



Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity

WELCOME ADDRESS

Excellency, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Honorable, Federal Minister for IT and
Telecommunication, Government of Pakistan

Mr. Major General (R) Hafeezur Rehman, Chairman, Pakistan
Telecommunications Authority,

Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chair, SATRC and Chairman, Telecom Regulatory
Authority of India

Distinguished Members of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators'
Council,

Local Dignitaries,

Distinguished guests and delegates,

Good morning.

It is my great honour and pleasure to welcome you all to the 26th Meeting of the
South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-26) here in
Islamabad, Pakistan.

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, I wish to extend my heartfelt
gratitude to Your Excellency Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja for gracing this opening
ceremony. Your presence gives us great encouragement.

I would also like to convey my deep appreciation to the Pakistan
Telecommunications Authority and its Chairman, Mr. Hafeezur Rehman, for
hosting this important event and for the excellent arrangements made for all
delegates.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Since its establishment in 1997, SATRC has served as a vital platform for the
heads of telecommunication regulatory authorities of nine South Asian countries.
Through successive Action Plans, SATRC has achieved tangible outcomes that
address shared regional challenges.

I commend all members for their dedicated efforts and emphasize that continued commitment from each administration remains essential to sustaining this success.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Promoting partnership and cooperation—both within our region and globally—is among the six key priorities identified in the Tokyo Statement, adopted by Ministers at the APT Ministerial Meeting 2025 in Tokyo, Japan. The Statement calls upon us to strengthen collaboration to harness emerging technologies for a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable digital transformation across the Asia-Pacific.

The work of SATRC—particularly through the implementation of its Action Plans—embodies this commitment by providing a mechanism for regional cooperation aligned with the Ministerial vision.

Distinguished Delegates,

At the 24th SATRC Meeting held in Dhaka in 2023, the Council adopted Action Plan Phase IX (2024–2025). Under this phase, the two Working Groups have successfully completed their assigned tasks. Their reports will be reviewed and considered for approval during this meeting.

I extend my sincere thanks to the host countries, the Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and experts of these Working Groups for their outstanding contributions and voluntary dedication.

Distinguished Delegates,

During these three days, the Council will review the outcomes of Action Plan Phase IX and discuss the next Action Plan Phase X (2026–2027). This meeting will also explore ways to further enhance SATRC’s work, taking into account financial sustainability and member engagement.

A Roundtable session will provide an opportunity for Council members to exchange views on regulatory approaches for implementing the Tokyo Statement and ensuring a sustainable digital future. In addition, the Regulator-Industry Dialogue will help identify emerging challenges and promote stronger collaboration between regulators and industry stakeholders.

In closing, I once again express my sincere gratitude to our distinguished guests for their presence and to PTA for its warm hospitality and excellent preparations. The APT Secretariat stands ready to assist all participants throughout this meeting.

I wish you all fruitful discussions and a successful meeting, and I hope you enjoy your stay in Islamabad.

Thank you very much.