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| PLENARY MEETING | | **Document TDAG17-22/42-E** |
|  | | **19 April 2017** |
|  | | **Original: English** |
| Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC 17 for Asia-Pacific (RPM-ASP) | | |
| Outcomes of RPM-ASP | | |
|  | | |
| **Summary:**  This document includes all agreed outcomes from RPM-AMS that took place in Bali, Indonesia, from 21 to 23 March 2017, as reflected in the Chairman’s report (Document  [RPM-ASP17/36](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMASP-C-0036/)), namely:   * Revised preliminary draft WTDC-17 Declaration, * Draft new Regional Initiatives.   **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note this document.  **References:**  [RPM-ASP17/36](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMASP-C-0036/) | | |

**MOD** RPM-ASP/42/1

Preliminary Draft WTDC-17 Declaration

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Buenos Aires, 2017), which took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, under the theme of "ICT for Sustainable Development Goals” (ICT④SDGs),

recognizes that

*a)* telecommunications/ICTs are a key enabler for social and economic development; and consequently for accelerating the timely attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets set out in the **Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**;

*b)* telecommunications/ICTs also play a crucial role in various areas such as health, education, agriculture, governance, finance, commerce, disaster risk reduction and management, climate change mitigation and adaptation; particularly in least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition;

*c)* access to modern, secure and affordable Telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, applications and services offers opportunities for improving peoples' lives and ensuring that sustainable development across the world becomes a reality;

*d)* widespread conformance and interoperability of telecommunication/ICT equipment and systems through the implementation of relevant programmes, policies and decisions can increase market opportunities and reliability and encourage global integration and trade;

*e)* telecommunication/ICT applications can be life-changing for individuals, communities and societies at large, but they canalso increase the challenge of building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs;

*f)* broadband access technologies, broadband-enabled services and ICT applications offer new opportunities for interaction among people, for sharing the world's knowledge resources and expertise, for transforming peoples' lives and for contributing to inclusive and sustainable development across the world;

*g)* despite all the progress made during past years, the digital divide still remains, and is compounded by disparities in access, use and skills between and within countries, in particular between urban and rural areas, as well as in the availability of accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs, particularly for women, elderly, youth, children, indigenous people and persons with disabilities and specific needs;

*h)* ITU is committed to improving people’s lives and making the world a better place throughtelecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs);

therefore declares that

1 universally accessible and affordable telecommunications/ICTs are a fundamental contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030;

2 innovation is essential in ushering high-speed, high-quality ICT infrastructure and services;

3 with convergence, policy-makers and regulators should continue to promote widespread, affordable access to telecommunications/ICTs, including Internet access, through fair, transparent, stable, predictable and non-discriminatory enabling policy, legal and regulatory environments, including common approaches to conformance and interoperability that promote competition, increase consumer choices, foster continued technological and service innovation and provide investment incentives at national, regional and international levels;

4 new and emerging technologies such as big data , the Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence should be harnessed for purposes of supporting global efforts aimed at further development of the information society;

5 digital literacy and ICT skills, as well as human, institutional and country capacity in the development and use of telecommunications/ICT networks, applications and services including emerging technologies should be enhanced to enable people to contribute to ideas, knowledge and human development;

6 measuring the Information Society and providing the proper indicators/statistics are important for both Member States and the private sector with the former being able to identify gaps that need public policy intervention, and the latter, in identifying and finding investment opportunities;

7 an inclusive information society should take into account the needs of persons with disabilities and specific needs;

8 building trust, confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs requires further international cooperation and coordination between governments, relevant organizations, private companies and other stakeholders.

9 cooperation between developed and developing countries as well as among developing countries are encouraged as this paves way for technical cooperation, technological transfer, and joint research activities;

10 public-private partnerships need to be further strengthened in order to identify and apply innovative technological solutions and financing mechanisms for inclusive and sustainable development;

11 innovation should be integrated into national policies, initiatives and programmes to promote sustainable development and economic growth through multi-stakeholder partnerships, between developing countries and between developed and developing countries to facilitate technology and knowledge transfer;

12 international cooperation should be continuously enhanced amongst ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia, and other partners and stakeholders to pursue sustainable development, through the use of telecommunications/ICTs;

13 ITU membership and other interested parties should cooperate in implementation of Connect 2020 global telecommunication/information and communication technology goals and targets.

Accordingly, we, the delegates to the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC‑17), declare our commitment to accelerate the expansion and use of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, applications and services for the timely attainment of the **Sustainable Development Goals and Targets set out in the Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17) calls upon ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia and all other partners and stakeholders to contribute towards the successful implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan.

**ADD** RPM-ASP/42/2

ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL INITIATIVES

# ASP1: Addressing special needs of least developed countries, small island developing states, including Pacific island countries, and landlocked developing countries

**Objective:** To provide special assistance to least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), including Pacific island countries, and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) in order to meet their priority telecommunication/ICT requirements.

**Expected results**

1) Assistance in the development of broadband infrastructure, telecommunication /ICT applications and cybersecurity, policy and regulatory frameworks and human capacity building taking into account the special needs of LDCs, SIDS, and LLDCs;

2) Promotion of an inclusive universal access to telecommunications/ICTs to LDCs, SIDS, and LLDCs;

3) Assistance in disaster prediction, preparedness, adaptation, monitoring and mitigation to LDCs, SIDS, and LLDCs based on their priority needs;

4) Assistance in achieving internationally agreed goals, such as the Agenda 2030 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Istanbul plan of action for LDCs, the Samoa Pathway for SIDS and the Vienna programme of action for LLDCs.

# ASP2: Harnessing ICTs to support the digital economy and an inclusive digital society

**Objective:** To assist ITU Member States in utilizing telecommunications/ICTs to reap the benefits of the digital economy and to address the human and technical capacity challenges to bridging the digital divide.

**Expected results**

1) Assistance in elaborating national strategic planning frameworks and associated toolkits for selected telecommunication/ICT applications and services;

2) Assistance in the deployment of telecommunication/ICT/mobile applications to improve the delivery of value added services in high-potential sectors, such as health, education, agriculture, governance, energy, mobile payment, etc.;

3) Information sharing of knowledge and best practices on various telecommunication/ICT applications;

4) Assistance in development of national digital skills development programmes for the inclusiveness;

5) Assistance to develop digital inclusion policies, strategies and guidelines;

6) Assistance in facilitating the adoption and deployment of Internet of Things (IoT) and the development of Smart Cities;

# ASP3: Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity

**Objective:** To assist Member States in the development of infrastructure in order to facilitate services /applications on that infrastructure.

**Expected results**

1) Digitization of analogue networks and in applying affordable wired and wireless technologies, including interoperability of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure;

2) Maximized the use of appropriate new technologies for the development of the appropriate telecommunication/ICT networks including Smart Grids infrastructure and services;

3) Medium- to long-term planning for the implementation and development of national ICT broadband network plans;

4) Information and analyses on the current status of broadband backbone and submarine cables;

5) Assistance in promoting Internet exchange points (IXPs) as a long-term solution to advance connectivity, and deployment of/transition to IPv6-based networks and applications;

6) Assistance in suitable technologies for access, backhaul and source of power supply to bring telecommunications to rural, unserved and underserved areas;

7) Projects on public/community broadband access points focusing on the provision of telecommunication/ICT services and applications through suitable technologies, including satellite, and business models which achieve financial and operational sustainability;

8) Implementation of the relevant standards tailored to the needs of developing country;

9) Capacity building on the importance of C&I procedures and testing, mobilizing the resources required to implement regional and national C&I programmes;

10) Assistance in the establishment of national, regional or subregional C&I programmes, and assessment studies for facilitating the establishment of common conformance and interoperability regimes at national, regional and subregional level through the implementation of Mutual recognition agreements/arrangements (MRAs);

11) Assistance on policy and regulatory frameworks for digital terrestrial broadcasting, including frequency planning and optimization of spectrum use; digital broadcasting guidelines and master plans for the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting and new broadcasting services and technologies;

12) Assistance in spectrum-management assessments, master plans and recommended action plans for the further development of spectrum-management structures, procedures and tools including new spectrum-sharing approaches;

13) Assistance in spectrum fee regimes, including direct assistance in the establishment of such regimes; in the harmonization of regional spectrum allocations, including coordination procedures in border areas; and in the optimization and cost-effective use of spectrum-monitoring systems and networks;

14) Assistance to developing countries in building human skills for the development and use of satellite telecommunications;

15) Cooperation with international/regional organizations to enhance the regional telecommunication/ICT interconnectivity such as Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS).

# ASP4: Enabling policy and regulatory environments

**Objective:** To assist Member States in developing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks, fostering innovation (e.g. especially SMEs), enhancing skills, increasing information sharing and strengthening regulatory cooperation which contribute to a supportive regulatory environment for the industry (including public – private partnership) and take into account consumer interests.

**Expected results**

1) Information sharing on the current developments with regard to the policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks as well as market developments in the telecommunication/ICT sector and the digital economies it enables;

2) Assistance in defining, elaborating, implementing and reviewing transparent, coherent and forward looking strategies, policy, legal and regulatory frameworks as well as in moving towards evidence-based decision-making at the national and regional level;

3) Provision of tools and platforms for an inclusive dialogue and enhanced cooperation among national and regional regulators, policy-makers and other telecommunication/ICT stakeholders as well as with other sectors of the economy on topical policy, legal, regulatory and market issues;

4) Provision of institutional and human capacity building and technical assistance on topical policy, legal, regulatory, as well as on economic and financial issues and market developments, including through Centres of Excellence;

5) Assistance in updating telecommunication/ICT policies on innovation and entrepreneurship;

6) Assistance in developing the strategic framework in supporting the Research and Development Activities in telecommunication/ICTs in developing countries.

# ASP5: Contributing to secure and resilient environment

**Objective:** To assist Member States to develop and maintain secure, trusted and resilient networks/services, to address challenges related to climate change and also to facilitate disaster preparedness, risk reduction and mitigation.

**Expected results**

1) Assistance in the development of their national and/or regional cybersecurity strategies;

2) Assistance in establishing national cybersecurity capabilities such as Computer Incident Response Team (CIRTs) to identify, manage and respond to cyber threats, and participate in cooperation mechanisms at the regional and international level;

3) Strengthened institutional cooperation and coordination among the key actors and stakeholder through organizing cyberdrills at national and regional level;

4) Established a culture of cybersecurity by sharing good practices collected through the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI);

5) Capacity building to improve and maintain the coherence of worldwide efforts in cybersecurity;

6) Assistance in the development of national emergency telecommunication plans;

7) Telecommunication/ICT-based initiatives for providing medical (e-health) and humanitarian assistance in disasters and emergencies;

8) Assistance in incorporating disaster-resilient features in telecommunication networks and infrastructure;

9) Assistance in developing telecommunication/ICT-based solutions, including wireless and satellite-based technologies;

10) Assistance in the use of active and passive space-based sensing systems for the purpose of disaster prediction, detection and mitigation;

11) Assistance in formulating comprehensive strategies and measures to help mitigate and respond to the devastating effects of climate change;

12) Assistance in development of e-waste policy;

13) Assistance in developing standards-based monitoring and early-warning systems linked to national and regional networks.