**PACP-01**

**PRELIMINARY APT COMMON PROPOSAL**

**MODIFICATIONS TO BAKU DECLARATION 2025**

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| **Summary:**  It is proposed to amend the text of the Baku Declaration, following the work of the TDAG Working Group on the Declaration (TDAG-WG-DEC).  **Expected Results:**  APT Member administrations invite WTDC to examine the proposal and approve the changes to the Baku Declaration.  **References:**  [*Report on the work and outcome of the TDAG Working Group on the Declaration*](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG32-C-0018/en) *(TDAG-25/18(Rev.3)* |

1. **PROPOSALS**

APT Member administrations propose to modify the Baku Declaration, according to the annex below.

**ANNEX**

**MOD**

**PROPOSAL FOR THE BAKU DECLARATION 2025**

***Universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future***

We, the representatives of ITU Member States endorse the present Declaration at the ninth World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25), which took place in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan from 17 to 28 November 2025 under the theme ’Universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future’.

We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the global development community and to advancing our shared objective of driving sustainable and equitable digital transformation and inclusive growth globally, building on the outcomes of WTDC-25 and recent United Nations processes and conferences.

We recognize the tremendous progress made in advancing ICT and digital development across all regions; however persistent challenges and disparities continue to hinder universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity, within countries and across countries, particularly in developing countries, least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and small island developing states (SIDS). We therefore remain resolved to address these through enhanced international cooperation and continued engagement in the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D).

Mindful of the challenges and opportunities of digital transformation, we declare the following:

1. **We are cognizant that telecommunications/ICTs and related new and emerging technologies drive socio-economic prosperity and sustainable development across national, regional, and global digital ecosystems.** Universal and meaningful connectivity is a critical priority towards the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the outcomes of the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS). Networks, platforms, tools, data, and digital innovation create opportunities for enhancing governance, supporting entrepreneurship and improving livelihoods. Digital inclusion for youth is especially important for unlocking opportunities for learning and civic participation and preparing youth for future employment in the digital economy.
2. **We are deeply concerned that one-third of the global population** remains offline and those affected are disproportionately concentrated in developing countries, particularly LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, where there is a pressing need for investment in connectivity infrastructure. Digital divides, such as limited access to broadband networks, persist in rural areas, across income, gender and age groups, and for persons in vulnerable situations such as older persons, persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs. Among those that are covered by broadband networks, there is a vast ‘usage gap’ determined by barriers such as limited affordability and accessibility of telecommunication**/**ICT services and Internet-enabled devices, lack of digital skills, digital literacy, and relevant local content, as well aschallenges for attaining multilingualism on the Internet and challenges to a reliable, safe and secure online experience. The advancement of new and emerging technologies related to telecommunications/ICTs, if not accompanied by investments, capacity building and knowledge-sharing initiatives, risks further deepening digital divides.
3. **We acknowledge that against the backdrop of global challenges, rapid technology developments present unprecedented opportunities for building economic and ecological resilience.** Climate change, natural hazards, economic downturns, energy transition issues and supply challenges have adverse impacts that are disproportionately felt by developing countries, particularly LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS. In this context, telecommunications/ICTs and related new and emerging technology development can support countries in building resilience and tackling challenges in dynamic and innovative ways.
4. Guided by the principles of shared responsibility and equity, **we urge for multi-stakeholder actions driven by collaboration** among public and private sectors, academia, the technical community, civil society and other relevant stakeholders both regionally and globally to multiply the impact of development partnerships and assistance and achieve our shared objectives.
5. **We reaffirm the importance of leaving no one behind in digital transformation.** It is therefore necessary to urgently and systematically address equality and ensure equal opportunities for all, while promoting broad digital inclusion through holistic, innovative and adaptive policies and targeted ecosystem initiatives.

Laying the foundation for concerted collective action during the 2026-2029 development cycle, affirm the following:

1. **We support the advancement of universal and meaningful connectivity, which includes accessible, affordable, multilingual, high-quality, resilient, interoperable, safe and secure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, devices, services and applications.** Building extensive energy and telecommunications/ICTs and digital infrastructure such as for high-speed backbones and last-mile connectivity solutions using a mix of technologies is crucial to bridge development gaps, leveraging fiber-optic networks, IMT systems, satellite and terrestrial communications. Robust infrastructure promotes economies of scale, new opportunities, and long-term development. Moreover, we underscore the need for innovative investment models to support the sustainable deployment of telecommunications/ICTs and digital infrastructure. In light of persistent financial challenges in underserved areas, we encourage the development of inclusive policy and regulatory approaches that enable public-public and public-private partnerships, government-wide collaboration, and long-term digital growth.

**We underscore the importance of investment in and funding for environmentally sustainable infrastructure, e-waste and circular economy projects, clean and renewable energy and green telecommunications/ICTs** to support inclusive, long-term economic growth while reducing carbon emissions and enhancing energy security. Supported by robust data collection and monitoring, informed by best practices, and leveraging new and emerging technologies, these efforts will play a role in climate change mitigation, adaptation and climate-resilient digital development. Moreover, **we believe that a well-integrated, multi-channel approach to emergency communications** – including mobile early warning systems – is essential to ensuring that universal connectivity enables effective and timely outreach to all people at risk of natural hazards.

**We acknowledge the critical role of space radiocommunications in advancing connectivity and economic growth** and underscore the shared responsibility to ensure the rational, equitable, efficient and economic use of resources through continued international cooperation, inclusive dialogue, and capacity building to promote the long-term sustainability of space services.

1. **We call upon all policy makers and stakeholders to adopt human-centric, risk-informed and responsible approaches to digital transformation and new and emerging telecommunications/ICTS,** and implement policies to promote affordability of telecommunication/ICT services and devices to support closing digital divides. Digital transformation requires an equal playing field, increased investment flows, as well as responsible and sustainable development of emerging, terrestrial, submarine and space radiocommunication. An adequate policy response to rapid technological transformation requires strengthened institutional capabilities, whole-of-government approach, agile and collaborative governance, the mainstreaming of evidence-based decision-making and judicious adoption of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT.

Tostrengthen both national policy and regulatory frameworks and implementation capabilities, **we recognize the need to foster human and institutional capacity-building initiatives across all ITU-D Priorities. Key areas of focus remain** upskilling governments, regulators and key national and regional stakeholders, building national ICT data and statistics capacities and cybersecurity resilience, and enabling the adoption of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs, including across sectors.

1. **We recognize the need to fast-track investment in science, technology, innovation, and digital transformation, acknowledging that digital innovation ecosystems are essential to re-energizing economies, supporting structural transformation and addressing critical sustainability challenges.** A strategic approach to creating enabling policy and business environments is necessary to scale digital innovation, entrepreneurship and the digitization of economies.Strengthening digital and innovation capacities across sectors and government can improve productivity, economic diversification and competition, promoting equitable participation of all countries in the global digital economy and the achievement of SDGs.

**We support the implementation of digital skills and digital literacy development initiatives for all to ensure that all people can engage effectively and safely in the digital economy,** reducing inequalities**.** Such initiatives may include digital skills and digital literacy development centres and training, specialized capacity-building programmes and voluntary and mutually agreed knowledge transfer initiatives that assist governments, businesses and entrepreneurs to engage with digital technologies and support value creation. National and regional innovation centres can be further leveraged as institutional capacity-building mechanisms for research, training, co-creation on specific problems and the incubation of agile solutions by governments and ecosystem stakeholders.

1. **We will create synergies, strengthen collaboration and uphold existing commitments while building coordinated global and regional partnerships between public and private sectors, international agencies and other stakeholders** to pool resources, knowledge and good practices across stakeholder groups and regions to assist developing countries, in particular LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, and promote inclusive access to new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs. **We will further leverage regional and international cooperation, including but not limited to South-South and Triangular Cooperation**, to accelerate the speed and scale of action towards the achievement of the SDGs, in collaboration with the UN development system and partners, taking into account nationally designed and led initiatives.

**Together with regional telecommunication organizations, regulatory associations and other partners, we will endeavor to support the harmonization of policy and regulatory environments** in key areas driving digital transformation to enable coordinated response to cross-border issues and enhance regional connectivity, economies of scale, and sustainable digital transformation.

1. **We will strive to address the special challenges facing developing countries,** in particular LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and countries with special needs, through capacity building, tailored technical assistance, exchange of best practices, resource mobilization, impact-driven projects, matchmaking initiatives and knowledge sharing. This will include addressing challenges on leveraging new and emerging technologies related to telecommunications/ICTs, including Artificial Intelligence related to telecommunications/ICTs.

We welcome the steadfast efforts of ITU-D and its contribution towards building an inclusive and sustainable digital future for all.

**We are committed to amplifying the impact of the work of the Sector to accelerate global digital development and call upon Member States, development partners and the private sector to scale up relevant programmes and initiatives while prioritizing the needs of developing countries, particularly LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS for the full and rapid implementation of the Baku Action Plan, Regional Initiatives, and WTDC Resolutions, as well as the advancement of the commitments of the Baku Declaration.**

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