



To
Shri. Devusinh Chauhan
Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications (MoSC)
Department of Telecommunication, Sanchar Bhawan

May 08, 2023
ITU-APT/2023-24/L-609

Dear Sir,

ITU-APT Foundation of India IAFI has been consistently working towards promoting 6G Research and Standardization work in India along with what is happening globally and the opportunities this new technology will bring to the Indian economy.

Considering the overarching benefits that 6G will bring to the nation, IAFI is thankful to the Government for catalysing the next-generation of 6G research and innovation in the country to enable India to be a front-line contributor in 6G technology and manufacturing by 2030. The Bharat 6G Vision Document that has been released by the government recently, provides an excellent start of this critical journey, where countries like USA, Korea, China, and Japan have already advanced.

Given that India missed the trillion-dollar market for the networks and devices in the first four generations of mobile technology, it is heartening to note that the country is already starting to take baby steps in the global 4G and 5G market – in devices, networks, and software. However, looking at the speed with which the developments are taking place in the 6G design and development of globally harmonized standards, it is our request that India should not trail behind the curve on 6G. With regards to this, IAFI would like propose the following:

1. Further strengthening of the Apex 6G Council and constitution of National Steering Committee for 6G standards development, involving the Industry and the R&D institutions along with the relevant regulatory authorities to guide and support the ITU and 3GPP work in this area.
2. Funding of active participation of Indian experts in the Global ITU work on 6G
3. Funding support to be provided by the DoT to the recently set up 6G India Innovation Forum (6GIIF) by the IAFI and 5GIF.

We have offered these suggestions earlier also and we are reiterating it again.

IAFI has also partnered with other 6G interest groups in India and elsewhere, in the global ITU meeting, which is preparing the 6G standards as a part of the global 6G standardization work. In this meeting we have proposed a new usage scenario for 6G for providing ubiquitous connectivity to connect the unconnected in rural and remote areas as a new requirement for the proposed 6G framework. The ITU meeting, while appreciating the Indian administration proposal recommending Ubiquitous Connectivity as an overarching element of 6G that resonates with the UN SDG goal of connecting the unconnected, desired that India works towards achieving a universal consensus on this subject. The meeting had agreed to continue further discussions on this unique proposal in the next ITU meeting in June 2023. I believe the new proposal by India for meeting the key connectivity needs of rural and remote areas assumes great significance, given that India had contributed substantially to the development of the 5G rural connectivity standard, called LMLC. IAFI, along with its partners will continue to support this Indian vision at the ITU and elsewhere.

We at IAFI have also instituted a 6 GHz Wi-Fi Advocacy Project for India (& Neighbouring countries). The aim of the project is to build a national momentum of various stakeholders to support the indigenous capabilities and export potential of the 6GHz license exempt band. Towards this, CUTS International (Consumer Unity & Trust Society) an NGO working for the welfare of consumers, is co-operating with IAFI to do a grass-root consumer study and reach out to various stake holders. As of now CUTS have received over 350+ responses to a detailed questionnaire, which includes responses from Bangalore, Chennai and other Tier-1 cities. Currently CUTS is in the process of synthesising their final report.

We are therefore thankful for an early consideration of our proposals above.

With Regards,



Bharat B Bhatia,
President, ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI)
Vice Chairman, Asia Pacific, World Wireless Research Forum (WWRF)