regarding policy to promote 5G and plan for spectrum assignment. Mr. Nguyen Phong Nha explained Viet Nam policy to promote the commercialization of 5G in the coming years which would help to promote 5G deployment and save cost for operators. He also shared the frequency management policy for 5G in the coming years.

The Moderator posted questions to People's Republic of Bangladesh regarding affordability of devices. Mr. Subrata Roy Maitra talked about the situation of availability of handset and then explained about the policy to make it more affordable.

The Moderator then summarized that many aspects in 5G deployment had been covered and many observations were made especially infrastructure sharing, spectrum allocation are important among other things. He thanked all panelists for their participation in the discussion.

1. SESSION 4 – UPDATES ON SUB-REGIONAL ISSUES ON POLICY AND REGULATIONS (Monday, 19 July 2021, 14:15 – 14:45 hrs., UTC+7)

Moderator: Mr. Trieu Minh Long, Chairman of PRF

* 1. **Updates on Sub-regional Issues on Policy and Regulations - Pacific** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-13](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-13_Updates_on_Sub-regional_Issues_on_Policy_and_Regulation_Pacific.pdf))

Mr. Brian Winji, Vice-Chairman of PRF for Pacific Sub-region presented the document. He first introduced the ITU ICT Tracker for 2019 and 2020 and highlighted that Samoa has improved from G2 to G3 from 2019 to 2020 while other countries still maintained their status. He then addressed 3 key challenging areas i.e., closing the digital gap, addressing digital economy, and OTT challenges. The detail presentation is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-13.

* 1. **Updates on Sub-regional Issues on Policy and Regulations – East Asia** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-14](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-14_Updates_on_Sub-regional_Issues_on_Policy_and_Regulation_East_Asia.pdf))

Ms. Mina Seonmin Jun, Vice-Chairman of PRF for East Asia Sub-region presented the document. She highlighted key policy updates in East Asia i.e., new infrastructure construction in People's Republic of China, Beyond 5G Promotion Strategy in Japan, Digital New Deal Strategy in Republic of Korea, and E-Mongolia Digital Platform in Mongolia. She also provided a brief information on the Global Cyber Security Index 2020 for East Asia sub-region. The detail presentation is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-14.

* 1. **Updates on Sub-regional Issues on Policy and Regulations – Southeast Asia** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-15](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-15_Updates_on_Sub-regional_Issues_on_Policy_and_Regulation_South_East_Asia.pdf))

Ms. Kalaya Chinatiworn, Vice-Chairman of PRF for Southeast Asia Sub-region presented the document. She highlighted updated situation in each country in the sub-region. She then talked about ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 (ADM2025) which was launched in January 202, how to achieve the Masterplan’s vision, and desired outcomes of ADM2025. The detail presentation is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-15.

* 1. **Updates on Sub-regional Issues on Policy and Regulations – South Asia** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-16](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-16_Updates_on_Sub-regional_Issues_on_Policy_and_Regulation_South_Asia.pdf))

Mrs. Tharalika Livera, Vice-Chairman of PRF for South Asia Sub-region presented the document. She first introduced the statistics on Mobile telephone/Fixed telephone/Mobile broadband/Fixed broadband subscriptions and International Bandwidth in Mbits. She then explained about South Asian Telecommunications Regulators’ Council (SATRC) and its Action Plan Phase VII and its details. The detail presentation is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-16.

The Chairman then thanked all the Vice-Chairmen of PRF for providing the updates on the sub-regional issues.

1. SESSION 5: KEYNOTE SPEECH ON KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN ALLOCATION AND LICENSING OF SPECTRUM FOR 5G (Tuesday, 20 July 2021, 10:30 – 10:50 hrs., UTC+7)

Mr. Scott W Minehane, Managing Director, Windsor Place Consulting, Australia, presented a keynote speech on key issues and challenges in allocation and licensing of spectrum for 5G (Document: [PRF-21/INP-17 (Rev.1)](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-17Rev.1_Key_issues_and_challenges_in_allocation_and_licensing_of_spectrum_for_5G_-_WPC.pdf)). He emphasized on rapid global 5G rollout, optimal spectrum bands for 5G, need for larger contiguous blocks of spectrum, making more spectrum available for 5G, ensuring 5G competition. He urged that ensuring sustainable 5G competition means that all MNOs need to be able to secure sufficient IMT spectrum (IMT spectrum >150, 200, 250 MHz + mmWave) to offer a competitive service. He added that reasonable pricing is key to making that spectrum available. He suggested that a better way forward is for governments, regulators and MNOs to collaborate on long-term solutions which facilitate competition and infrastructure sharing especially in rural and uneconomic areas. The detail presentation is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-17 (Rev.1).

1. SESSION 6 (BUSINESS DIALOGUE): CONDUCIVE POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR 5G (Tuesday, 20 July 2021, 10:50 – 11:50 hrs., UTC+7)

The session was moderated by Dr. Pratompong Srinuan, Senior Economic Expert, National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission, Kingdom of Thailand. He introduced the panelists and invited them to make an introductory remark about the beneficial regulatory policy framework for 5G followed by questions and answers.

Ms. Jeanette Whyte, Head of Public Policy, APAC, GSMA highlighted that currently 2/3 of the population Asia-Pacific region subscribed to mobile services but still 2.2 billion people do not use internet which is not due to the coverage issue on most of the cases. So, before going to the 5G era, we need to identify the ways how to facilitate those who are not currently using the internet otherwise they will lag even more in the 5G era. She emphasized that long term effective spectrum policy, logical taxation, certainty in deploying new technology, flexible infrastructure sharing on voluntary basis, balanced policy for personal data, national consumer privacy and cross border data flow would be key enablers in 5G deployment in this region.

Mr. Foong Chee Kheong, Group Head of Regulatory Affairs, Axiata Group Berhad emphasized about the drivers of 5G. He mentioned that mobile data usage had increased immense during this pandemic i.e. as high as 22 GB/user/month in Malaysia and 20 GB/user/month in Kingdom of Cambodia which are the highest among the world. During the pandemic, mobile data is the primary source of the internet for many people which has increased the load on the network by many folds. As 5G is more efficient than its predecessors, it is needed to lower the production cost for mobile industry. He added that 5G will allow low latency applications of AI, Robotics and IoT. He further added that fiber to the home or similar services are the least in this region among the world, so introduction of 5G can be very effective in this region to meet the demand of the high-speed internet.

Ms. Sonja Lukic, Director, Public and Regulatory Affairs, Telenor Asia Pte Limited mentioned that spectrum allocation, pricing, contiguous blocks, roadmap, refarming would be key issues in acceleration of 5G deployment in Asia-Pacific region. She added that rights of way remain long burning issue, but this would be more from perspective that policies being there in place and how we would implement them in terms of time and cost. She emphasized that how cost-efficiently and effectively we use backhaul with or without fiber would be another important issue to be addressed in the regulatory frameworks. She added that sharing of infrastructure would be more complex than legacy technologies. Finally, she mentioned that taxation is a major issue that need to be effectively addressed and tackled in 5G policy.

Mr. Guillaume Mascot, Head of Government Relations, Nokia Pte Limited mentioned that we thought investment will slow down during this pandemic, but the situation went different direction. He added that mixture of low, mid and high band would be critical to accelerate the 5G deployment. He emphasized that technology neutrality, spectrum roadmap and simplification of right of way would be the key drivers to accelerate the deployment of 5G in this region. He further added that local content would also be a key factor in 5G deployment.

Dr. Tare Brisibe, Senior Legal and Regulatory Counsel, APAC, SES World Skies Singapore Pte Limited highlighted that satellite industry could play an important role in broader 5G ecosystem. He said that in many places 3G and 4G services could only available due to cost effective satellite backhaul and we want to contribute similarly for 5G. We were investing in high throughput satellites located at geostationary orbit and non-geostationary orbit. He emphasized that holistic balanced approach in spectrum allocation would be needed to ensure each service get enough exclusive spectrum.

The Moderator posted question to Mr. Foong Chee Kheong on 5G use cases. He said that they were investing on pilot projects to see the use cases on High speed eMBB, health and security.

The Moderator posted question to Ms. Jeanette Whyte on how government could promote the use cases of 5G by investing in research and pilot projects. She said some countries put funds aside to encourage and develop technological advancement like 5G. Government could temporarily allocate spectrum for trials and pilot projects. She emphasized that there would be involvement of many departments within the government, so whole government approach and horizontal regulation are needed to accelerate the development of 5G in this region.

The Moderator posted question to Ms. Sonja Lukic regarding how government can facilitate the deployment from your experience in Asia and Europe. She said flexibility in policy to implement 5G being very important so that we could replicate the projects i.e. smart port, defense case, smart farming, etc. in Asia-Pacific region similar to what we did in Europe and other regions.

The Moderator posted question to Mr. Guillaume Mascot reading 5G use cases and initiatives. He mentioned that Japan and Germany were investigating what 5G could do in their process. He added that we have to increase the awareness of all stakeholders including the governments so that all the stakeholders could realize the benefits and importance of 5G deployment rather than only initiatives taken by industry.

The Moderator posted question to Dr. Tare Brisibe how the satellite could accelerate the digital transformation in this region. He mentioned that we had worked together with mobile industry to deploy 3G and 4G. We could continue to collaborate and accelerate the 5G deployment in high-speed trunking, IoT, high speed backhaul connectivity to individual cells with the ability to multicast the same content to a large coverage, sensor networks, smart city applications, remote and underserved areas, high speed vessels, etc. He emphasized that the satellite industry is ready to support the 5G ecosystem.

The Moderator then summarized that many aspects of policy and regulatory framework for 5G had been covered and many observations were made especially taxation, infrastructure sharing, spectrum plan are important among other things. He thanked all panelists for their participation in the discussion.

1. SESSION 7: DEVELOPMENT AND STATUS OF OTT (Tuesday, 20 July 2021, 12:00 – 13:15 hrs., UTC+7)

Moderator: Brig. Gen. Md. Nasim Parvez, Director General, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission

**9.1 Presentation by Ms. Lauren Crean, Economist and Policy Analyst, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, France** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-18](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-18_OTT_Trends_in_OECD_Countries_-_OECD.pdf))

Ms. Lauren Crean presented the OTT trends in OECD countries. She mentioned that convergence of broadcasting and communication sectors are increasing and communication services and consolidation are bundled with both horizontal and vertical mergers. She added that some regulators are responding with either converged regulator with a mandate covering both sectors or converged regulatory framework with single class license. She also added that the regulatory discussion is still ongoing among OECD countries and policy makers are considering how to ensure a fair, competitive landscape for all players in this evolving market dynamics. Finally, she suggested that monitoring of these evolving trends can help regulators tailor policies to domestic situations. The detail presentation is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-18.

**9.2 Presentation by Mr. Tom Chottayil Varghese, Head of Connectivity and Access Policy, APAC, Facebook Inc.** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-19](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-19_Development_and_Status_of_OTT_-_Facebook.pdf))

Mr. Tom Chottayil Varghese highlighted on OTT - Telecom Operator relationships. He has mentioned that Facebook is investing to keep our services stable and reliable and meet future demand. He added that According to Analysys Mason, Facebook investments in ASEAN will deliver economic benefits of USD 63.5bn over the next five years. He further mentioned that Facebook is closely working on bringing more people online to a faster internet, keeping communities safe and connected, partnering with public health authorities, combating COVID-19 misinformation, supporting economic opportunity etc. The detail presentation is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-19.

**9.3 Presentation by Mr. Foong Chee Kheong, Group Head of Regulatory Affairs, Axiata Group Berhad** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-20](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-20_Development_and_Status_of_OTT_-_Axiata.pdf))

Mr. Foong Chee Kheong mentioned that over the last 25+ years, the mobile industry has making heavy capital investments, creating local jobs and contributing to taxes, regulatory fees and developmental funds. He emphasized that discussion on this matter was multi-faceted and global leading to calls for at least a level playing field and a long hard look at balancing many critical issues such as global digital platforms and local industries, legal obligations and responsibilities on national verses borderless, sustainability of local industries, digital platforms (often multinational) and digital entrants (often home-grown), protecting digital competition, overall socio-economic impact, etc. He also added that policymakers globally were dealing with this issue on multiple fronts like regulatory equivalency, anti-trust and competition, data protection and privacy, taxation policy, harmful content and new institutional setups. The detail presentation is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-20.

**9.4 Presentation by Mr. Prashik Jawade, ADG, Department of Telecommunications, Republic of India** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-21](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-21_Development_and_Status_of_OTT_-_India_Republic_of.pdf))

Mr. Prashik Jawade presented overview, development and status on OTT with India’s perspective. While discussing the future of OTT in India, he mentioned that estimated market size of OTT would be USD 5 billion by 2023, rural India is opening a new distribution channel which would provide a variety of content to cater to the increased content viewing appetites, the production houses are going digital, OTT subscriptions have become the latest weapons in India’s Telecom war, the explosion in kids’ education and entertainment, application of OTT in Corporate e-Learning, online gaming has surged during the lockdown. He presented the Opportunities and Challenges for OTT. He also highlighted Win-Win Model for OTT and Network Provider. He also mentioned the Initiatives taken in India towards OTT including the regulatory framework for OTT Service. The detail presentation is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-21.

**9.5 Presentation by Mr. Notachard Chintakanond, Executive Director, International Affairs Bureau, National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission, Kingdom of Thailand** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-22](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-22_Development_and_Status_of_OTT_-_Thailand_Kingdom_of.pdf))

Mr. Notachard Chintakanond presented overview of Thailand’s OTT market. He mentioned that Thailand’s mobile subscriber, social media subscriber and internet user are 116 million (170.7%), 55 million (78.7%), 63 million (92.56%) respectively. He said that Personal Data Protection Act would be fully enforceable from June 1, 2022 onwards while currently OTT applications provide a privacy notice and request for consent to their customers, business partners or any other parties from which they would obtain personal data. He added that Thailand has enacted e-Service Tax Act, 2021 which would be effective from September 1, 2021 to facilitate OTT platform especially abroad with no establishment in Thailand to register for convenient payment of Value Added Tax without having to set up a domestic premise in Thailand. The detail presentation is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-22.

The Moderator then summarized that many aspects of policy and regulatory framework for OTT including the challenges, opportunities, prospects had been covered and many observations were made. He thanked all speakers for their participations and contributions in this session.

1. SESSION 8: KEYNOTE SPEECH ON INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM (Tuesday, 20 July 2021, 13:25 – 13:45 hrs., UTC+7)

Mr. Martin Fransman, Professor Emeritus of Economics, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom, presented keynote speech on Innovation Ecosystem: how can you and your organization be innovative under the COVID-19 challenges (Document: [PRF-21/INP-23](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-23_Innovation_Ecosystem_-_Prof._Martin_Fransman.pdf)). He emphasized on solving challenges by Innovation, how can policy makers and regulators think about challenge-solving innovation to complement their conventional way of working, the 5-steps to challenge-solving innovation, the importance of innovation ecosystems thinking. The detail presentation is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-23.

1. SESSION 9: DRIVING INNOVATION IN DIGITAL ECONOMY (Tuesday, 20 July 2021, 13:45 – 14:45 hrs., UTC+7)

Moderator: Mr. Brian Winji, Telecommunications Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator, Republic of Vanuatu

**11.1 Presentation by Dr. Yanni Hu, Engineer, China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, People's Republic of China** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-24](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-24_The_Development_of_Digital_Economy_-_China_Peoples_Republic_of.pdf))

Dr. Yanni Hu emphasized on concept connotation and framework, development trend and strategic layout of China’s digital economy. She mentioned that China’s digital economy has been continuously expanding and stepped up to a new stage. She added that China’s scale of digital economy reached 35.8 trillion-yuan accounting for 36.2% of GDP in 2019 with an increase of 4.4% year on year. She further added that China has paid more attention to the development of digital economy and policy introduction power has been delegated from the State Council to local governments. The detail presentation is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-24.

**11.2 Presentation by Mr. Masashi Eto, Senior Officer, Technology Policy Planning and Coordination, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-25](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-25_Driving_Innovation_in_Digital_Economy_-_Japan.pdf))

Mr. Masashi Eto presented the INNO-vation Program which was established by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan in 2014. The program has been designed to create new, disruptive and global value in the ICT field by supporting extraordinary ambitious technological ideas with great possibilities. He discussed about the innovations under this program (turning CO2 into human’s best friend, using AI to identify newborn chicken's sex, stretchable thread that conducts electricity). He also mentioned about a problem-solving contest uncovering the clues that lead to outside-the-box methods of competition, cooperation and solutions where total prize money is around 117 million yen as of 2020. He further added that Japan started collaborations with other countries and overseas organizations operated jointly to reach out and discover various kinds of extraordinary talents. The detail presentation is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-25.

**11.3 Presentation by Ms. Chris Perera, Senior Director, Government Affairs and Public Policy, AT&T** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-26](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-26_Driving_Innovation_in_Digital_Economy_-_ATT.pdf))

Ms. Chris Perera highlighted on promoting innovation through digital inclusion and digital literacy. She discussed about the innovative ICT ecosystem, intellectual property rights, digital trade measures. She further discussed about balancing innovation with personal rights where one of the biggest challenges to regulation and innovation with privacy legislation is when it abandons a risk-based approach. The detail presentation is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-26.

**11.4 Presentation by Mr. Christiaan Segura, Policy Director, APAC, GSMA** (Document: [PRF-21/INP-27](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-INP-27_Innovation_in_the_5G_Era_-_GSMA.pdf))

Mr. Christiaan Segura emphasized about innovation in the 5G era. He discussed about the innovation triangle. He mentioned that a whole-of-government approach offers increased communication and efficiency as cross-ministry efforts become the norm. He added that forward-leaning regulatory frameworks offer the ability to remove regulatory barriers to new and future innovations. He further added that fair and balanced market allows for businesses to compete on an even playing field with consumer demand driving innovative products and services. The detail presentation is provided in Document: PRF-21/INP-27.

The Moderator summarized that many aspects like update and development of digital economy in People's Republic of China, promoting innovation and international collaboration between Japan and other countries in this region, importance of digital literacy, flexible innovation policy and ecosystem had been covered in this session. He thanked all speakers for their participations and contributions in the session.

1. SESSION 10 – AD-HOC GROUP DISCUSSION (Wednesday, 21 July 2021, 10:30 – 11:45 hrs., UTC+7)

Chairman of Ad-Hoc Group: Ms. Phavanhna Douangboupha, Lao People's Democratic Republic

The Chairman of Ad-Hoc Group thanked participants for joining the Ad-Hoc Group discussion. She mentioned that the outcomes of the discussion would be reported to the Plenary after the session. She highlighted the two main matters as tasked by the opening Plenary including review the Working Methods of the PRF and Document Access Policy. Other two items were follow-up discussion on establishment of Rapporteur Group for intersessional electronic working and topics for Rapporteur Group which were spin off items from the review of the Working Methods and its implementation.

Regarding the effective date of the revised Working Methods, she mentioned that it should be effective after the final approval of the Management Committee of APT and the meeting need to discuss the matter.

* 1. **Review of the Working Methods of the PRF**

The Chairman of Ad-Hoc Group mentioned that she understood that the main driving force for the revision of the working methods was to follow up the suggestion of the Chair of PRF which was made at PRF-19 in 2019 in Kingdom of Bhutan, in particular, the establishment of a Rapporteur Group as it could be seen in the Annex 1 containing the draft Terms of Reference of the Rapporteur Group. She also understood the revision of chairmanship for the better management of the works of PRF. She then requested APT Secretariat to present the proposal.

APT Secretariat highlighted that the main objective of the proposal to revise the Working Methods was to follow up the establishment of Rapporteur Group as proposed by PRF Chair at PRF-19. He informed that Secretariat had conducted studies to understand the discussion at the previous PRF as well as Management Committee of the APT especially MC-32 which discussed the issue on the continuity of the work of PRF. He added that PRF had established 2 Rapporteur Groups 10 years ago, but it could not fulfill their tasks due to lack of nomination. Therefore, the draft TOR was proposed to provide clear guidance for setting up Rapporteur Group. In addition, MC-39 in 2015 also instructed all Work Programmes to develop tangible outcome. Based on this, APT Secretariat understood that Members had focus on continuity and output-oriented issue. Other proposals were also proposed to move in the direction of continuity and output oriented for good governance of the Forum.

APT Secretariat then explained the changes proposed in the draft Working Methods including issues on GSR, Chairmanship, Steering Committee, and TOR of Rapporteur Group.

The Chairman of Ad-Hoc Group opened the floor for discussion.

Malaysia mentioned that the principle of having 4 Vice-Chairmen was to represent 4 sub-regions. Since the new text had removed this representation so he asked how the equal representation from the four sub-regions be reflected in the Working Methods of the PRF.

Secretariat mentioned that there was no statement about the sub-regional representation in the objectives of the PRF, however, the clause on facilitating intra-regional collaboration on policy and regulatory issues as required could be a reference to have sub-regional representation. He also added that in the past there were some difficulties in nominating vice-chairman to represent sub-region. He also mentioned that Secretariat tried to make balance between sub-regions when inviting speakers/panelists.

Republic of Indonesia echoed Malaysia’s view on having four sub-regions representation at the PRF. She mentioned that at least there should be representation of sub-region that could give update on the regulation on sub-region.

Republic of Palau shared the view that what had been discussed might not be the same. The proposal of the text was to have 2 Vice-Chairmen, and the concern from some of the Members including Republic of Palau was the representation of the sub-region. If there was some revision in any section to provide a method by which sub-region still had a voice and position in PRF, it would be fine to retain 2 Vice-Chairmen. It was understood that the proposal for reduction was for better coordination and more focused activity so that PRF could be more efficient. He then proposed revision in that direction.

Malaysia agreed with Republic of Palau’s proposal to reflect some ways in the Working Methods that equal representation from all regions which could take the form of chairing of different session, Rapporteur Group, or other forms.

People's Republic of Bangladesh, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and Socialist Republic of Viet Nam also provided their views and suggestions during the discussion.

Secretariat proposed to add a sentence under the objective section to reflect subregional balance while to have 2 Vice-Chairmen instead of 4 Vice-Chairmen as originally proposed. Republic of Palau also proposed to add the term sub-regional under the structure section. The meeting agreed with the proposal.

Republic of Indonesia sought for clarification on the removal of clauses related to GSR. APT Secretariat clarified that mostly PRF was organized after the GSR so there was no chance for PRF to discuss in advance and provide input to GSR. In addition, PRF is information sharing and not intend to provide any input to GSR. Unlike those WTDC, WTSA, WRC, and PP Preparatory Meeting which are upstream activities, GSR is downstream activity and its outcomes is shared to the PRF.

Republic of Indonesia referred to the section on Intersessional Electronic Working of PRF and sought for clarification regarding what kind of input to be provided to international fora on issues related to the policy and regulation, and whether there were any questions from PRF sent to other Work Programmes or any liaison statement or request from other Work Programmes. Secretariat replied that the outcome of Rapporteur Group could be input to international fora which might include GSR and others. However, the APT Common Proposal was not appropriate for PRF. He added that as of now PRF had not developed output to other Work Programmes and no such activities conducted up to now. It would be up to the Rapporteur Group to decide what would be the outcome.

* 1. **Follow up discussion on establishment of Rapporteur Group for intersessional electronic working and Topic for Rapporteur Group**

The Chairman of Ad-Hoc Group recapped that the inter-sessionary electronic work will be done by a Rapporteur Group which would be decided by the Plenary. She mentioned that there were 2 Rapporteur Groups established in the past, but it could not carry out the task due to lack of nomination and the previous Rapporteur Group established had no Term of Reference. She then asked what a proper topic would be in case APT Members were in favor of establishing a Rapporteur Group. She asked Secretariat for further comment.

Secretariat mentioned that it had invited Members to propose any topic to be covered under Rapporteur Group, but Secretariat had not received any suggestion from Members. He requested Chairman to invite Member administrations whether they had any suggestion to form the Rapporteur Group to follow up the discussion and report to PRF in the coming year.

Malaysia commented that the Rapporteur Group would be established on a need basis and the Term of Reference was already there.

The Chairman of Ad-Hoc Group also invited Member administrations for any proposals regarding the topic for Rapporteur Group.

As there was no comment at this meeting, the Secretariat informed that if there were suggestions from Members, Secretariat would bring the issue to the upcoming PRF to discuss on the proposal.

* 1. **Document Access Policy**

The Chairman of Ad-Hoc Group mentioned that based on the outcomes for GA-15 and MC-44, the document access policy was part of what asked to be taken by PRF to provide view on the draft guidelines. Currently, some documents were already on the public domain via APT Website and each event already has all documents including working documents public with access. Some Work Programmes had discussed but still refers to more discussion including ASTAP and APG. She asked Secretariat to share the information about other Work Programmes’ discussions on the issue.

Secretariat made a short introduction to the draft proposal on Document Access Policy. He highlighted that the proposal relevant to PRF was under the category of Forums and symposiums where Working Methods was already open to public while Output documents and Input documents were served only the APT members. He mentioned that WGMC wished to consult other Work Programmes on how they feel, and MC endorsed the proposal made by WGMC. He further added that the matter had been discussed at APT-WTDC, AWG, APG, ASTAP, APT-PP meetings. However, all Work Progammes were not able to make a firm decision on this matter and would refer it to the future meeting. Some Members requested APT to look into ITU document access policy and to make APT document access policy to be in line with ITU. Some Members also requested to look at financial consequences if APT open these documents to non-APT members.

The Chairman of Ad-Hoc Group thanked Secretariat for providing more information and opened the floor for comments. As there was no comment, she concluded that PRF would like to refer to the next PRF for decision as of other Work Programmes.

In conclusion, the Chairman of Ad-Hoc Group thanked all participants for their valuable inputs and would report it to the closing Plenary.

1. SESSION 11 – PLENARY (Wednesday, 21 July 2021, 12:00 – 12:30 hrs., UTC+7)
   1. **Adoption of Output Document** (Document: [PRF-21/OUT-01](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2021/07/PRF-21-OUT-01_Revised_Working_Methods_of_PRF.docx))

The Chairman of PRF requested Chairman of Ad-Hoc Group Ms. Phavanhna Douangboupha to provide the outcomes of the discussion on the Ad-Hoc Group. Ms. Phavanhna Douangboupha reported to the Plenary about the two main matters as tasked by the opening Plenary including review the Working Methods of the PRF and Document Access Policy. Other two items were follow-up discussion on establishment of Rapporteur Group for intersessional electronic working and topics for Rapporteur Group which were spin off items from the review of the Working Methods and its implementation.

The Chairman of AD-Hoc Group presented the revised Working Methods based on the discussions in the Ad-Hoc Group.

The Chairman of Ad-Hoc Group reported that she had invited Member administrations for proposals regarding the topic for Rapporteur Group. She informed that there was no comment at this meeting and if there were suggestions from Members, Secretariat would bring the issue to the upcoming PRF to discuss on the proposal.

With regard to Document Access Policy, the Chairman of Ad-Hoc Group reported that there was little time to discuss the matter. However, Secretariat has provided detail information and updates about the other Work Programmes. She informed that there were no comments on this matter and Ad-Hoc Group proposed to refer to the next PRF for decision like other Work Programmes.

The Chairman, PRF thanked the Chairman of AD-Hoc Group for her report. The Chairman of the PRF then proposed to adopt the report of the Chairman of AD-Hoc Report, adopt the revised Working Methods of PRF, take note of the report regarding follow up discussion on establishment of Rapporteur Group for intersessional electronic working and topic for Rapporteur Group and refer the Document Access Policy to the next PRF for detail discussion and comments. The Chairman, PRF sought for comments. There was no comment.

The Plenary adopted the report of the Ad-Hoc Group.

The Plenary adopted the revised Working Methods of PRF (PRF-20/OUT-01). It will be submitted to the 45th Session of the Management Committee of the APT (MC-45) for consideration and approval.

The Plenary noted the report of AD-Hoc Group regarding follow up discussion on establishment of Rapporteur Group for intersessional electronic working and topic for Rapporteur Group.

The Plenary referred the Document Access Policy to the next PRF for further discussion and comments.

* 1. **Election of Vice-Chairmen of PRF**

The Chairman of the PRF requested APT Secretariat to brief the Plenary on this agenda. APT Secretariat informed the Plenary that the Plenary adopted the revised Working Methods of PRF where there being provision for 2 Vice-Chairmen, and it would be submitted to the 45th Session of the Management Committee of the APT (MC-45) for consideration and approval. He further mentioned that in the prevailing situation it would be better if the Election of Vice-Chairmen of PRF would be delayed to the opening Plenary of PRF-22.

Ms. Mina Seonmin Jun, Korea Information Society Development Institute, Republic of Korea and Mrs. Tharalika Livera, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, mentioned that they have been Vice-Chairmen of PRF for couple of terms and in this prevailing situation it would be better if other two Vice-Chairmen of PRF, who were in their first term, could continue during this interim period so that this arrangement would be in line with the revised Working Methods and there would be no vacancy on the Vice-Chairman of PRF as well.

Republic of Indonesia mentioned that they support what APT Secretariat has mentioned. She said that the Election of the two Vice-Chairmen could be delayed to opening Plenary of PRF-22 based on the approval of the 45th Session of the Management Committee of the APT (MC-45).

Ms. Kalaya Chinatiworn, Vice-Chairman of PRF from Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Kingdom of Thailand, nominated Ms. Thasawan Samorwong Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Kingdom of Thailand, to replace her as the Vice-Chairman for this interim period.

Chairman requested APT Secretariat for comment on this situation APT Secretariat supported the proposal of the outgoing Vice-Chairmen as this arrangement would not create any vacancy and Secretariat could consult with the Vice-Chairmen for the preparation of the next PRF. He mentioned that with regard to the nomination of Ms. Thasawan Samorwong, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Kingdom of Thailand, as the Vice-Chairman was the matter of decision of PRF-21. He added that it would be an interim arrangement and Secretariat would invite nominations for Elections of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen before PRF-22.

Chairman requested Ms. Thasawan Samorwong, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Kingdom of Thailand and Mr. Brian Winji, Vice-Chairman of PRF from Telecommunications Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator, Republic of Vanuatu for their comments. Both of them agreed to serve as Vice-Chairmen of PRF for the interim period. The Chairman proposed them for the Vice-Chairmen of PRF and requested for comments. There was no comment.

The Plenary approved Ms. Thasawan Samorwong, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Kingdom of Thailand and Mr. Brian Winji, Telecommunications Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator, Republic of Vanuatu, as the Vice- Chairmen of PRF for the interim period.

The Chairman thanked the outgoing Vice-Chairmen for their contributions and supports towards the activities of PRF.

* 1. **Way Forward**

The Chairman invited suggestions, ideas and comments from APT members for future activities of PRF. There was no comment.

* 1. **Date and Venue of PRF-21**

Secretary General mentioned that APT Secretariat had not received any proposal from Members. He mentioned that Members could consider this matter after the Forum and propose to APT Secretariat. He added that Secretariat would consult with Office Bearers and arrange PRF-22 at Q2 in 2022.

The Chairman mentioned that Socialist Republic of Viet Nam intended to host PRF-21. However, due the current pandemic situation, PRF-21 was held virtually. He added that Socialist Republic of Viet Nam would like to organize PRF-22 based on the pandemic situation in 2022 and they would confirm about it officially later.

* 1. **Any other matters**

There was no other matter.

* 1. **Closing**

Mr Masanori Kondo, Secretary General of APT, delivered his closing remarks. He summarized PRF-21 by using 3 ‘S’s. First, it was ‘Strategical’. PRF-21 functioned well in line with the action items of the strategic pillars adopted by the15th Session of the General Assembly (GA-15). Second, it was ‘Structured well’. With the fruitful discussion at the AD-Hoc Group and approval of revision of the Working Methods at Plenary, the activities of PRF would be more useful and productive as there had been a long discussion in the past in this regard. Third, it was ‘Stimulative’. As the ICT industry is changing rapidly and needs for ICT innovations and services have been increasing, especially under the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the sharing of information and discussions at the Ministerial session, the Regulator’s Roundtable, Business Dialogue and several thematic sessions provided a good knowledge of the current situation and identified issues to be tackled. He added that there would be a workshop on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in cybersecurity right after this Plenary which would provide viewpoints of cybersecurity on what is happening during the COVID-19 pandemic, how policymakers/regulators and industry are responding, and so on. Finally, he expressed sincere appreciation to the Excellencies, Heads of the Regulators, Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of PRF, as well as representatives from Affiliate Members, for their time and cooperation to the work of PRF. He wished everyone safety and good health.

Mr. Trieu Minh Long, Chairman of PRF, delivered his closing remarks. He mentioned that key policy and regulatory issues for better use of ICT to combat the pandemic and development of digital transformation and digital economy in APT region were discussed in 11 sessions of this virtual PRF-21. He added that many ideas, insights, national policies and initiatives were shared as well as discussed by Ministers, Heads of the regulators, high level officials, speakers and participants of both public and private sectors. He expressed sincere thanks to all of them for their participation, contribution as well as for the success of the forum. He expressed thanks to Vice Chairmen of PRF and Chairman of Ad-Hoc Group for their support and cooperation in preparing and conducting PRF-21 effectively. He conveyed heartfelt thanks and appreciations to APT Secretariat team under the leadership of Secretary General for the great work in coordinating and preparing for this online forum. He added that everyone was impressed by the professional and dedicated work of the APT Secretariat which made this Forum a great success. Finally, he wished good health and look luck to all.

The Chairman declared PRF-21 closed.