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| A logo with a black background  AI-generated content may be incorrect. | **Regional Preparatory Meeting  for Asia and Pacific for WTDC-25 (RPM-ASP)**  **Bangkok, Thailand, 20-21 March 2025** | | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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|  | | **Document** **RPM-ASP25/TD/4-E** | |
|  | | **20 March 2025** | |
|  | | **English only** | |
| Chair, RPM-ASP | | | |
| Draft Report by the RPM-ASP Chair | | | |
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# Introduction

The Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-25 for Asia and the Pacific Region (RPM-ASP) was organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), from 20 to 21 March 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand and hosted by the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) of Thailand.

The objective of RPM-ASP was to identify and align priorities at the regional level for the development of telecommunication and information and communication technologies (ICTs), taking into account contributions submitted by Member States and ITU-D Sector Members from the region.

The meeting concluded with a set of proposals on priority issues that will serve as a basis for the formulation of contributions to the World Telecommunication Development Conference, to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 17 to 28 November 2025, and will consider the ITU-D activities to be carried out over the next four-year period (2025-2028).

This report gives an account of the work and results of the RPM-ASP.

# Participation

The meeting was attended by 138 participants, including 84 delegates representing 25 Member States from ASP, 22 participants from 12 Sector Members, 6 participants representing 5 Observer Member States, 10 participants from 7 Observer Sector Members and 1 participant from 1 ITU Academia Member. There were 56 female and 82 male participants.

The final list of participants has been published as [Document 17.](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-C-0017/en)

# Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony included several high-level interventions. Speakers highlighted the following in their opening remarks:

* **Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the ITU (BDT Director), emphasized ITU’s commitment to supporting digital transformation, particularly in least developed countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs). Dr. Zavazava acknowledged the progress in digital inclusion within the region, noting the significant number of LDCs that have successfully graduated from the LDC category. Dr. Zavazava highlighted the role of ITU in integrating digital technology into climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, referencing the outcomes of COP29 in Azerbaijan. He stressed the importance of digital transformation in environmental sustainability, e-waste management, and ensuring a green digital future. He also outlined ITU’s initiatives, including the Digital Transformation Centres in Pakistan, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Papua New Guinea, which have had far-reaching impacts on digital skills training and access to technology. The Smart Village and Smart Island projects were highlighted as key successes in fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and disaster mitigation. Dr. Zavazava emphasized ITU’s commitment to accelerating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through digital inclusion, innovation, and partnerships.
* The Acting Secretary-General of Thailand’s National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC), **Mr Trairat Viriyasirikul**, then delivered welcoming remarks. He expressed gratitude to ITU for organizing the event and acknowledged the critical role of the upcoming WTDC-25 in shaping the region’s digital future. He outlined the meeting’s key focus areas, including the state of digital development, the implementation of the WTDC-22 Kigali Action Plan, and preparations for WTDC-25. Mr Trairat emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in addressing digital transformation challenges and opportunities.
* The ceremony concluded with a group photograph of key officials and delegates, marking the formal commencement of the meeting. The BDT Director’s opening remarks can be found [here](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/bdt-director/Pages/past-speeches.aspx).

# Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs

Following consultations in the region, **Mr Saneh Saiwong,** Principal Engineering Expert, Office of the NBTC, **Thailand**, was unanimously elected by acclamation as the Chair of RPM-ASP.

The meeting also unanimously endorsed the proposal for the three Vice-Chairs of RPM-ASP:

* **Ms Tupou’tuah Baravilala**, Director-General, Digital Government Transformation, Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, and Communications, **Fiji**
* **Mr Avinash Agrawal**, Deputy Director General International Relations, Department of Telecommunications, **India**
* **Mr Sri Sunardi**, Policy Analyst, Ministry of Communications and Digital Affairs, **Republic of Indonesia**

# Approval of the agenda

The meeting approved the agenda as presented in [Document 1(Rev.2)](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-C-0001/en).

# Approval of the time management plan

The secretariat noted that the RPM-ASP had received 16 documents: 8 from Member States and ITU-D Sector Members, 4 from the secretariat and 4 from the TDAG working groups. All the meeting documents are available on the [RPM Website](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-250320/sum/en).

Having examined all related meeting documents, the meeting adopted the proposed draft time management plan- [Document DT/1(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-250320-TD-0001/en).

# Report on the implementation of the WTDC-22 Kigali Action Plan (including the Regional Initiatives) and Presentation on State of Digital Development and Trends in Asia and the Pacific: Challenges and opportunities

[Document 2(Rev.3)](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-C-0002/en): The document titled **“Reporting on the implementation of the WTDC-22 Kigali Action Plan (including regional initiatives)**” was presented by the Secretariat.

The report summarizes the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan (KAP) between May and December 2024, showcasing progress in telecommunications and ICT development across regions. Key outcomes include enhanced global emergency telecommunications capabilities, with Member States supported in building early warning systems under the Early Warning for All (EW4ALL) initiative. Additionally, initiatives in infrastructure mapping, spectrum management, and broadband development were pivotal in addressing ICT connectivity gaps and improving infrastructure resilience.

The document emphasizes capacity-building efforts, such as workshops and training on digital skills and ICT policy, targeting diverse groups including women, youth, and underserved communities. It reports significant strides in fostering digital innovation ecosystems, advancing regulatory frameworks, and promoting sustainable development through digital transformation projects. The report calls for strengthened collaboration, tailored strategies, and investment in emerging technologies to address persistent disparities and ensure inclusive connectivity aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The ITU Regional Initiatives for the ASP region are the five priority areas that were elaborated and agreed by the Members of the ASP region and approved under WTDC-22 [Resolution 17](https://www.itu.int/pub/D-RES-D.17-2022) (Rev. Kigali, 2022).

The ITU Regional Initiatives for the ASP Region are as follows:

* **ASP1:** Addressing special needs of least developed countries, small island developing states, including Pacific Island countries, and landlocked developing countries
* **ASP2:** Harnessing information and communication technologies to support the digital economy and inclusive digital societies
* **ASP3:** Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity and connecting the unconnected
* **ASP4:** Enabling policy and regulatory environments to accelerate digital transformation
* **ASP5:** Contributing to a secure and resilient information and communication technology environment

Membership is invited to contribute financially and in-kind to the implementation of future Regional Initiatives as financing them during the current period was found to be a challenge. Furthermore, membership is also invited to engage in the formulation of the new Regional Initiatives to be adopted at the WTDC-25 with the goal of making sure that they are inclusive of the needs in all countries of the region. Current ongoing projects will continue in accordance with their time plans.

The presentation of the document was followed with a [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-9xwzs0i9I) that showcased the impact of work done by the ITU.

**The RPM-ASP took note of Document 2 and the** [**Video**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-9xwzs0i9I) **presentation with appreciation.**

[Document 3 (Rev.1):](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMASP-C-0003) The document titled “**State of digital development and trends in Asia and the Pacific: challenges and opportunities”** was presented by the Secretariat.

The document informs participants and stakeholders in setting the region’s digital agenda. The document is structured in two parts: the first part provides an overview of the state of digital connectivity in Asia and the Pacific through key indicators, and the second part highlights case studies from the region about impactful initiatives led or supported by ITU.

The document highlights universal and meaningful connectivity as a policy imperative, underlining the importance of continuing to invest in data and regulation to bridge digital divides and realize the region’s digital transformation.

Despite significant achievements in terms of regulation and infrastructure development, challenges remain, with disparities in digital access and use persisting between and within countries in the region, underscoring the need for targeted policies and greater collaboration.

Building on its successes and addressing remaining gaps, the region has the potential to achieve UMC in the near future. This will enable the region to unleash the full potential of digital technologies for social progress and economic prosperity.

The presentation can be accessed through the [link](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-INF/en).

**The RPM-ASP took note of Document 3 with appreciation.**

# Report on the decisions of other ITU Conferences, Assemblies and meetings related to ITU-D work

[Document 4](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-C-0004/en): The document titled “**Report on the decisions of other ITU Conferences, Assemblies and meetings related to ITU-D work**” was presented by the Secretariat under this agenda item.

The document summarizes key decisions from WTSA-24, RA-23, and WRC-23, with a focus on their relevance to the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D). It aims to inform the meeting, as well as the other Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs) about these outcomes, inviting Member States to review such outcomes and ensure alignment of WTDC 25 outcomes and resolutions with those adopted at WRC23 and WTSA 24.

Document 4 encompasses two Annexes: [Document 4 Addendum 1(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-C-0004/en) which provides details on the outcomes of WTSA-24 held in New Delhi from 15 to 24 October 2024, and [Document 4 Addendum 2](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-C-0004/en)whichprovides details of the outcomes of the Radiocommunication Assembly 2023 (RA-23), the World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23), and the first session of the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM27-1) for WRC-27, all held in Dubai, UAE. Both annexes were presented by the Secretariat as part of Document 4.

**The RPM-ASP took note of Document 4 and its addenda with appreciation.**

# Preparations for WTDC-25

# Preliminary draft ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan, and draft Action Plan

[Document 8:](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-C-0008/en) The document titled **“Report on progress of the TDAG Working Group on the ITU-D Priorities**” was presented by Ms Inga Rimkevičienė, Chair of TDAG Working Group on the ITU-D Priorities.

In her presentation, Ms Rimkevičienė provided an overview of the progress report outlined in document 8. She highlighted the group’s mandate to analyze and align ITU-D priorities with global development goals and to propose recommendations for the Baku Action Plan for WTDC-25.

The presentation emphasized the work of the group as of today, including the meetings held so far. Ms Rimkevičienė also provided information on the next steps to be taken by the group toward the elaboration of the final deliverable, to be submitted for further consideration at TDAG 2025.

The presentation can be accessed through the [link](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-INF/en).

**The RPM-ASP took note of Document 8 with appreciation.**

# Future Study Group questions

[Document 5(Rev.2):](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-C-0005/en)The document titled **“Progress report on the work of the TDAG-WG-futureSGQ**” was presented by Dr Ahmed Sharafat, Chair of the TDAG Working Group on Future Study Group Questions.

He presented the report on the Group’s progress and outlined the Working Group’s key objectives, including evaluating the relevance of current study questions, proposing new topics, and ensuring alignment with ITU-D priorities. The report details the methodology employed, such as stakeholder consultations through online questionnaires, which revealed significant interest in topics like broadband development, cybersecurity, and smart cities.

Dr Sharafat emphasized the consolidation of study questions to enhance efficiency, noting the planned mergers of related topics while ensuring inclusivity within management teams. He also highlighted the importance of contributions to the Group from Member States and Regional Groups to represent regional perspectives in upcoming discussions. Dr Sharafat concluded by encouraging continued contributions to ensure that the final document reflects diverse regional insights, with the outcomes set to be presented at the TDAG meeting in May 2025 before WTDC-25.

The presentation can be accessed through the [link](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-INF/en).

**The RPM-ASP took note of Document 5 (Rev. 2) with appreciation.**

# Preliminary draft WTDC-25 Declaration

[Document 7(Rev.1):](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-C-0007/en)The document titled **“Report on progress of the TDAG Working Group on the Declaration**” was presented by Dr Abdulkarim Oloyede, Chair of the TDAG Working Group on the WTDC Declaration, who gave a progress report on the work of the Group, including meetings held.

He informed the RPM-ASP that the working group had held three meetings to date, during which a zero draft was developed, incorporating feedback from stakeholders. The proposed theme for the 2025 WTDC Declaration, “Universal, Meaningful, and Affordable Connectivity for an Inclusive and Sustainable Digital Future,” was accepted in principle, with no objections raised so far. The draft follows the structure of the Kigali Declaration, consisting of an introduction, declaration statement, commitments, and a call to action. The working group also ensured alignment with ITU-D priorities and the discussions within other TDAG working groups.

Mr. Oloyede detailed next steps, including continued engagement with Regional Telecommunication Organizations. The aim is to refine the draft and present it for further consideration at TDAG’s upcoming meeting before submission to WTDC-25. He underlined the inclusive approach taken and encouraged Member States to contribute actively to the upcoming meeting (during TDAG-25) and to the proposed zero draft, particularly in preparation for the TDAG meeting in May 2025.

The presentation can be accessed through the [link](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-INF/en).

**The RPM-ASP took note of Document 7 with appreciation.**

# Rules of procedure of ITU-D (WTDC Resolution 1)

There was no specific contribution under this agenda item therefore this agenda item was considered within the discussions under agenda item 7.5 which focused on the streamlining of WTDC Resolutions.

# Streamlining WTDC Resolutions

[Documen](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-C-0006/en)t 6:The document titled **“Progress report on the work of the TDAG-WG-SR**” was presented by Ms Andrea Grippa, Chair of TDAG-WG-Streamlining Resolutions.She outlined the Working Group’s activities, highlighting the four meetings held to date, which focused on reviewing existing WTDC resolutions and identifying opportunities to enhance their coherence and relevance. She explained the adopted approach of clustering resolutions into thematic groups, with designated volunteers coordinating the review process for each cluster. The group proposed a thematic clustering of resolutions into ten categories, including information and statistics, regional cooperation, infrastructure, environment, gender and youth, cybersecurity, and accessibility. She emphasized the importance of aligning ITU-D priorities with evolving digital policies while ensuring that resolutions remain relevant and actionable.Ms. Grippa highlighted upcoming meetings scheduled for March 26 and May 2, where the group will finalize contributions and prepare a comprehensive report for TDAG. She reiterated the call for additional volunteers to contribute to the review process, particularly for the four remaining clusters that require further analysis.

The presentation can be accessed through the [link](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-INF/en).

**The RPM-ASP took note of Document 6 with appreciation.**

# Priority setting for Regional Initiatives, related projects and financing mechanisms

The Chair of the RPM-ASP invited the contributors to present their inputs on Regional Initiatives. The following contributions were presented:

[Document 9:](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-C-0009/en) The document titled "**Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia and Pacific for WTDC-25 (RPM-ASP)"** was presented by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT). It outlines the agenda and objectives of the 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25, which was held from 17 to 18 March 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. The document emphasizes the importance of reflecting recent developments in telecommunication and ICT, as well as addressing the needs of APT Member Administrations in the Regional Initiatives for Asia-Pacific. The proposal includes draft Regional Initiatives and their respective objectives, which constitute input to the work of the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia and the Pacific. The document emphasizes that the initiatives are updated and aligned with the current requirements of the member administrations.

**The RPM-ASP took note of Document 9 with appreciation.**

[Document 10:](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-C-0010/en) The document titled "**Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia and Pacific for WTDC-25 (RPM-ASP)**" was presented by Samoa. It outlines Samoa's commitment to advancing digital transformation, enhancing ICT infrastructure, and strengthening cybersecurity to ensure sustainable development and resilience. As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Samoa faces unique challenges in connectivity, capacity building, and disaster resilience, which require regional cooperation and ITU support. The document proposes several actions for ITU consideration, including the development of innovative financing mechanisms for ICT infrastructure projects in remote and underserved areas, establishment of capacity-building programs for digital skills, and initiatives for AI-driven disaster management and ICT resilience against climate change impacts.

**The RPM-ASP took note of Document 10 with appreciation.**

[Document 11](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-C-0011/en): The document titled "**Satellite Solutions for Universal Service: Bridging the Digital Divide**" submitted by GSOA. The document emphasizes the importance of universal connectivity for socioeconomic growth and global inclusion, highlighting the challenges faced in achieving this goal, such as economic disparities and infrastructure costs. The document proposes leveraging satellite technology to overcome these challenges, advocating for inclusive policies, cross-industry collaboration, and innovative solutions to ensure that even the most remote and underserved areas are connected. The proposal calls on the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25) to take action to promote these strategies and streamline ITU-D priorities to avoid duplication of efforts and provide targeted guidance for administrations.

**The RPM-ASP took note of Document 11.**

[Document 12](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-C-0012/en): The document titled “**Unlocking Digital Economies through Superior Connectivity and Broadband Innovation in the Asia-Pacific**" was presented by Pakistan. The document proposes an initiative to provide targeted support to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the Asia-Pacific region, focusing on establishing meaningful connectivity and expanding broadband infrastructure. It highlights that by ensuring affordable and accessible telecommunications services, the proposal seeks to bridge the digital divide and promote inclusive digital transformation. The proposal includes expected results of infrastructure rehabilitation and development, expanding e-service access, leveraging satellite communications, and partnership building for economic growth.

**The RPM-ASP took note of Document 12 with appreciation.**

[Document 13](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-C-0013/en): The document titled “**Empowering the Future: Elevating Youth Inclusion and Engagement in ITU-D Study Groups Across the Asia-Pacific Region**" was presented by Pakistan. The document proposes to maintain and strengthen the inclusion of youth in ITU-D Sector’s work and youth-related outcomes Regional Initiatives. The proposal calls on LDCs and APAC ITU community to include youth in the delegations of the Study Group members, leverage their expertise, encourage their contributions and perspectives, as well as host dedicated side-events at ITU-D Study Group meeting, joint projects and panels.

**The RPM-ASP took note of Document 13 with appreciation.**

[Document 14](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-C-0014/en): The document titled “**Proposed modifications to Asia Pacific Regional Initiatives (ASPS)**" was presented by India. The document proposes modifications to the existing regional initiatives, as well as the introduction of a new regional initiative. The modifications include the consideration of new and emerging technologies and their transformative power, as well as mentions of resilient, universal access to ICT and infrastructure, early warnings, and green ICT environment. The proposed regional initiative aims to create an enabling digital innovation ecosystem that supports technological advancements, promotes productization of new and emerging technologies, and address the specific needs of startups, of SMMEs, and academic innovation hubs, with a special focus on developing countries.

**The RPM-ASP took note of Document 14 with appreciation.**

[Document 15](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-C-0015/en): The document titled “**Addressing Barriers to Mobile Internet Adoption**" was presented by the GSM Association (GSMA). The document offers the mobile industry’s perspective on efforts to close the digital divide, outlining two distinct groups of digitally excluded people: those affected by the “coverage gap”, and those affected by the “usage gap”. The proposal calls on the WTDC-25 to take action to recognize the urgency of tackling the usage gap, which is now larger than the coverage gap, and to foster collective action to address the demand side barriers, in its overall efforts to advance digital inclusion.

**The RPM-ASP took note of Document 15 with appreciation.**

[Document 16](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-C-0016/en): The document titled “**Information Paper on the Inaugural Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on 28 August 2023**" was presented by Papua New Guinea. The document proposes collaboration with APT and ITU member states to align regional ICT priorities, support the establishment of an ITU Sub-Regional Office, and secure resources for the Lagatoi Declaration Action Plan. The proposal calls for joint work and efforts in the Pacific region, and on ASP member countries, international organizations and development partners to provide support in the form of technical assistance, capacity building, funding and partnerships.

**The RPM-ASP took note of Document 16 with appreciation.**

**Work by the Drafting Group of the RPM Plenary**

Following the review of all submissions, a Drafting Group on Regional Initiatives was established to draft Regional Initiatives (RIs) for ASP Region for the implementation cycle 2026-2029. The Group was chaired by Ms Tupou’tuah Baravilala, Vice-Chair of the RPM with support from Ms. Memiko Otsuki who chairs the Working Group 3 of APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-25.

The Drafting Group met on 20 March 2025, from 11:45 to 17:30 and agreed on the Draft Regional Initiatives, building upon the successful implementation of existing Regional Initiatives for the ASP Region, all written contributions submitted to the Regional Preparatory Meeting during its plenary sessions.

The outcome of the drafting group was presented on the second day of the RPM-ASP and published in [Document DT/3](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-250320-TD-0003/en). Accordingly, the following proposed Regional Initiatives were adopted:

**ASP1:** Addressing special needs of Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, including Pacific Island countries, and landlocked developing countries

**ASP2:** Harnessing telecommunications/ICTs to support inclusive and sustainable digital transformation

**ASP3**: Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity and connecting the unconnected

**ASP4:** Enabling an innovative and sustainable telecommunication/ICT sector

**ASP5:** Supporting a safe, secure, and resilient telecommunication/ICT environment

# Any Other Business

The following items were addressed under this agenda item:

* The Regional Development Forum 2025 (RDF) Draft Outcome Report was presented. The RPM-ASP received with appreciation the RDF Outcome Report which was published as an information document [(INF/9)](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-RPMASP-INF-0009/en) to the RPM-ASP.
* A presentation ([INF/3](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMASP-INF-0003)) was made that provided an update on the Global Youth Summit, held in Varadero, Cuba, from 11-13 March 2025. The presentation was accompanied by a [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvCYhjH9gKs) of the event.
* Representative from Azerbaijan gave updates on the preparations for the upcoming WTDC, scheduled to be held in Baku from 17 to 28 November 2025. The RPM-ASP received this update with appreciation.

**The RPM-ASP took note of this information.**

# Closing ceremony

# The closing ceremony of the RPM-ASP was marked by the closing remarks from the BDT Director, Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, and the RPM Chair, Mr Saneh Saiwong.

In his address, the BDT Director expressed gratitude to the NBTC of Thailand for hosting the event, with special appreciation to Mr Saneh Saiwong for his leadership as Chair of the Regional Preparatory Meeting. He also expressed his gratitude to the Member States, Sector Members, and all participants, both in-person and online, for their active involvement in discussions that contributed to the identification of draft Regional Initiatives for the upcoming cycle. He emphasized that these initiatives would be carried forward to the World Telecommunication Development Conference in November, ensuring that the priorities of the ASP countries are represented.

Dr Zavazava reaffirmed the ITU Secretariat’s commitment to supporting Member States in their preparations for WTDC and their broader goal of achieving universal and meaningful connectivity. Emphasizing a shared vision and commitment to impactful results under the principle of BDT4Impact, he reiterated ITU’s focus on delivering tangible outcomes. Dr Zavazava also presented a highlights video before concluding his remarks.

# Following Dr Zavazava’s remarks, Mr Saiwong delivered his closing address, expressing appreciation to the ITU, Member States, and all participants for their commitment and collaborative spirit. Mr Saneh Saiwong highlighted the key priorities identified during the RPM sessions.

As part of the ceremony, certificates of appreciation were awarded to Mr Saneh Saiwong, the RPM Chair, in recognition of his leadership throughout the RPM-ASP and to APT for its contribution of the preparations towards WTDC-2025.

# Annex 1:

# Proposed Regional Initiatives for Asia-Pacific for 2026-2029 period

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| **(Draft) 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) to assist delivering their telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) priorities.  **Expected results:**   1. Development of policy and regulatory frameworks for broadband infrastructure, ICT applications and cybersecurity, taking into account the special needs of LDCs, SIDS, including Pacific island countries, and LLDCs. 2. Development of human capacity for addressing future telecommunication/ICT policy and regulatory challenges. 3. Promotion of affordable resilient, universal, and meaningful broadband access in LDCs, SIDS, including Pacific island countries, and LLDCs, in particular for remote communities. 4. Assistance to LDCs, SIDS, including Pacific island countries, and LLDCs in deploying telecommunication/ICT applications in disaster management relating to disaster prediction, preparedness, adaptation, monitoring, mitigation, response, rehabilitation and recovery of telecommunication/ICT networks based on their priority needs. 5. Assistance to LDCs, SIDS, including Pacific island countries, and LLDCs in their efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS and the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs. |
| **ASP2:** Harnessing telecommunications/ICTs to support inclusive and sustainable digital transformation  **Objective**: To assist Member States to use ICTs and emerging technologies for inclusive and sustainable digital transformation by building human and institutional capacity, bridging digital divides, improving and expanding digital skills, reducing the gender gap, and assisting groups who may be in vulnerable situations[[1]](#footnote-2).  **Expected results:**   1. Development of policies, strategies and guidelines to support effective and sustainable digital transformation in the public and private sectors, including those that support transition to digital government and the use of emerging telecommunication/ICTs. 2. Establishment and annual updating of a repository of all work done within ITU relating to the digital transformation since the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022). 3. Acceleration of digital infrastructure readiness through the timely deployment of appropriate infrastructure and platforms that underpin the delivery of telecommunication/ICT services to improve the delivery of value-added services in areas such as health, education, climate change and environment, agriculture, and financial services. In this process, diversified funding channels, including economic recovery funds and resources of development banks, can be utilized. 4. Development of cross-sectoral national/regional programmes on digital literacy, digital and ICT skills, and digital inclusion to support the participation of all in digital transformation, develop skilled telecommunication/ICT workforces, and increase demand for telecommunication/ICT services. These programmes should also take into account groups who may be in vulnerable situations[[2]](#footnote-3) 5. Development of human capacity to bridge the standardization gap, including collaboration with the ITU-T Sector and other standards-development organizations. 6. Enhancement of international cooperation related to new and emerging technologies pertaining to telecommunication/ICT to ensure that all countries can benefit from digital transformation and contribute to the global value chain. |
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| **ASP3**: Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity and connecting the unconnected  **Objective**: To assist Member States in developing telecommunication/ICT infrastructure to facilitate the provision of affordable and meaningful services and applications and to connect the unconnected.  **Expected results:**   1. Migration/transition of analogue networks to appropriate digital networks, application of affordable wired and wireless technologies (including interoperability of ICT infrastructure) and optimized use of the digital dividend. 2. Maximized use of new and emerging technologies for the development of communication networks, such as 5G. 3. Development of capacity to review and revise, if necessary, the existing national broadband objectives, with a view to providing broadband access to unserved and underserved areas, in particular to remote communities; promote affordable broadband access for all, especially for groups who may be in vulnerable situations[[3]](#footnote-4); to develop and use universal service funds effectively; and to develop financially and operationally sustainable business models. 4. Promotion of Internet exchange points (IXPs) and community-centred connectivity initiatives as long-term solutions to advance connectivity and deployment of IPv6-based networks and applications and facilitation of the transition from IPv4 to IPv6. 5. Strengthened capacity to implement conformance and interoperability (C&I) procedures and facilitating the establishment of common regional/subregional C&I regimes (including the adoption and implementation of mutual recognition arrangements). 6. Increased capability to address spectrum-management issues, including radio-frequency planning, spectrum redeployment, enhancement of spectrum-monitoring systems, and facilitation of the implementation of decisions of world radiocommunication conferences. 7. Enhancement of skills for the development and use of terrestrial and non-terrestrial network services. 8. Enhancement of regional telecommunication/ICT connectivity and strengthening of cooperation with international/regional organizations in programmes such as the Asia‑Pacific Information Superhighway. |
| **ASP4**: Enabling an innovative and sustainable telecommunication/ICT sector  **Objective**: To assist Member States in developing appropriate policy and regulatory  frameworks that foster innovation, investment and sustainability across the telecommunications/ICT sector, by way of enabling ICT-centric innovation and the growth of start-ups and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME), while also addressing the need for sustainability.  **Expected Results:**   1. Development of enabling policy and regulatory environments and sharing of best practices to encourage innovation, entrepreneurship and investment in the telecommunication/ICT sector. 2. Formulation and review of telecommunication/ICT strategies, national programs, policies and regulatory frameworks that identifies entry barriers and supports the entry, growth and connectivity of start-ups and MSMEs facilitates digital transformation, and enables the adoption of new and emerging telecommunications/ICT. 3. Development of an enabling environment that supports start-ups and MSMEs for local design and manufacturing of telecommunication/ICT equipment and enhances awareness and capacity building in Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) protection. 4. Promotion and sharing of practices to support ICT-centric innovation, including but not limited to innovation hubs, incubators, accelerators, and mentoring programs, by, inter alia, leveraging ITU Innovation and Acceleration Centres. 5. Development of strategic frameworks and enhancement of capacity to support research and development activities, including in relation to emerging telecommunications/ICTs, and development of products. 6. Development of national digital innovation strategies and policies, and the promotion of multistakeholder and multisectoral partnerships to create an innovative, meaningful and sustainable telecommunication/ICT sector. |
| **ASP5**: Supporting a safe, secure, and resilient telecommunication/ICT environment  **Objectives**: To assist Member States in developing and maintaining safe, secure, trusted and resilient telecommunication/ICT networks and services, and addressing challenges related to climate change and the management of disasters and emergencies.  **Expected results:**   1. Compilation of national/regional cybersecurity strategies, establishment of national/regional cybersecurity capabilities such as computer incident response teams, and sharing of good practices to nurture a culture of cybersecurity. 2. Strengthened institutional cooperation and coordination among key actors and stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels (including through organizing cyberdrills) and enhancing the capacity to address issues related to cybersecurity. 3. Development of cross-sectoral programmes on building cyber hygiene and cyber literacy skills for individuals and businesses, to promote confidence in the use of telecommunication/ICT. 4. Development of National Emergency Telecommunication Plans and telecommunication/ICT-based initiatives for disseminating early warnings, timely disaster response and other humanitarian assistances in disasters and emergencies. 5. Incorporation of disaster-resilient features in telecommunication networks and infrastructure, and development oftelecommunication/ICT-based solutions (including the use of wireless and satellite-based technologies) to enhance network resilience. 6. Development of standards-based monitoring and early-warning systems linked to national and regional networks, and enhanced use of active and passive terrestrial/space-based sensing systems for disaster prediction, detection and mitigation. 7. Promotion of guidelines and best practices for safe telecommunication/ICTs to support and protect consumers, including on issues related to spam, online fraud, caller identification spoofing, counterfeit devices, and mobile device theft. 8. Formulation of comprehensive strategies and measures to help mitigate and address the devastating effects of climate change. 9. Development of comprehensive e-waste management policies, regulations, national action plans and strategies to support a sustainable circular economy. 10. Strengthened capabilities to develop and implement environmentally sustainable telecommunications/ICTs policies, regulations and strategies, and sharing best practices and innovations in greenhouse gasses reduction and energy efficiency across sectors, including but not limited to, health, education, environment, agriculture, government and financial services. |

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1. This refers to persons with specific needs such as children, women, indigenous people, local communities, refugees, older persons and persons with disabilities. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. This refers to persons with specific needs such as children, women, indigenous people, local communities, refugees, older persons and persons with disabilities. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. This refers to persons with specific needs such as children, women, indigenous people, local communities, refugees, older persons and persons with disabilities. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)