



Australia, Japan, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea

Asia Pacific Network Information Centre, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), Internet Society Asia Limited

PROPOSAL

APT WEB DIALOGUES

Context

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) is a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)-level process focused on global ICT governance and development, covering topics such as Internet governance, the communications enabling environment, digital transformation and development, universal and meaningful connectivity, ICT infrastructure, media, capacity building, and emerging ICTs.

UN Member States, including APT Members, will consider the 20-year review of the WSIS (WSIS+20) at a High-Level Meeting (HLM) in New York in late-2025. The WSIS+20 process follows the original two WSIS HLMs in 2003 and 2005, and its 10-year review in 2015.

Prior to discussions in New York, reviews of the WSIS are underway through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). As part of CSTD's review, an Asia-Pacific regional roundtable was held in September 2024 by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), at the Eighth session of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Committee, to inform the CSTD report. No further opportunities for Asia-Pacific engagement in the review process are planned.

Building on the CSTD report and other inputs, UN Member States will negotiate and consider a new WSIS resolution for adoption at the HLM. This resolution will have a significant impact on APT Members, digital transformation and ICT in the Asia-Pacific region, and progress towards achieving universal and meaningful connectivity in the region.

APT provides an excellent platform for building regional capacity and facilitating a dialogue, consistent with the APT strategic plan, to support the work of other regional and international organisations in the WSIS+20 process. The capacity of APT members to engage in the detail of the WSIS varies – facilitating dialogue among APT Members will improve regional engagement and collaboration, build connections between APT Members and partner organisations, support improved participation by all APT Members in the WSIS+20 process, facilitate the exchange of information, experiences and knowledge, and where possible, build new regional perspectives that benefits the region. This will equip APT Members to fully engage in the intergovernmental process.

The objective of APT is to foster the development of telecommunication services and information infrastructure throughout the region. The WSIS process aligns to and facilitates this objective at the global level, as demonstrated by the alignment between the WSIS and APT strategic plan. APT’s future work will be enhanced by WSIS outcomes that align to regional ICT and digital transformation priorities; the Asia-Pacific’s engagement in the WSIS will be similarly improved through APT’s facilitation of dialogue among its membership.

Proposal

Two virtual regional dialogues across 2025. The dialogues aim to:

- improve awareness of the WSIS+20 process and WSIS action lines among APT Members.
- facilitate access to relevant experts and knowledge, including WSIS+20 co-facilitators.
- promote regional coordination by sharing experiences and views.
- increase participation of Asia-Pacific countries in the WSIS+20 process, particularly from APT Members which are least developed countries (LDCs) or small island developing states (SIDS).
- support a list of Asia-Pacific WSIS+20 priorities to further support digital transformation across the Asia-Pacific, digital development and a connected, inclusive, safe and sustainable digital environment.

Specifically, the objectives of each dialogue session would be:

Session	Indicative Date	Objectives
Session 1 (90 minutes)	10 April 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - overview of the WSIS+20 process and WSIS action lines among APT Members. - information exchange between relevant experts and APT Members. - engagement with WSIS+20 co-facilitators. - discussion of Asia-Pacific WSIS+20 priorities.
Session 2* (90 minutes)	12 August 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - regional update - engagement with WSIS+20 co-facilitators. - discussion of Asia-Pacific WSIS+20 priorities.

*Note – Interested Members may arrange further informal conversations following session 2 to continue regional dialogue. The co-facilitators will invite interested members to join such discussions at the conclusion of session 2.

Papua New Guinea and Australia will serve as co-facilitators for the dialogues.

Recognising the informality of web dialogues, the Asia-Pacific WSIS+20 priorities will take the form of a summary capturing the range of views expressed during the two sessions. This will ensure that the results of the discussions are not lost and the knowledge shared among the region following the sessions. This summary will not be endorsed by APT Members nor form an APT position.

Alignment to Strategic Plan

The APT vision is to foster the development of telecommunication/ICTs throughout the region to support the digital transformation of the economy and society, and a connected, inclusive, safe and sustainable telecommunication/ICT environment for all. This vision, and the associated goals, are to be delivered within five strategic pillars – digital connectivity, digital transformation, trust and safety, digital inclusion, and sustainability.

This aligns with the vision of the WSIS to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilise and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life.

The APT Strategic Plan maps directly to the 11 WSIS action lines, highlighting the alignment between the APT’s objectives and those of the WSIS at the global level:

WSIS Action Line	APT Strategic Plan Objective(s)
1. The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development	Collaboration and Partnership and Capacity Building Digital Connectivity Digital Transformation Digital Inclusion Trust and Safety Sustainability
2. Information and communication infrastructure	Digital Connectivity
3. Access to information and knowledge	Digital Connectivity Digital Transformation Digital Inclusion
4. Capacity building	Digital Connectivity Digital Transformation Digital Inclusion
5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs	Digital Transformation Trust and Safety
6. Enabling environment	Collaboration and Partnership and Capacity Building Digital Connectivity Digital Transformation Digital Inclusion Trust and Safety Sustainability
7. ICT applications, including E-government, E-business, E-learning, E-health, E-employment, E-environment, E-agriculture, and E-science	Digital Connectivity Digital Transformation Digital Inclusion Trust and Safety Sustainability
8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content	Digital Transformation Digital Inclusion
9. Media	Digital Transformation Digital Inclusion
10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society	Trust and Safety Sustainability
11. International and regional cooperation	Collaboration and Partnership and Capacity Building

Work Programme

This proposal aligns to Work Programme 1.7 (APT Web Dialogue). It facilitates online discussion among APT Members and relevant experts to discuss policy/regulatory issues and best practices, and facilitates collaboration and coordination among APT Members in making policies and regulations. In doing so, it supports learning in the field of ICT and expands

policy/regulatory insights, creates a common discussion platform among APT Members, and enables the exchange of information and expert inputs on key areas of concern for policy makers and regulators in the region.

Resources

The APT Secretariat is requested to provide administrative assistance to facilitate the Web Dialogues (invitations to APT Members, zoom links and technical support, note-taking and circulating meeting outputs) and distribute materials and a finalised agenda.

Proposing Members will assist the APT Secretariat, undertake identified tasks, and arrange any speakers or expert participation as required.

APT secretariat costs are to be met from budget allocated to APT work programme 1.7. Any proposing APT Member costs are to be met individually by the Members concerned.

Target participants

APT Members, in particular team(s) or representative(s) who are expected to be involved in and/or provide input to the WSIS+20 Review process.

APT Affiliate Members who are interested in or following the WSIS+20 Review process.