



Secretary General

WELCOME REMARKS

Excellencies,
Heads of Telecom and ICT Regulators,
Mr. Ilyas Ahmed, Chair of APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF),
Ms. Thasawan Samorwong, Mr. Brian Winji, Vice-Chairs of PRF,
Distinguished Guests, Moderators, Speakers and Delegates,

Good morning.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the 24th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-24) here in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

We are honored to host around 200 participants from 55 APT members and 13 international organizations, with 100 joining us in person.

After the PRF-23 in Fiji last year, we had the 16th Session of the General Assembly that adopted the APT Strategic Plan for 2024-2026. This plan outlines our vision, objectives, and action plans to address the priorities of our members, with the PRF being one of the key platforms for implementing our strategic initiatives.

As we commence the first year of this Strategic Plan, PRF-24 stands as a pivotal event for discussing key ICT policy and regulatory issues. Our program features sessions on contemporary topics critical for policymakers and industry leaders, considering our five strategic pillars: Digital Connectivity, Digital Transformation, Trust and Safety, Digital Inclusion, and Sustainability. We also emphasize collaboration, partnerships, and capacity building.

Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

In alignment with our Strategic Plan, I would like to highlight some key features of PRF-24:

1. **Public Consultation Guideline:** The PRF will consider the report from the Rapporteur Group on Public Consultation, with the expectation of approving a new guideline. This innovative

initiative aims to produce tangible outcomes. Once discussed and approved at this PRF, we will promote it to all members.

2. **Diverse Sessions:** Over the coming three days, sessions will cover various ICT issues from different angles and perspectives. These include a high-level session on smart governance, a roundtable for heads of regulators, and a business dialogue addressing industry perspectives. Additionally, thematic sessions will cover climate change, disaster management, cyber wellness, and inclusive internet solutions.

3. **Collaborative Efforts:** We will have collaborative sessions with the Internet Society and ASEAN. This new initiative aims to expand our potential and scope of collaboration.

I hope these themes and formats provide valuable insights and foster meaningful discussions. I sincerely appreciate your participation and contributions.

Thank you, and I wish you all a productive and enriching PRF-24.