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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for
Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

Bangkok, 10 October 2018

Agenda item 3

Adoption of the report of the Ministerial Conference

Draft report

I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention

A. Matters calling for action by the Commission

1. The following recommendation of the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for its consideration and possible action:

Recommendation

The Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific recommends the Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030), as contained in annexes I and II to the present report, for endorsement by the Commission at its seventy-fifth session, in 2019.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Commission

2. The following decisions adopted by the Ministerial Conference are brought to the attention of the Commission:

Decision 1

The Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific adopts the Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030), as contained in annexes I and II to the present report.

Decision 2

The Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific supports the issuance of a biennial report on space and geospatial applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific that will guide policy actions over the implementation period of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030).

Decision 3

The Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, underlining the need for ministers to meet on a more frequent basis, decides to convene a fourth Ministerial Conference to coincide with the end of the phase-I implementation and the start of the phase-II implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030).

II. Proceedings

A. Supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific through universal access to and use of space applications
(Agenda item 2)

3. The Ministerial Conference had before it the note by the secretariat on achieving universal access to and use of space applications for sustainable development (ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/1), the draft ministerial declaration on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/L.2/Add.1) and the draft Asia-Pacific plan of action on space applications for sustainable development (2018–2030) (ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/L.2/Add.2).

4. Representatives of the following members and associate members of the Commission made statements: Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Fiji; France; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People’s Democratic Republic; Mongolia; Myanmar; Pakistan; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Turkey; and Viet Nam.

5. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds and other entities made statements: secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Institute for Training and Research; and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

6. The representative of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization made a statement.

7. The Ministerial Conference noted a number of forward-looking initiatives in the region aimed at maximizing the contribution of space applications to sustainable development.

8. The Ministerial Conference expressed full commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recognized the importance of space applications in supporting work for that purpose.

9. The Ministerial Conference recognized that the draft Asia-Pacific plan of action on space applications for sustainable development (2018–2030) had been developed based on the needs expressed by members and associate members in an open, collective and inclusive consultation process.

10. The Ministerial Conference noted that several challenges still needed to be addressed to effectively utilize space applications and recognized that the Asia-Pacific plan of action, once adopted, could help overcome those challenges.

11. The Ministerial Conference expressed support for regional cooperation as an important means to support the implementation of the Asia-Pacific plan of action and called upon intergovernmental mechanisms, national Governments and international and technical organizations to cooperate and align their work to support the plan of action where possible.

12. The Ministerial Conference stated that it would continue working with members, associate members, intergovernmental mechanisms, the secretariat and international and technical organizations to implement the Asia-Pacific plan of action.

13. The Ministerial Conference noted the work being done by several countries to improve their programmes on space technology and applications to support work towards the 2030 Agenda.

14. The Ministerial Conference expressed appreciation to members and associate members for their valuable contributions and efforts to further the use of space technology and geospatial information applications, globally and in the region and pledged to continue that work in humility towards the emergence of Asia and the Pacific as a model region for cooperation in space technology applications, demonstrated by the regional mechanisms in operation.

B. Adoption of the report of the Ministerial Conference
(Agenda item 3)

15. The Ministerial Conference adopted the present report on 10 October 2018, including annex I, containing the Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and annex II, containing the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030)

III. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the Ministerial Conference

16. The Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific was held in Bangkok on 10 October 2018.

17. The ministerial segment was opened by Air Chief Marshal Prajin Juntong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, Chair of the National Space Policy Committee, Thailand. The Officer-in-Charge of ESCAP also made a statement.

18. Keynote speeches were made by Mr. Adam Shareef Umar, Minister of Defence and National Security, Maldives, and Mr. Nidup Dorji, Minister

(Interim Adviser), Ministry of Information and Communications, and Vice Chancellor, Royal University of Bhutan, Bhutan.

B. Attendance

19. The Ministerial Conference was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members: Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Fiji; France; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People’s Democratic Republic; Mongolia; Myanmar; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Turkey; and Viet Nam.

20. Representatives of the following Permanent Observer to ESCAP attended: Nigeria.

21. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds and other entities attended: secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Institute for Training and Research; United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; and World Health Organization.

22. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended: Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization; Asia-Pacific Telecommunity; and Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and South-East Asia.

23. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and other entities attended: Asian Institute of Technology; and World Geospatial Industry Council/Geospatial Technology of India.

C. Election of officers

24. The Ministerial Conference elected the following officers:

Chair:	Ms. Kanyawim Kirtikorn (Thailand)
Vice-Chairs:	Mr. Karunaratha Paranawithana (Sri Lanka) Mr. Thomas Djamaluddin (Indonesia)

D. Agenda

25. The Ministerial Conference adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements and keynote addresses;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific through universal access to and use of space applications.
3. Adoption of the report of the Ministerial Conference.

Annex

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/1	Achieving universal access to and use of space applications for sustainable development	2
<i>Limited series</i>		
ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/L.1	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/L.2	Draft report	3
ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/L.2/Add.1	Draft ministerial declaration on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	2
ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/L.2/Add.2	Draft Asia-Pacific plan of action on space applications for sustainable development (2018–2030)	2
<i>Working paper series</i>		
ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/WP.1	Draft ministerial declaration on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	
ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/WP.2	Draft Asia-Pacific plan of action on space applications for sustainable development (2018–2030)	
<i>Information available online</i>		
www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/third-ministerial-conference-space-applications-sustainable-development#	Information for participants	
www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/third-ministerial-conference-space-applications-sustainable-development#	Tentative programme	