



Secretary General

WELCOME ADDRESS

Mr. Kila Gulo-Vui, Chair of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25 (*joining virtually*),

Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), ITU (*presented through recorded video message*),

Vice-Chairs of APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 5th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (APT WTDC25-5), here in Bangkok, Thailand.

I am delighted to note that this meeting has brought together more than 200 participants, representing APT Members, Affiliate Members, international organizations, and other key stakeholders. Your presence highlights the importance our region places on preparing for WTDC-25.

Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation for your continued commitment. Your active engagement is essential in forging a strong regional voice for the Asia-Pacific.

Today, we stand at the threshold of our region's final preparations before the WTDC-25 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

From our first preparatory discussions in Chiang Mai to the productive session in Pattaya, each meeting has advanced our work.

Distinguished Delegates,

As we come to this fifth and final meeting, it is fitting to reflect on our progress. Through constructive dialogue and dedication, we have built a solid foundation of APT Common Proposals (ACPs) that embody our shared priorities.

To be specific, fifteen (15) PACPs were adopted in the last meeting and seven (7) draft or candidate PACPs were agreed to carry forward for further discussion.

At this meeting, we will focus on finalizing these carried-forward items, considering new proposals, and confirming the nomination of ACP Focal Points, Leading and Assisting Countries, for which I seek your cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we look ahead to Baku, we must remind ourselves of the broader purpose of our work. WTDC-25 is not only a platform to present regional proposals - it is also where the APT region

demonstrates its solidarity and leadership in shaping the global development agenda for telecommunication and ICT.

This is our final opportunity to consolidate regional positions before WTDC-25. Let us approach this meeting with the same spirit of cooperation and trust that has guided us so far. When the APT delegation arrives in Baku, let us stand as one strong regional community.

I am confident that through your wisdom and collaboration, the outcomes of this meeting will empower us to represent the APT region with clarity, strength, and purpose.

I wish you productive discussions and successful deliberations.

Thank you.