



WTPF-2021 – Comments from ITU-APT Foundation of India¹

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I would like to thank the Secretary-General, for his kind invitation to address the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum 2021.

IAFI is a non-profit, non-political, non-partisan foundation in the Asia Pacific Region based out of India. IAFI is working for last 18 years with the prime objective of encouraging involvement of professionals, corporate, public/private sector industries, R&D organizations, academic institutions, and such other agencies in the activities of the ITU and the Asia Pacific Telecommunity, APT.

As a Regional Telecom organisation and a sector member, IAFI is an important Partner of ITU in strengthening the collaboration between ITU and India. We are an active participant in the activities of the ITU through our delegations and contributions to a number of events and meetings. IAFI has been extensively engaged with ITU-R on issues relating to public safety spectrum, PPDR satellites and 5G for Industries and enterprises. We are also engaged with all the three sectors of the ITU on disaster communications.

Earlier this year, ITU published the detailed specifications for IMT-2020 that will support several uses leveraging the advantages of 5G. One of these technologies, 5Gi, was submitted by India and IAFI play a pivotal role in getting this certification. Policies and regulations for 6G will require much greater coordination within and across various ITU study groups and sectors. IAFI has already proposed some initial thoughts on a high level 6G vision to the ITU-R WP5D.

India has been at the forefront of using the wireless technologies in responding to the challenge of COVID-19 pandemic. It is a matter of great satisfaction that, India has administered over 1.3 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses. All vaccinations are being managed through mobile wireless network, our Mobile App “Arogya-Setu” keeps the population updated on the Covid-19 and connects the health services to the people.

Before I conclude, I want to thank the ITU, especially Secretary General Houlin Zhao, Deputy Secretary General Malcolm Johnson, Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau Mario Maniewicz, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau Chaesub Lee and Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau Madam Doreen Bogdan-Martin.

In conclusion, we complement the ITU for its role in promoting harmonized policies and Regulations for ICT, as these are key to meeting the UNO’s Sustainable Development Goals.

¹ IAFI is Regional/international telecom Organization and a sector member of the three sectors of ITU. For Details, please see itu-apt.org