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| **The 23rd APT Policy and Regulatory Forum**  **(PRF-23)** | **PRF-23/OUT-02** |
| 20 – 22 June 2023, Nadi, Republic of Fiji | 29 August 2023 |

Secretary General

**SUMMARY RECORD OF**

**THE 23RD APT POLICY AND REGULATORY FORUM**

1. INTRODUCTION

The 23rd APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-23) was held from 20 to 22 June 2023 in Nadi, Fiji with hybrid format (both physical and virtual/online attendance through APT Zoom meeting).

The Forum was attended by 155 participants from APT Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, International Organizations and other organizations. 79 participants attended the meeting in-person. Document: [PRF-23/ADM-03](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/07/PRF-23-ADM-03_List-of-Participants.pdf) contains the list of participants of the Forum.

1. OPENING SESSION (Tuesday, 20 June 2023, 09:40 – 10:30 hrs., UTC+12)
   1. The opening session was started with the traditional Fijian welcome ceremony.
   2. **Welcome Remarks by Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General of APT**

Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General of APT, welcomed all delegates to the Forum. He highlighted the importance of the PRF meeting under the new Strategic Plan of APT in 2021-2023. He mentioned the five features of PRF-23. He encouraged the delegates to actively participate and derive the greatest benefit from this PRF.

The full text of his address is provided in the Document: [PRF-23/INP-01](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-01_Welcome_Remarks_by_Secretary_General.pdf).

* 1. **Opening Remarks by Mr. Ilyas Ahmed, Chair of PRF**

Mr. Ilyas Ahmed, Chair, PRF, delivered his opening remarks. He mentioned that the Forum has become one of the most important high-level platforms for policymakers, regulators and industry representatives in terms of sharing experiences and finding workable solutions on crucial issues of this region.

The full text of his address is provided in the Document: [PRF-23/INP-02](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/07/PRF-23-INP-02_Opening_Remarks_by_Chair_of_PRF.pdf).

2.4 **Inaugural Remarks by Mr. Shaheen Ali, Permanent Secretary for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Fiji**

Mr. Shaheen Ali, Permanent Secretary for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Fiji, delivered inaugural remarks. Apart from welcoming the delegates as the host, he also highlighted the challenges, opportunities and initiatives of Fiji as well as pacific region. He also highlighted the importance of collaboration and cooperation among all the stakeholders in order to find feasible solutions to the pressing issues of this region.

The full text of his address is provided in the Document: [PRF-23/INP-03](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-03_Inaugural_Remarks_by_Permanent_Secretary.pdf).

1. SESSION 1 - PLENARY (Tuesday, 20 June 2023, 11:00 – 11:20 hrs., UTC+12)
   1. **Adoption of Agenda** (Document: [PRF-23/ADM-01](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-ADM-01_Provisional_Agenda.docx))

The Chair of PRF briefly introduced the Provisional Agenda of the Forum. The Chair then sought comments from the floor. Since there was no comment, the Agenda was adopted.

* 1. **Outcomes of the 46th Session of the Management Committee of the APT relevant to PRF** (Document: [PRF-23/INP-04](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-04_MC-46_outcomes_relevant_to_PRF.docx))

The Chair requested the Secretariat to introduce the document. Dr. Jongbong PARK, Director, Project Development of APT, introduced the outcomes of the 46th Session of the Management Committee of the APT relevant to PRF (Document: PRF-23/INP-04). He informed the decisions of MC-46 that were relevant to PRF. He also informed that the following actions need to be taken by PRF:

* Conduct the activities of PRF taking into account the revised Working Methods of PRF.
* Report the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2021-2023 relevant to PRF to the next session of the Management Committee.
* Provide input of PRF to CGSP (if any).
* Observe the Code of Conduct at all levels of the activities of PRF.

The Chair thanked the APT Secretariat for the introduction of the document. The Chair also requested the meeting to provide comments on the first draft of the Strategic Plan of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity for 2024-2026 (if any) and if there is any comment, it would be discussed in the Closing Plenary. The Chair asked the forum for questions and comments. There was no comment. The Plenary noted the outcomes of MC-46 relevant to PRF.

* 1. **Consideration of the Documents allocated to Plenary** (Document: [PRF-23/INP-05](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-05_Proposal_to_create_a_rapporteur_group_to_develop_good_practices_for_public_consultations.docx))

The Chair requested the proponent to introduce the document: PRF-23/INP-05.

GSMA presented the joint contribution (document: PRF-23/INP-05) of Axiata Group Berhad, GSMA and Meta Platforms Inc. They mentioned that public consultations being generally understood to be a systematic and collaborative process by government policymakers and/or regulators to engage with relevant stakeholders to gather insights, expertise and feedback on proposed policies or regulations. They also mentioned that the key reasons to engage in public consultations include: i) tapping the expertise and knowledge of relevant industry stakeholders; ii) anticipating and evaluating the potential impact and implications of proposed policies; iii) providing insights on operational realities, market dynamics, technological advancements and emerging trends; iv) harnessing the collective wisdom and creativity of the industry to identify effective solutions and address complex challenges; and v) fostering a sense of ownership and inclusivity and ensuring that policy decisions reflect a balance consideration of different viewpoints and concerns. Therefore, they proposed to establish a Rapporteur Group to develop a set of good practices for public consultations which could serve as a guide in conducting public consultations.

The Chair thanked the proponent for the contribution and asked the forum for questions and comments. Australia, Indonesia and Tonga supported the proposal made in the contribution.

The Chair proposed to establish an Ad-Hoc Group to discuss the matter and report back the outcomes to the Closing Plenary. The Chair also proposed the name of Mr. Brian Winji, Vice-Chair of PRF, to serve as the Chair of the Ad-Hoc Group. The Chair asked the forum for questions and comments. There was no comment. The Plenary decided to establish an Ad-Hoc Group to discuss the proposal of establishing a Rapporteur Group on Public Consultation and Mr. Brian Winji, Vice-Chair of PRF, would be the Chair of the Ad-Hoc Group.

1. SESSION 2 - MINISTERIAL SESSION ON DIGITAL AND SMART GOVERNMENT: INITIATIVES, STRATEGIES, APPLICATIONS AND IMPACTS (Tuesday, 20 June 2023, 11:30 – 12:45 hrs., UTC+12)

The session was moderated by Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General, APT. He invited dignitaries to deliver their invaluable statements/presentations on Digital and Smart Government.

* 1. H.E. Mr. Timothy Masiu, Minister of ICT, Papua New Guinea, attended the session in-person and delivered a statement on Digital and Smart Government: Initiatives, Strategies, Applications and Impacts. He mentioned about the important initiatives that were being undertaken in Papua New Guinea. His Excellency highlighted on the Corporate Plan (2020 to 2024), Digital Government Plan (2023 to 2027), National Cyber Security Policy (2021), Digital Government Act (2022), Data Governance and Protection Policy, Digital Government Technology Stack, Citizens’ eGovernment Portal etc. The detailed statement is provided in Document: [PRF-23/INP-06](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-06_Papua_New_Guinea-Statement_by_H.E._Mr._Timothy_Masiu.pdf).
  2. Dr. Nattapon Nattasomboon, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand, attended the session in-person and delivered a presentation on Digital and Smart Government: Initiatives, Strategies, Applications and Impacts. He mentioned about the significant initiatives that were being undertaken in Thailand. He highlighted on national Economy and Society Development Policy and Plan, Digital Government Development Plan, Thai Digital ID Application, Government Data Centre and Cloud Service, Government Big Data Institute etc. The detailed presentation is provided in Document: [PRF-23/INP-07](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-07_Thailand-Statement_by_Dr._Nattapon_Nattasomboon.pdf).
  3. Mr. Ahmad Norhad Zahari, Undersecretary, Communications Technology Division, Ministry of Communications and Digital, Malaysia, attended the session in-person and delivered a statement on Digital and Smart Government: Initiatives, Strategies, Applications and Impacts. He mentioned about the important initiatives that are being undertaken in Malaysia. He highlighted on the Malaysia Digital, Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint, National 4IR Policy, Jalinan Digital Negara, Pusat Ekonomi Digital, DE Rantau initiative, National Scam Response Center, Personal Data Protection Act etc. The detailed statement is provided in Document: [PRF-23/INP-08](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-08_Malaysia-Statement_by_Mr._Ahmad_Norhad_Zahari_0.pdf).
  4. Mr. Onodera Osamu, Director-General, International Affairs, Global Strategy Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication, Japan, attended the session virtually and presented the Vision for a Digital Garden City Nation which primarily focusses on key cooperation between public and private sectors. Further, he highlighted Infrastructure Programs including Optical fiber development, 5G deployment, Development of Data Centers, Submarine Cables and Beyond 5G(6G). Subsequently, an overall roadmap for the Digital Garden City Nation Infrastructure Plan was briefly outlined. The detailed presentation is provided in Document: [PRF-23/INP-09](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-09_Japan-Recent_Topics_of_ICT_Policies_in_Japan.pdf).

The Moderator thanked the Speakers for sharing their insights and experiences.

1. SESSION 3 – REGULATORS’ ROUNDTABLE ON DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DIGITAL SOCIETY (Tuesday, 20 June 2023, 14:15 – 15:30 hrs., UTC+12)

The session was moderated by Mr. Ilyas Ahmed, Chief Executive, Communications Authority of Maldives. After a brief introduction, he invited Panelists to provide their insights and experiences regarding digital connectivity and digital transformation for a sustainable digital society.

5.1 Mr. Shyam Sunder Sikder, Chairman, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, attended the session virtually. He highlighted challenges for digital transformation in Bangladesh such as lack of awareness, literacy, digital skills, digital security and local content as well as affordability. He also emphasized the initiatives to overcome these challenges such as instructions for establishment of mobile phone handset assembling and manufacturing plant in Bangladesh, implementation of ‘One Country One Rate’ for fixed broadband internet, user friendly e-services designed to attract citizens in rural areas, digital connectivity project, information security manual for all Ministries, software quality assurance testing center, cyber threat detection and response team, digital forensic lab, national CERT, BTRC CSIRT etc.

5.2 Mr. Kila Gulo-Vui, Chief Executive Officer, National Information and Communications Technology Authority, Papua New Guinea, attended the session in-person. He emphasized light touch regulation for ensuring the digital transformation i.e. policymakers and regulators should allow the industry and market to take the lead and intervene only if the market fails. He also highlighted on making a balance between ensuring meaningful connectivity, innovation and industry growth including investor’s perspective. He mentioned that regulation need to be adaptable and fit for purpose. He further highlighted on the initiatives of the government such as encouraging youth and girls in ICT, Universal Access and Service (UAS) Policy and Strategic Plan etc.

5.3 Ms. Lematua Gisa Fuatai Purcell, Regulator, Office of the Regulator for Telecommunications, Broadcasting, Postal and Electricity, Samoa, attended the session virtually. She highlighted the legislative reform regarding availability, Quality of Service and Experience, affordability, digital skills and literacy, digital divide, gender divide and generational divide, security, relevance, local content etc. She also emphasized on the way forward i.e. harmonizing policies, strategies, legal framework, collaboration among stakeholders, interventions of governments and donor organizations to help reduce digital and gender inequality, meaningful connectivity, improved Quality of Service and Experience etc.

5.4 Mr. Brian Winji, Telecommunications Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator, Vanuatu, attended the session in-person. He emphasized on the challenges such as affordability, local content etc. and initiatives of the government of Vanuatu such as cyber security policy, child online protection policy, harmful digital communications policy etc. to address the adoption of emerging technologies as well as digital transformation of society through digital services. He also highlighted on the way forward to reduce the smart device gap, such as reducing taxes and VAT as well as incentives, which being crucial for digital transformation. He further emphasized on encouraging youth and girls in ICT.

The Moderator thanked the Panelists for sharing their insights and experiences as well as to the participants for their active participation.

1. SESSION 4 – BUSINESS DIALOGUE ON CONDUCIVE ICT REGULATORY REGIME AT EVOLVING ERA (Tuesday, 20 June 2023, 16:00 – 17:15 hrs., UTC+12)

The session was moderated by Mr. Kila Gulo-Vui, Chief Executive Officer, National Information and Communications Technology Authority, Papua New Guinea. He requested the Panelists to share their insights and experiences on conducive ICT regulatory regime at evolving era.

6.1 Ms. Zurairah Binti Mohmad Shaid, Lead Digital Policies and Regulations, Axiata Group Berhad, attended the session in-person. In her initial remark, she highlighted the following:

* In just 30 years, mobile has deployed 2.5 billion connections in Southeast Asia and South Asia to create new opportunities and a higher quality of life.
* $240 billion investment into telecommunication infrastructure has been mobilized by investors into Southeast Asia and South Asia markets since 2000.
* Digitally enabled growth could add $1.79 trillion to GDP by 2035.
* By 2030, digital infrastructure could expand inclusion in Southeast Asia and South Asia by bringing 600 m more people online, closing the gap for UN SDG goals and ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025.
* Significant investments in connectivity will be required to put in place the digital ecosystems needed for take-off.

She further mentioned in order to accelerate and enable digital transformation for emerging and frontier markets, new regulatory framework as well as consideration of common parameters and collaboration and partnership among all stakeholders need to be addressed. The detailed presentation can be found in Document: [PRF-23/INP-11](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-11_Axiata-Conducive_ICT_Regulatory_Regime_at_Evolving_Era_0.pdf).

6.2 Ms. Manisha Dogra, Senior Vice President and Head of External Relations, Telenor Asia, attended the session virtually. In her initial remark, she highlighted the following:

* Mobile has evolved over the years. On the demand side, mobile applications are now front and center of mobile usage. On the supply side, from vertical integration to layers in a stack.
* With the evolution of technologies, managing resources, splitting of responsibilities, sharing infrastructure and incentives on investment are crucial.

She further highlighted the 3 principles in evolving regulations and policy i.e. 1) Level playing field - Same service same rules, 2) Far sighted – Balance short versus long term priorities, 3) Fit for purpose – Continuously evolve and adapt. The detailed presentation can be found in Document: [PRF-23/INP-12](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-12_Telenor-Conducive_ICT_Regulatory_Regime_at_Evolving_Era_0.pdf).

6.3 Mr. Xu Su, CMO, Carrier Business Group. APAC, Huawei, attended the session in-person. In his initial remark, he highlighted the significance of conducive regulation regime at the evolving era from the perspective of innovation, consumer as well as investors. He mentioned that regulation the Asia Pacific region could be different from the other regions of the world because of the usage pattern of the consumers and policymakers need to enact policies and regulations based on the demand and usage pattern of the consumers of the region while also keeping in mind the perspective of industry players.

6.4 Ms Marilena Ampelikioti, Regional Director, Market Access and Spectrum Policy, Telesat, attended the session virtually. In her initial remark, she highlighted the following:

* Internet delivered via Telesat Lightspeed’s high speed, low latency backhaul will empower communities, expand healthcare resources, and create opportunities in underserved areas.
* Telesat Lightspeed’s flexible capacity and plug-and-play nature allows new sites to be rapidly connected under emergency and disaster recovery situations.

She further highlighted the recommended basis of the framework for satellite licensing in Asia-Pacific. The detailed presentation can be found in Document: [PRF-23/INP-13](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-13_Telesat-Connecting_the_Unconnected_through_LEO_1.pdf).

In conclusion, the Panelists emphasized on the need of close collaboration, cooperation and consultation among all stakeholders, not only in national level but also in international level, to address the pressing issues of the industry players so that they could facilitate the vision of the governments at this evolving technological era.

The Moderator thanked the Panelists for sharing their insights and experiences as well as to the participants for their active participation.

1. REMARKS BY H.E. MR. MANOA SERU KAMIKAMICA, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE, CO-OPERATIVES, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND COMMUNICATIONS, FIJI (Wednesday, 21 June 2023, 09:40 – 10:00 hrs., UTC+12)
   1. H.E. Mr. Manoa Seru Kamikamica, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Fiji, delivered his remarks. He highlighted on the initiatives of the Government of Fiji to enhance its digital ecosystem in order to facilitate economic growth through strategic and multistakeholder partnerships, fostering digital entrepreneurship, promoting e-commerce, developing digital skills, and embarking on smart island initiative. He also highlighted on the challenges, opportunities and impacts regarding the connectivity and digital inclusion, digital transformation and digital trust, cybersecurity in Fijian context.

The full text of his remarks can be found in Document: [PRF-23/INP-14](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-14-Remarks_by_Deputy_Prime_Minister.pdf).

1. SESSION 5 (BUSINESS DIALOGUE) ON SATELLITE CONSTELLATIONS: REQUIREMENTS, CHALLENGES AND IMPACT IN ASIA PACIFIC (Wednesday, 21 June 2023, 10:00 – 11:15 hrs., UTC+12)

The session was moderated by Mr. Tabotabo Auatabu, Chief Legal and Licensing Officer, Digital Transformation Office, Ministry of Information, Communications and Transport, Kiribati. He requested the Panelists to share their insights and experiences on the requirements, challenges and impact of satellite constellations in Asia-Pacific.

* 1. Ms. Sonja Lukic, Manager, International Regulatory Affairs, Amazon’s Project Kuiper, attended the session virtually. She highlighted on the following issues:
* NGSO systems require regulatory certainty, and a” light touch” regulatory approach must be taken into account.
* Internationally harmonized spectrum allocations lead to predictability and facilitate deployment of innovative technologies.
* For satellite to play its role in the communications ecosystem, it must continue to have access to the spectrum in use today (Ka Band) and to new spectrum to meet future demand (Q/V Band).
* Adopt spectrum assignment methodologies that are consistent with International best practices.

She also highlighted frequency band evolution of LEO systems. space safety and sustainability, constellation design, reliability, deorbit and demise etc. Detailed presentation can be found in Document: [PRF-23/INP-15](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-15_Amazon-Satellite_Constellations_Requirements_Challenges_and_Impact_in_Asia_Pacific.pdf).

* 1. Ms. Mary Lim, Director, Regulatory and Market Access, Inmarsat, attended the session virtually. She highlighted on the following issues:
* Reduce regulatory hurdles or encourage deployment of satellite services (e.g. landing rights requirement, reasonable spectrum pricing).
* Allow for satellite provision of international internet capacity without a requirement for domestic ground stations.
* Light licensing or similar licensing regime apply for MSS for Satellite IoT.
* Similar licensing regime for terminal use on UAV using satellite network.
* Blanket licence for user terminals with similar technical / operational characteristics.
* Allow free circulation for foreign satellite terminals (licensed at relevant countries) to operate on a noninterference and non-protection basis without licence.
* Allow foreign satellite operators to apply for relevant licences without unnecessary requirement (e.g. local entity).

She also highlighted the key markets and spectrum needs for satellite communication. Detailed presentation can be found in Document: [PRF-23/INP-16](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-16_Inmarsat-Satellite_Constellations_Requirements_Challenges_and_Impact_in_Asia_Pacific.pdf).

* 1. Mr. Jacques-Samuel Prolon, Senior Vice President, Corporate Development, Kacific Broadband Satellites Ltd, attended the session in-person. He highlighted Kacific1 satellite which was launched in 2019 to serve 25 countries in Ka band with 56 beams. Kacific’s service includes the South Asia and Pacific region. He also highlighted the Kacific2 satellite which would be in service soon. He further highlighted the importance of the support from the governments, policy makers and regulators for more effective satellite services in this region.
  2. Mr. Peng Zhao, Vice-President, Government Affairs and Policy, One Web, attended the session virtually. He highlighted on the following issues:
* Encourage the deployment of innovative technologies and service models.
* Promulgate overt policies to close the digital divide and have universal service.
* Maintain technology-neutral goals and policies (such as supporting the development of ‘broadband services’ without specifying the technology (e.g., talking about IMT, when satellite or another technology might also be able to provide broadband).
* Encourage competition both within the country (domestic) and across borders (such as to allow foreign companies to hold licenses and provide services).
* Prioritize digital inclusion with ubiquitous connectivity rather than faster speed.

He also mentioned that OneWeb is working through distribution partners and MNOs to provide a new connectivity and networking solutions Detailed presentation can be found in Document: [PRF-23/INP-17](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-17_OneWeb-Satellite_Constellations_Requirements_Challenges_and_Impact_in_Asia_Pacific.pdf).

* 1. Dr. Tare Brisibe, Senior Legal and Regulatory Counsel, Asia-Pacific, SES, attended the session in-person. He highlighted on the following issues:
* Satellites will play an important role in accelerating the deployment of 4G, 5G and legacy data networks worldwide, seamless integrating hard-to-serve and under-served areas into a global ecosystem.
* Significant investments in new satellite, network and service capabilities are supporting connectivity requirements and will address new opportunities, including 5G.
* Multi-orbit satellite systems will enable innovative solutions to achieve universal connectivity.
* Satellite systems depend on reliable and expanded access to spectrum for current and future needs. Satellite systems require access to radio spectrum in various bands to operate in GSO & NGSO.
* Regulators adopt market access and regulatory principles, that would maximise the positive impact of satellite services and enhance the role of satellite in bridging the digital divide.

He also highlighted the beauty of combining GSO with NGSO, multi-orbit, multi-frequency service for evolving connectivity needs etc. Detailed presentation can be found in Document: [PRF-23/INP-18](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-18_SES-Satellite_Constellations_Requirements_Challenges_and_Impact_in_Asia_Pacific.pdf).

The Moderator thanked the Panelists for sharing their insights and experiences as well as to the participants for their active participation.

1. SESSION 6: DISASTER-RESILIENT AND EMERGENCY ICT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT(Wednesday, 21 June 2023, 11:45 – 13:00 hrs., UTC+12)

The session was moderated by Ms. Nicola Bennett, Senior Policy Officer, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, Australia. She requested the Speakers to deliver their presentations.

* 1. Dr. Sanjay Srivastava, Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, attended the session virtually and presented technology ecosystem for disaster resilience. He highlighted on the challenges of new normal i.e. 3C risks - Complex, Compound and Cascading risks, spectrum of technology in levels of operationalization, technology ecosystems for disaster risk management, climate science, five critical Infrastructure that must be disaster resilient, needs and gaps for resilient infrastructure, way forward to deliver resilient infrastructure systems. Detailed presentation can be found in Document: [PRF-23/INP-19](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-19_UNESCAP-Technology_ecosystem_for_disaster_resilience.pdf).

9.2 Ms. Diane Lopiccolo, Project Coordinator, Telecoms Sans Frontieres, attended the session virtually and presented on disaster-resilient and emergency ICT infrastructure for sustainable development. She highlighted TSF’s activities to protect people in crisis and humanitarian emergencies through communication and access to information. She also shared the experiences of TSF’s projects during disasters. Detailed presentation can be found in Document: [PRF-23/INP-20](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-20_TSF-Disaster-resilient_and_Emergency_ICT_Infrastructure_for_Sustainable_Development.pdf).

9.3 Mr. Bashir Patel, Senior Advisor and GSOA Coordinator, attended the session virtually and presented on disaster-resilient and emergency ICT infrastructure for sustainable development. He emphasized the effective use of ICTs for disaster management, trends of natural disasters, global impacts, vulnerability and impacts in Asia-Pacific region, solutions by using satellite at different phases of disasters etc. Detailed presentation can be found in Document: [PRF-23/INP-21](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-21_GSOA-Disaster-resilient_and_Emergency_ICT_Infrastructure_for_Sustainable_Development.pdf).

9.4 Mr. Ivan Fong, Vice President, Sales (Pacific), Kacific Broadband Satellites Ltd, attended the session in-person and presented disaster-resilient and emergency ICT infrastructure for sustainable development. He highlighted on the satellite internet which is a key solution for disaster resilience in the Pacific region in terms of wide coverage, rapid deployment, versatility, scalability, resilience and reliability. He also mentioned COMMSBOX which is an all-in-one boxed solution with auto pointing antenna to provide high-speed broadband service during disasters. Detailed presentation can be found in Document: [PRF-23/INP-22](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-22_Kacific-Disaster-resilient_and_Emergency_ICT_Infrastructure_for_Sustainable_Development.pdf).

The Moderator thanked the Speakers for sharing their insights and experiences as well as to the participants for their active participation.

1. SESSION 7: BUSINESS DIALOGUE ON 5G DEVELOPMENTS: TRANSFORMING LIVES FOR BETTER TOMORROW (Wednesday, 21 June 2023, 14:30 – 15:45 hrs., UTC+12)

The session was moderated by Mr. Yishen Chan, Director, Spectrum (Asia Pacific), GSMA. In this initial address, he highlighted on the following issues:

* Benefits that 5G can bring
* Key challenges for network operators regarding monetization of 5G investment
* Policy and regulatory environment for sustainability, growth, innovation and investment

Detailed presentation can be found in Document: [PRF-23/INP-23](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-23_GSMA-5G_Developments-Transforming_Lives_for_Better_Tomorrow.pdf). He requested the Panelists to share their insights and experiences on the 5G developments.

10.1 Ms. Zurairah Binti Mohmad Shaid, Lead Digital Policies and Regulations, Axiata Group Berhad, attended the session in-person and presented 5G developments. She highlighted on the following:

- 5G Opportunities for all

- Enablers to 5G that regulations need to focus on making 5G a reality

- The current business model is not sustainable for mobile operators to continue to provide reliable 5G connectivity

- Timely relook at preparing the 5G policy readiness based on global best practices

Detailed presentation can be found in Document: [PRF-23/INP-24](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-24_Axiata-5G_Developments-Transforming_Lives_for_Better_Tomorrow.pdf).

10.2 Ms. Ye Min, Senior Manager, Spectrum and Policy, Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd, attended the session in-person and presented on 5G developments. She highlighted the following:

- 5G as Key Driving Force To Realize Digital Transformation

- 5G Application Competition ‘Bloom Cup’

- Ultra-high uplink meets Gbps requirements of remote control

- 5G is gearing up globally and will step into rapid growth phase in APAC

- Work together to make 5G success

Detailed presentation can be found in Document: [PRF-23/INP-25](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-25_Huawei-5G_Developments-Transforming_Lives_for_Better_Tomorrow.pdf).

10.3 Ms. Julie Garcia Welch, Vice President, Government Affairs, Qualcomm, attended the session virtually and presented 5G developments. She highlighted that 5G technology is a key factor in narrowing the digital divide through mobile and fixed broadband. Detailed presentation can be found in Document: [PRF-23/INP-26](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-26_Qualcomm-5G_Developments-Transforming_Lives_for_Better_Tomorrow.pdf).

10.4 Mr. Jonathan Yap, Director, Public and Regulatory Affairs Asia, Telenor, attended the session virtually and presented 5G developments. He highlighted on the following:

- Exploring opportunities of 5G

- Transition to 5G will take time based on market maturity

- Holistic approach is key to achieve joint 5G outcomes

Detailed presentation can be found in Document: [PRF-23/INP-27](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-27_Telenor-5G_Developments-Transforming_Lives_for_Better_Tomorrow.pdf).

The Moderator thanked the Panelists for sharing their insights and experiences as well as to the participants for their active participation.

1. SESSION 8: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND SOCIAL MEDIA: OPPORTUNITIES AND ETHICAL CHALLENGES (Wednesday, 21 June 2023, 16:15 – 17:30 hrs., UTC+12)

The session was moderated by Mr. Rajnesh Singh, Regional Vice President, Asia-Pacific, Internet Society. After a brief introduction, he requested the Speakers to deliver their presentations on Artificial Intelligence and social media.

11.1 Dr. Zicai Tang, Director, Division of International Organizations, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, China, attended the session in-person and presented development and governance of Artificial Intelligence in China. He highlighted on the following issues:

* Development and application of Artificial Intelligence in China
* Ethical challenges posed by AI and Chinese regulatory practices
* China's development planning and governance concept for AI

The detailed presentation can be found in Document: [PRF-23/INP-28](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-28_China-Development_and_Governance_of_Artificial_Intelligence_in_China.pdf).

11.2 Mr. Jaipal Singh Tomar, Advisor, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, attended the session in-person and presented Artificial Intelligence and social media. He emphasized on the following issues:

* Use cases of AI in social media
* AI’s potential to address challenges of Social Media
* Challenges of using AI
* Principles of ethical and responsible AI.
* Risk based regulation of AI use cases
* Self-regulation of AI effective
* Role of international collaboration
* Role of stakeholders

The detailed presentation can be found in Document: [PRF-23/INP-29](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-29_India-Artificial_Intelligence_and_Social_Media-Opportunities_and_Ethical_Challenges.pdf).

11.3 Ms. Thasawan Samorwong, Director of International Affairs Division, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand, attended the session in-person and presented AI implementation in Thailand. She highlighted on the following issues:

- Thailand National AI Strategy and Action Plan

- AI ethics guideline of Thailand

- AI initiatives in Thailand

- AI pilot projects in Thailand

The detailed presentation can be found in Document: [PRF-23/INP-30](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-30_Thailand-AI_Implementation_in_Thailand_0.pdf).

The Moderator thanked the Speakers for sharing their insights and experiences as well as to the participants for their active participation.

**12. SESSION 9** **- DIGITAL FORENSICS AND INCIDENT RESPONSE: BEST PRACTICES TO COMBAT CYBER THREATS** (Thursday, 22 June 2023, 09:30 – 10:45 hrs., UTC+12)

The session was moderated by Mr. Brian Winji, Telecommunications Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator, Vanuatu. He introduced the speakers and requested them to deliver their presentations.

12.1 Ms. Melissa Whittaker, Director of Digital Forensics and Incident Response, Australian Cyber Security Centre, presented the digital forensics and incident response: best practices to combat cyber threats. She highlighted the basics of incident response as well as life cycle of incident response i.e. preparation, detection and analysis, containment eradication and recovery, post-incident activity. She also highlighted on mandatory reporting system and future challenges. Her detailed presentation is provided in Document: [PRF-23/INP-31](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-31_Australia-Digital_Forensics_and_Incident_Response.pdf).

12.2 Dr. Nattapon Nattasomboon, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand, presented on the prevention and mitigation of online scams in Thailand. He highlighted the digital status of Thailand in 2023, strategies to combat online scams in Thailand (prevention, interception and suppression) as well as collaboration among stakeholder to combat online scams in Thailand and international cooperation on anti-online scam etc. His detailed presentation is provided in Document: [PRF-23/INP-32](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-32_Thailand-Prevention_and_Mitigation_of_Online_Scams_in_Thailand.pdf).

12.3 Ms. Yukako Uchida, Board of Directors, Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST), presented on digital forensics and incident response: best practices to combat cyber threats. She highlighted the FIRST aspiration to bring together incident response and security teams from every country across the world to ensure a safe internet for all. She also highlighted FIRST’s activities, membership process, fellowship program, special interest groups, standards. technical resources, capacity building etc. Her detailed presentation is provided in Document: [PRF-23/INP-33](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-33_FIRST-Digital_Forensics_and_Incident_Response.pdf).

The Moderator thanked the Speakers for sharing their insights and experiences as well as to the participants for their active participation.

13. SESSION 10 - INCLUSIVE AND UNIVERSAL ICT SERVICES (Thursday, 22 June 2023, 11:15 – 12:30 hrs., UTC+12)

The session was moderated by Ms. Thasawan Samorwong, Director of International Affairs Division, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand. She introduced the speakers and requested them to deliver their presentations.

13.1 Ms. Hyun Ju Moon, Professor, Chungbuk National University, Republic of Korea, presented self-service Kiosk information accessibility policy in Republic of Korea. She highlighted on the beginning of digital contactless unmanned stores, types of unmanned information terminals, status of Kiosk deployment, market status of Kiosks, status in neighboring countries, difficulties in accessing Kiosks, status of self-service Kiosk accessibility systems and standards, priority purchase system for promoting accessible products, building a Kiosk UI platform, Kiosk accessibility improvement policy, etc. Her detailed presentation is provided in Document: [PRF-23/INP-34](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-34_Korea-Self-Service_Kiosk_Information_Accessibility_Policy_in_Korea.pdf).

13.2 Mr. Mudassar Naveed, Director General, Strategy and Development, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, presented inclusive and universal ICT services. He highlighted on the challenges i.e. accessibility barriers, rapid pace of technology revolution, affordability, digital literacy and skill, cultural language diversity, content for local and relevant to diverse audience, gender gap, outdated/outmoded policy and regulations etc. He also highlighted on the way forward i.e. awareness and training, collaboration with all stakeholders, inclusive design, digital infrastructure, continuous improvement etc. His detailed presentation is provided in Document: [PRF-23/INP-35](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-35_Pakistan-Inclusive_and_Universal_ICT_Services.pdf).

13.3 Ms. Lematua Gisa Fuatai Purcell, Regulator, Office of the Regulator for Telecommunications, Broadcasting, Postal and Electricity, Samoa, presented on inclusive and universal ICT services towards regulating next generation universal access in Samoa. She highlighted the legislative reform regarding availability, Quality of Service and Experience, affordability, digital skills and literacy, digital divide, gender divide and generational divide, security, relevance, local content etc. She also highlighted on the way forward i.e. harmonizing policies, strategies, legal framework, collaboration among stakeholders, interventions of governments and donor communities to help reduce digital and gender inequality, meaningful connectivity, improved Quality of Service and Experience etc. Her detailed presentation is provided in Document: [PRF-23/INP-36](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-36_Samoa-Inclusive_and_Universal_ICT_Services_Towards_Regulating_Next_Generation_Universal_Access_in_Samoa.pdf).

13.4 Mr. Rajnesh Singh, Regional Vice President, Asia-Pacific, Internet Society, presented on a resilient internet to empower inclusive and universal ICT services. He highlighted overview of internet use, internet resilience index (infrastructure, performance, security market readiness) etc. His detailed presentation is provided in Document: [PRF-23/INP-37](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-37_ISOC-A_Resilient_Internet_to_Empower_Inclusive_and_Universal_ICT_Services.pdf).

The Moderator thanked the Speakers for sharing their insights and experiences as well as to the participants for their active participation.

14. SESSION 11 – PLENARY (Thursday, 22 June 2023, 12:30 – 13:00 hrs., UTC+12)

**14.1 Way Forward**

The Chair invited the Chair of Ad-Hoc Group to report the outcomes of the discussion in the Ad-Hoc Group. The Chair of Ad-Hoc Group reported that the Ad-Hoc Group met once and discussed the joint input contribution (Document: [PRF-23/INP-05](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-INP-05_Proposal_to_create_a_rapporteur_group_to_develop_good_practices_for_public_consultations.docx)). After discussion, the Ad-Hoc Group agreed to establish a Rapporteur Group and developed a (draft) Terms of Reference of the Rapporteur Group on Public Consultation (Document: [PRF-23/OUT-01](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-OUT-01_Terms-of-Reference-RG-Public-Consultation_0.docx)) and also discussed the nomination of the leadership of the Rapporteur Group. He also informed that the draft ToR contains the role and responsibilities, expected outcome(s), participation, leadership, working methods, life span of the Rapporteur Group as well as the Workplan for the Rapporteur Group on Public Consultation. He further reported that the Ad-Hoc Group also discussed the nominations of Ms. Nicola Bennett (Australia) as Rapporteur and Mr. Tabotabo Auatabu (Kiribati) and Mr. Charles Chew (GSMA) as the Co-Rapporteurs of the Rapporteur Group.

The Chair thanked the Chair of Ad-Hoc Group. The Chair proposed to establish the Rapporteur Group on Public Consultation with the (draft) Terms of Reference of Rapporteur Group as mentioned in Document: [PRF-23/OUT-01](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-OUT-01_Terms-of-Reference-RG-Public-Consultation_0.docx) as well as to consider the nominations. The Chair asked for questions or comments. Fiji and Papua New Guinea supported the proposal. The Republic of Korea asked whether there would be any financial implications of establishing the Rapporteur Group. The APT Secretariat replied that there would not be any financial implication as the Rapporteur Group would work mainly through email correspondence with virtual meetings (if needed). There was no additional comment. The Plenary decided to establish a Rapporteur Group on Public Consultation with the Terms of Reference of Rapporteur Group as mentioned in Document: [PRF-23/OUT-01](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/2023/06/PRF-23-OUT-01_Terms-of-Reference-RG-Public-Consultation_0.docx) as well as approve the nomination of Ms. Nicola Bennett (Australia) as Rapporteur and Mr. Tabotabo Auatabu (Kiribati) and Mr. Charles Chew as the Co-Rapporteurs of the Rapporteur Group.

The Chair further asked for any suggestion for topics of PRF-24. As there was no comment from the participants, the Director, Project Development of APT mentioned that APT would send a survey to the participants where any proposal or suggestion for topics of future PRF could be provided. The Chair thanked the APT Secretariat.

**14.2 Date and Venue of PRF-24**

The Chair invited the APT Secretariat to inform if there being any proposal for hosting PRF-24. The Secretary General mentioned that the APT Secretariat had not received any proposal. He also mentioned that APT Secretariat would consult with the PRF Office Bearers regarding the date and venue of PRF-24 and organize accordingly. The Chair thanked the Secretary General. The Chair asked for questions or comments. There was no comment.

**14.3 Any other matters**

The Chair informed that Office Bearers of PRF did not receive any feedback on the draft Strategic Plan of APT for 2024-2026. The Chair invited the APT Secretariat to inform if they received any feedback. The Director, Project Development of APT informed that Secretariat did not receive any feedback on the draft Strategic Plan of APT for 2024-2026 as well, and also informed that there are still opportunities to contribute, if any, directly at the meeting of the Correspondence Group on Strategic Plan scheduled to be held at early August 2023. Chair confirmed that there is no comment on the draft Strategic Plan of APT for 2024-2026 as PRF.

China, Kiribati, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Internet Society expressed their sincere appreciations to the Host for warm hospitality, effective arrangements and social events as well as to the APT Secretariat for excellent coordination and organization of PRF-23.

**14.4 Closing**

Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General of APT, delivered his closing remarks. He summarized features of PRF-23 highlighting the key takeaways from the Ministerial Session, Regulators’ Roundtable, Business Dialogues and Thematic Sessions. He also emphasized that the decision taken by PRF-23 to establish the Rapporteur Group on Public Consultation being an important step to make PRF a more effective and valuable platform as well as to obtain tangible outcomes from PRF. In conclusion, he conveyed his sincere appreciation to the Excellencies, the Heads of Regulators, the Chair and Vice-Chairs of PRF, the Fiji Government as well as to the Speakers, Moderators and participants for their valuable contributions and wished everyone safe return and looked forward to seeing in future APT events.

Ms. Tupoutu'ah Baravilala, Director-General, Ministry of Trade, Co-Operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications, Fiji delivered closing remarks on behalf of the host. She highlighted the importance of key takeaways from the Ministerial Session, Regulators’ Roundtable, Business Dialogues and Thematic Sessions of PRF-23. She invited further collaboration and cooperation among all APT members as well as stakeholders for the betterment of this Asia-Pacific region. Finally, she thanked the Excellencies, the Heads of Regulators, the Chair and Vice-Chairs of PRF, speakers, moderators, participants and the APT Secretariat for their valuable contributions and participation at PRF-23.

Mr. Ilyas Ahmed, Chair of PRF delivered his closing remarks. He informed that PRF-23 proved to be a very successful and valuable event through the lively discussions and sharing of insights and experiences at the Ministerial Session, Regulators’ Roundtable, Business Dialogues and Thematic Sessions. He also thanked all the moderators, speakers and participants for making the event very lively. In conclusion, he thanked APT Secretariat and the host for all the support, coordination, arrangement and hospitality in making this hybrid PRF-23 a successful one.

The Forum ended with a traditional Fijian farewell song.

The Chair declared PRF-23 closed.