

# Concept Note on “Smart Cities and Societies for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development”

**Date/Time:** 1.30 – 3.00 PM (UTC+7), 30 October 2024, Wednesday

## Background

As urbanization accelerates, cities worldwide are becoming epicenters of economic growth and social transformation. In South Asia, rapid urban expansion poses significant challenges, including infrastructural strain, resource management, and environmental sustainability. Smart cities and societies offer a transformative approach to address these challenges by integrating Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and innovative policies to enhance living, promote economic development, and ensure environmental sustainability.

Smart cities and societies leverage advanced technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), Big Data and 5G connectivity to create efficient, responsive, and sustainable urban environments. These technologies enable improved public services, enhanced citizen engagement, and better resource management. For South Asia, smart cities and societies represent a crucial opportunity to foster inclusive growth, reduce urban-rural disparities, and support sustainable socio-economic development. The web dialogue is being organized as part of the activities of the SATRC Action Plan Phase IX.

## Objectives

The web dialogue aims to:

1. Explore the Role of Smart Cities and Societies for Sustainable Development
2. Highlight Policy and Regulatory Frameworks
3. Showcase Best Practices and Innovations
4. Facilitate Knowledge Exchange and Collaboration

**Duration:** 90 minutes, followed by a 30-minute Q&A session.

## Session Format:

Time (UTC+7)	Program	Remarks
13.30 - 13.35	Welcome and Opening Remarks by the Secretary General of APT	
13.35 – 14.30	Presentation	
14.30 - 15.00	Q&A	

## Target Audience

The web dialogue is aimed at:

- Regulators and policymakers.
- Industry leaders and service providers in the telecommunication/ICT