Good afternoon, I am Paul Wilson, Director General of APNIC.

I appreciate this chance to share views with and among the participants of WTPF, and I recognize the ITU for creating this opportunity.

APNIC is the Asia-Pacific Network Information Center, the Regional Internet address Registry for the Asia-Pacific region. It is also one of the first Internet organizations that joined ITU as a Sector Member, back in 2003. APNIC is responsible for the allocation and management of Internet addresses, in the form of IPv4 and IPv6 addresses, in a very large region that accounts for half of the world's population.

The APNIC region is the fastest growing in the world, with huge new markets that are still far from fully developed. It was actually APNIC that requested the last blocks of IPv4 from IANA in 2011, and this triggered the final distribution of the global pool of available IPv4 addresses. It took only a few months after this global event, for APNIC to reach the end of its available stock of IPv4 addresses. We do still have IPv4 available, from a rationed supply that will last for many years, however we have now reached the point where IPv4 can no longer sustain Internet growth.

As you may know, APNIC is one of the five Regional Internet Registries, commonly known as "RIRs". This year, I happen to be the Chair of the collective of the five RIRs, namely the Number Resource Organisation or "NRO".

The way each of the RIRs allocates IPv4 and IPv6 addresses is determined by what we call "open, bottom-up, policy development processes".

Since the early years of the Internet, any interested party - any individual or organization in the world - could participate in defining the policies or procedures by in which an RIR should allocate and manage its resources. The five regional communities make up a significant portion of the "Internet community" globally and as such include participants from Government, civil society, business and others. In this way a truly multi-stakeholder approach is taken to the actual decision-making on how we are handling IPv4 exhaustion, and ongoing management of IPv6.

It strikes me as very important that two of the six Opinions that have been proposed for this Forum are about IPv6. There cannot be a greater demonstration than this, of the recognition of IPv6 as a critical factor in global telecommunications today. As the RIRs expressed in their contribution to this Forum – please refer to contribution number 8, by RIPE NCC on behalf of all RIRs – we welcome the spirit of these two Opinions.

The Internet's transition to IPv6 is a long process, which is underway right now, and will be for the next several years. The main driver of this transition has to do with IPv4 space exhaustion, and yes we will soon run out in all regions. IPv6 deployment is imperative and we as a global community of Internet users have a duty to make this happen.

In an information document that I contributed to this forum – document number 12—I list a number of specific measures that governments and businesses can

take to speed-up IPv6 deployment: including IPv6 requirements in all ICT specification and procurement activities; requiring IPv6 plans from ICT service and product providers; promoting IPv6 skills development within ICT profession and industry; ensuring that all online services are accessible via IPv6.

I hope that the final outcomes of this Forum concur with me in that we all need to work harder and together to generate that extra-push that IPv6 needs to kick-off and be deployed in all existing and future networks.

Once again I do thank the ITU for creating this opportunity to include views from stakeholders in their work. We have appreciated being part of the Informal Experts Group of the WTPF and we are calling the ITU to make these proceedings even more inclusive so all stakeholders voices are heard in the spirit of the WSIS and the Tunis Agenda.