



Secretary General

POLICY STATEMENT

Honorable John Rosso, Deputy Prime Minister of Independent State of Papua New Guinea,

Honorable Manoa Seru Nakausabaria Kamikamica, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Cooperatives, SMEs and Communications, Fiji,

Honorable Timothy Masiu, Minister for Information and Communication Technology, Papua New Guinea, and Chairperson of this Ministerial Dialogue,

Honorable Vice Chairpersons,

Esteemed Ministers, Excellencies, and Distinguished Delegates,

Good morning.

It is with profound gratitude and honor that I stand before this esteemed assembly, representing the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT). I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Honorable Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea and all present dignitaries for this invaluable opportunity to address APT's policy directions and initiatives.

Incepted through the conjoint vision of the UNESCAP and ITU in 1979, the APT was established as the sole treaty-founded intergovernmental organization in the field of telecommunications/ICT in the Asia-Pacific region. Its pivotal role in bolstering regional synergy and supporting developmental initiatives, forums, and capacity building programs is a testament to its commitment.

Our region grapples with challenges in the realm of telecommunications and ICT infrastructure. Yet, APT has continuously strived to craft platforms for sharing of the knowledge in the field of ICT, pioneering pilot projects and applications in the digital economy, thereby realizing sustainable development goals and disseminating the outcomes to our members.

Through the establishment of International Collaborative Research, we have facilitated meaningful engagement among researchers and engineers and provided reports for ICT policies. Programs like "ICT Development Programme for Supporting ICT Pilot Projects in Rural Areas" aimed to narrow the digital divide in the Asia-Pacific region. The Project on Promoting the Use of ICT for Sustainable Development Goals was initiated to facilitate the use of ICT to assist in addressing issues such as poverty, digital divide, health, education, climate change, and so on.

Your Excellencies,

In 2019, the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting in Singapore adopted the "Singapore statement on Co-Creating a Connected Digital Future in the Asia-Pacific". The Ministers from the Asia and the Pacific region have identified the five Strategic Goal: Digital Transformation, Digital Innovation and Creativity, Digital Community, Digital Trust and Digital Capacity Building and Partnership. This visionary Singapore Statement serves as a guiding compass, steering the APT and its members towards a connected digital future in the Asia-Pacific region.

On the principles of Singapore Statement, the APT has been committed to the development of digital infrastructure, embracing new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs, enhancing security and resilience, and strengthening strategic partnerships.

The global turbulences in recent years underscore the importance of digital transformation. APT, recognizing the Pacific country's unique challenges, remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting a connected, resilient, and holistic telecommunications/ICT landscape. And APT is delighted to have an opportunity to collaborate with its Pacific counterparts at this Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue.

In alignment with this perspective, the APT reaffirms its support for a better-connected Pacific, as envisioned in this occasion of having the Pacific ICT Ministers' Dialogue. We pledge our continued commitment to fostering inclusion and equality in this digital connected era.

This year, the APT Policy and Regulation Forum for the Pacific (PRFP) will be held back-to-back with this Pacific ICT Ministers' Dialogue and each PRFP session will outline and follow-up the priority areas agreed upon during this

Ministers' Dialogue. We are hopeful that APT's endeavors will substantially facilitate the Pacific members in their strategic policy and digital transformation.

In conclusion, I reiterate my deep appreciation to the Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Excellencies for allowing APT to share our aspirations with you. I would also like to express our gratitude to the government of Papua New Guinea, Kila, CEO of NICTA, and his team for the kind hospitality extended to all of us in organizing this important meeting. I sincerely hope to see Your Excellencies and all distinguished delegates again at the PRFP-16 meeting starting from this Wednesday.

Thank you very much.
