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**TEL Strategic Action Plan 2021-2025
Planning and Prioritization**

As of 18 August 2021

TEL Strategic Action Plan 2021-2025: Planning and Prioritization

Liberalisation Steering Group (LSG)				
The Liberalisation Steering Group (LSG) works to foster continued market liberalization in the telecommunications/ ICT sector and encourage policy and regulatory environments that promote competition and enable innovation and investment. LSG also includes the Conformity Assessment & Mutual Recognition Agreement Task Force (CA&MRA TF), which aims to ensure the continued successful implementation and use of the MRA for CA and facilitate relevant information exchanges.				
Objectives	Actions	Projects and Initiatives	Cross-fora collaboration	Remarks
1. Promotion of an enabling environment that encourages inclusiveness, innovation and competition.	1.1. Exchange information and best practices on policy and regulatory approaches in the digital sphere towards fostering effective competition and innovation.	Report and Workshop on Network Virtualization, Disaggregated Networks and Open Telecommunications Architecture in APEC - US – 2020-2021		DSG
		Economic Aspects of the Spectrum Management in the Digital Economy – Russia – 2020-2021		DSG
	1.2. Exchange information and best practices on the use of telecommunications/ ICT networks and services to support vertical applications.	Facilitating Innovation and Diversity in Next Generation (5G) Network Ecosystems – Korea – 2020-2021		DSG; TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond
		Report and Workshop on Telemedicine in the Asia-Pacific Region: Network Architecture, Capacity, and Feasibility – China – 2021-2022	HWG	DSG; TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond
		Report and Workshop on Network Virtualization, Disaggregated Networks and Open Telecommunications Architecture in APEC - US – 2020-2021		DSG

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Objectives	Actions	Projects and Initiatives	Cross-fora collaboration	Remarks
	1.3. Exchange of information and best practices in managing the trends, use and challenges of new and emerging digital technologies.	Facilitating Innovation and Diversity in Next Generation (5G) Network Ecosystems – Korea – 2020-2021		DSG; TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond
		Going Digital to Build Resilience and Sustainable Growth in Response to COVID-19 – China – 2020-2021		TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond
		Workshop to learn on Artificial Intelligence (AI) experiences of the APEC economies – Peru – 2020-2021	DESG, SMEWG	DSG
		Extension of APEC e-Government Research Centre – Japan – 2013-2023 Multi-year project		DSG
		Public-Private Dialogue on Status, Trends, Opportunities and Threats of Social Network – Thailand – 2018-2021		SPSG; Completed
		Report and Workshop on Network Virtualization, Disaggregated Networks and Open Telecommunications Architecture in APEC - US – 2020-2021		DSG

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Objectives	Actions	Projects and Initiatives	Cross-fora collaboration	Remarks
	1.4. Exchange information and best practices on ICT measurement and digital integration, and how it contributes to measuring the progress of digital transformation.			
	1.5. Promote opportunities to foster digital talents and reskilling/ upskilling in the APEC region.	ICT Skills Framework project – PNG – 2019-2021	SEARCC	DSG
		Driving the Digital Transformation and Capacity Building for APEC Indigenous Peoples through i-Tribe Free Outdoor WiFi – Chinese Taipei	DESG, HRDWG	TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond
	1.6. Exchange information and best practices on initiatives to ensure inclusive digital transformation, including the promotion of gender equality and mainstreaming in the telecommunications/ ICT sector.	Workshop to learn on Artificial Intelligence (AI) experiences of the APEC economies – Peru – 2020-2021	DESG, SMEWG	DSG
		Building a Digital Ready Society – APEC Digital Inclusion Exchange Forum – Singapore and Thailand		DSG
		Driving the Digital Transformation and Capacity Building for APEC Indigenous Peoples through i-Tribe Free Outdoor WiFi – Chinese Taipei	DESG, HRDWG	TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond

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Objectives	Actions	Projects and Initiatives	Cross-fora collaboration	Remarks
2. Increased availability, accessibility and affordability of ICTs.	2.1. Exchange information and sharing of best practices on universal telecommunications /ICT services strategies, including the development of Next-Generation Universal Service Obligations frameworks (“USO 2.0”).	Extension of APII Testbed Project - Korea - Multi-year project		DSG
		Driving the Digital Transformation and Capacity Building for APEC Indigenous Peoples through i-Tribe Free Outdoor WiFi – Chinese Taipei	DESG, HRDWG	TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond
	2.2. Identify best practices for and exchange information on measuring and enhancing digital literacy and skills.	Driving the Digital Transformation and Capacity Building for APEC Indigenous Peoples through i-Tribe Free Outdoor WiFi – Chinese Taipei	DESG, HRDWG	TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond
3. Promotion of acceptance of conformity assessment results and equivalence of	3.1. Continued successful implementation and use of the MRA for CA, and encourage use of the MRA for ETR.			

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Objectives	Actions	Projects and Initiatives	Cross-fora collaboration	Remarks
technical requirements related to equipment through the work of CA&MRA TF.	3.2. Exchange information and best practices on regulatory, technical and administrative requirements of the APEC Member Economies' conformity assessment schemes.			
	3.3. Deploy and maintain key TF publications.			
4. Conduct regular non-project activities on information and best practices sharing during the meetings.	4.1. Share regulatory updates on Digital Economy ICT/telecommunications regulatory and policy issues.			
	4.2. Share regulatory updates on spectrum management.	Economic Aspects of the Spectrum Management in the Digital Economy – Russia – 2020-2021 (DSG)		DSG

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ICT Development Steering Group (DSG)					
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Objectives	Actions	Projects and Initiatives	Cross-fora collaboration	Remarks	
1. Promotion of the deployment of telecommunication s/ ICT infrastructure and adoption of emerging digital technologies to support increased access to broadband and ICT services across the APEC region.	1.1. Exchange information and approaches to improve the quality of broadband.	Facilitating Innovation and Diversity in Next Generation (5G) Network Ecosystems – Korea – 2020-2021		TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond	
		Extension of APII Testbed Project - Korea - Multi-year project			
		Report and Workshop on Network Virtualization, Disaggregated Networks and Open Telecommunications Architecture in APEC - US – 2020-2021		TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond	
	1.2. Exchange information and share best practices on the deployment of alternative solutions to provide access to the underserved groups and those in hard-to-reach locations such as satellite, high-altitude balloons, small-cell deployments, and other technologies.		Workshop to Learn on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Experiences of the APEC Economies – Peru 2020-2021	DESG, SMEWG	
			Report and Workshop on Telemedicine in the Asia-Pacific Region: Network, Architecture, Capacity, and Feasibility – China – 2021-2022	HWG	TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond
			Building a Digital Ready Society – APEC Digital Inclusion Exchange Forum – Singapore and Thailand		
			Smart Silver Innovation Project – Japan – 2019-2023	HWG	
			Driving the Digital Transformation and Capacity Building for APEC Indigenous Peoples through i-Tribe Free Outdoor WiFi – Chinese Taipei	DESG, HRDWG	LSG; TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond

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Objectives	Actions	Projects and Initiatives	Cross-fora collaboration	Remarks
	1.3. Share technical guidelines on the use of telecommunications/ ICT networks and services to support vertical applications, such as smart sustainable cities.	Facilitating Innovation and Diversity in Next Generation (5G) Network Ecosystems – Korea – 2020-2021		TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond
		Extension of APII Testbed Project – Korea - 2021		
	1.4. Explore the technical requirements for deploying open radio access networks and virtualized networks.	Report and Workshop on Network Virtualization, Disaggregated Networks and Open Telecommunications Architecture in APEC – US – 2020-2021		TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond
	1.5. Consider spectrum management aspects in the framework of deployment of telecommunications/ ICT infrastructure and adoption of emerging digital technologies.	Facilitating Innovation and Diversity in Next Generation (5G) Network Ecosystems – Korea – 2020-2021		TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond
		Economic Aspects of the Spectrum Management in the Digital Economy – Russia – 2020-2021		

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Objectives	Actions	Projects and Initiatives	Cross-fora collaboration	Remarks
	1.6. Studies on emerging digital technologies, including the relevant standards, and how it complements the region's digital transformation.			
2. Improved ICT literacy and competency among individuals and organizations, and further ICT leadership and governance capacity with the understanding of potential applications, challenges, benefits and risks of new technologies.	2.1. Exchange information and best practices on STEM education and trainings, especially for under-represented groups (with possible collaboration with HRDWG and PPWE).	ICT Skills Framework Project – PNG – 2019-2021	SEARCC	
	2.2. Promote digital inclusion.	Workshop to Learn on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Experiences of the APEC Economies – Peru – 2020-2021	DESG, SMEWG	
		Smart Silver Innovation Project – Japan – 2019-2023	HWG	TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond
		Extension of APEC e-Government Research Centre – Japan – 2013-2023 Multi-year project		

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Objectives	Actions	Projects and Initiatives	Cross-fora collaboration	Remarks
		Building a Digital Ready Society – APEC Digital Inclusion Exchange Forum – Singapore and Thailand		
		Workshop on Regulatory challenges to promote the development of the Digital Economy: a consumer empowerment perspective – Peru – 2021	DESG	TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond
	2.3. Enhance digital literacy, skills and competency for safe online use and experience.	Building a Digital Ready Society – APEC Digital Inclusion Exchange Forum – Singapore and Thailand		
		Cybersecurity Awareness Day – US – Implemented annually		SPSG
		Workshop on Regulatory challenges to promote the development of the Digital Economy: a consumer empowerment perspective – Peru – 2021	DESG	TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond
	2.4. Build organizational capacity to manage data in a secure and trustworthy manner.	Extension of APEC e-Government Research Centre – Japan – 2013-2023 Multi-year project		
		Workshop on Open Data for digital economy growth – Thailand		
	2.5. Share initiatives to equip digital non-natives with relevant digital skills.			

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Objectives	Actions	Projects and Initiatives	Cross-fora collaboration	Remarks
3. Promotion of sustainable environmental development through the use of green and energy-efficient ICTs.	3.1. Capacity building on green ICT metrics.			
	3.2. Exchange information on incentives for the production of greener ICT devices and equipment and e-cycling programs.			
4. Promote the use of ICTs and emerging digital technologies in response to global challenges and pandemics.	4.1. Exchange relevant information, practices and solutions on the use of telecommunications/ ICT during and after global and regional emergencies and pandemics.	Report and Workshop on Telemedicine in the Asia-Pacific Region: Network, Architecture, Capacity, and Feasibility – China – 2021-2022	HWG	TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond
		Going Digital to Build Resilience and Sustainable Growth in Response to COVID-19 – China – 2020-2021		LSG; TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond
		Workshop on Regulatory challenges to promote the development of the Digital Economy: a consumer empowerment perspective – Peru – 2021	DESG	TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond
	4.2. Participate in the implementation of the APEC TEL Initiative on	Report and Workshop on Telemedicine in the Asia-Pacific Region: Network, Architecture, Capacity, and Feasibility – China - 2021-2022	HWG	TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond

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Objectives	Actions	Projects and Initiatives	Cross-fora collaboration	Remarks
	Global Challenges and Cooperation Utilizing ICT – COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond.	Going Digital to Build Resilience and Sustainable Growth in Response to COVID-19 – China – 2020-2021		LSG; TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and Beyond

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Security and Prosperity Steering Group (SPSG)				
The Security and Prosperity Steering Group (SPSG) aims to promote security and trust in networks, infrastructure, services, technologies, applications, and digital economy, as well as engage in capacity building on preventing and combating cyber-crime, responding to computer security incidents, and implementing cybersecurity awareness initiatives.				
Objectives	Actions	Projects and Initiatives	Cross-fora collaboration	Remarks
1. Implementation of the APEC Framework for Securing the Digital Economy.	1.1. Exchange information and best practices on telecommunications/ ICT confidence building measures and digital security risk management practices.	Public-Private Dialogue on Status, Trends, Opportunities and Threats of Social Network – Thailand – 2018-2021		Completed
	1.2. Develop "economy strategies" in consultation with relevant stakeholders.			
2. Promotion of resilience of critical ICT infrastructure, and emergency response and preparedness.	2.1. Promote understanding of the importance of greater connectivity and enhance resilience of critical domestic infrastructure.			
	2.2. Support the capacity of relevant stakeholders in APEC economies to create resilient networks.			
	2.3. Examine and share best practices in the use of	Going Digital to Build Resilience and Sustainable Growth in Response to COVID-19 – China – 2020-		LSG; TEL Initiative – COVID-19 and

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Security and Prosperity Steering Group (SPSG)				
The Security and Prosperity Steering Group (SPSG) aims to promote security and trust in networks, infrastructure, services, technologies, applications, and digital economy, as well as engage in capacity building on preventing and combating cyber-crime, responding to computer security incidents, and implementing cybersecurity awareness initiatives.				
Objectives	Actions	Projects and Initiatives	Cross-fora collaboration	Remarks
	ICTs in responding to disaster risk reduction and global challenges.	2021		Beyond
	2.4. Strengthen Industrial Control Systems (ICS) capacity in the region and share best practices.			
	2.5. Share cybersecurity threat information.			
	2.6. Strengthen cyber incident emergency response collaboration.			
3. Improved cybersecurity awareness and capacity building among ICT users, including consumers, private sector, policymakers, and other relevant stakeholders, in	3.1. Implement the APEC cybersecurity awareness day.	Cybersecurity Awareness Day – US – Implemented annually		
	3.2. Implement cybersecurity education at all levels.	APEC K12 Cyber Security Education Workshop – Indonesia – 2021-2022		
	3.3. Promote consumer confidence and trust in the use of ICTs.			
	3.4. Exchange information and best practices on cybersecurity challenges	Cybersecurity Awareness Day – US – Implemented annually		

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Objectives	Actions	Projects and Initiatives	Cross-fora collaboration	Remarks
coordination with the cybersecurity industry to facilitate the creation of a secure and trusted environment for transactions and communications.	and response with the aim at enhancing regional cybersecurity cooperation.			
	3.5. Promote regular cybersecurity collaboration and dialogues between governments, business community and consumers.	Cybersecurity Awareness Day – US – Implemented annually		
	3.6. Promote policy and regulatory frameworks that strengthen the capacities of Member Economies to combat cybersecurity risks.			