



Secretary General

WELCOME REMARKS

Ms. Zhu Keer, Chair of the APT Preparatory Group for PP-26,
Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General of the ITU,
Mr. Avinash Agarwal, Mr. Yoshiaki Nagaya, Ms. Thasawan Samorwong, and Mr. Bui Ha Long,
Vice-Chairs of APT PP-26,
Mr. Alireza Darvishi, Special Advisor to APT PP-26,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and good afternoon to you all.

It is my distinct privilege to welcome you to the 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026.

Today, we are joined by over 230 registered participants representing 26 Member countries, 21 Affiliate Members, and International Organizations. But numbers tell only half the story. What I see here are the architects of our digital future. We are not here simply to discuss policies; we are here to build the foundation upon which the next generation will stand.

Our region is the most dynamic and diverse in the world. From vast archipelagos to high mountain ranges, from hyper-connected smart cities to remote rural communities waiting to be connected—the Asia-Pacific is a microcosm of the globe. The challenges the world faces today—whether the digital divide, the need for sustainable transformation, or the complexities of a rapidly evolving global environment—are not abstract concepts to us. They are the realities we face on the ground every single day.

That is why our gathering here is so significant. When the Asia-Pacific speaks with a coordinated voice, the world listens. We are not merely observers of global trends; we are the engine that drives them.

Distinguished Delegates,

As we look toward PP-26, we must recognize that the Plenipotentiary Conference is the highest policy-making body of the ITU. But our task goes beyond simply amending texts or approving activities. We are here to set a moral and strategic compass for the digital era. From the governance of Artificial Intelligence to the dawn of 6G and the sustainable use of outer space—the decisions made at PP-26 will define how humanity navigates the next decade.

In 2022, the APT submitted 23 APT Common Proposals that significantly shaped the outcome of the Conference. For 2026, I am confident we can do even more. By drawing on the diverse wisdom of our members, we can offer the ITU a vision that is not only technologically advanced but also deeply human-centric and inclusive.

This process is, and must always be, fully Member-driven. Your active engagement is the lifeblood of our success. Although we are meeting virtually, I urge you to harness the spirit of cooperation that defines the APT family.

Let us demonstrate that the Asia-Pacific region stands ready to provide the solutions, the leadership, and the solidarity needed to shape our common digital future.

I wish you all fruitful deliberations and a highly successful meeting.

Thank you.