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Committee on Information and Communications Technology,
Science, Technology and Innovation

First session

Bangkok, 5-7 October 2016

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the first session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II), which provide key directions for the deliberations of the Committee.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of the Bureau;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Policy issues for information and communications technology:
 - (a) Towards the Asia-Pacific information superhighway;
 - (b) Regional review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines;
 - (c) Space applications as a critical tool for enhanced e-resilience;
 - (d) Regional capacity-building on information and communications technology for development.
3. Policy issues for science, technology and innovation:
 - (a) Taking the next step: developing an action agenda for science, technology and innovation for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (b) Fostering regional science, technology and innovation collaboration through an Asia-Pacific innovation forum;
 - (c) Facilitating knowledge-sharing between subregional science, technology and innovation cooperation mechanisms in Asia and the Pacific.
4. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogrammes.

5. Consideration of possible draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-third session.
6. Dates and venue of and provisional agenda for the second session of the Committee.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its first session.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening statements

Documentation

Tentative programme (E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/INF/3)

Annotation

The tentative programme for the opening session will be issued in due course.

(b) Election of the Bureau

Documentation

List of participants (E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/INF/2)

Annotation

The Committee will elect a bureau consisting of two co-chairs, one for information and communications technology and one for science, technology and innovation; two vice-chairs to preside over each of the subcommittees; and two additional vice-chairs to serve as rapporteurs of the subcommittees.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/L.1)

Annotation

The annotated provisional agenda will be considered and adopted by the Committee, subject to such changes as may be deemed necessary.

The work of the secretariat in information and communications technology for development has specific and unique considerations as it concentrates on assisting Asia-Pacific economies in benefiting from the opportunities offered by the information and communications technology revolution and in preventing the digital divide from becoming a development divide. Accordingly, the primary focus of its substantive work has been to promote information and communications technology connectivity, review regional progress against the World Summit on the Information Society and the Sustainable Development Goals, promote the use of space applications

for strengthening e-resilience to disasters, and build capacity in the use of information and communications technology for sustainable development.

The science, technology and innovation programme will focus on bringing attention to science, technology and innovation best practices for sustainable development with an emphasis on policies, investment strategies and effective enabling environments. The programme will also focus on how best to share best practices and on facilitating knowledge-sharing and collective action by creating terms of reference for an Asia-Pacific innovation forum and facilitating knowledge-sharing between the various subregional science, technology and innovation cooperation mechanisms (such as Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)).

Discussions on agenda items 2 and 3 will take place in the context of two separate subcommittees meeting in parallel sessions. The Committee will adopt one report in the final common plenary session (agenda item 8).

2. Policy issues for information and communications technology

(a) Towards the Asia-Pacific information superhighway

Documentation

Towards the Asia-Pacific information superhighway
(E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/1)

Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway
(E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/2)

Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Regional Cooperation Framework Document (E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/3)

Annotation

The agenda item will be introduced by the secretariat, followed by an open discussion on the progress made in developing broadband infrastructure and delivering affordable and reliable broadband Internet across the region through the Asia-Pacific information superhighway.

In resolution 69/10, member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) recognized the need to promote the exchange of best practices, experiences and knowledge related to the development of information and communications technology infrastructure, including in-depth analysis of the policy and regulatory barriers that may impede efforts to synchronize the deployment of infrastructure across the region in a seamless manner.

In accordance with Commission resolution 71/10, the Working Group on the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway met in September 2015. At that meeting, participants agreed to form a steering group to develop a draft master plan that would encompass a long-term vision and specific activities with regard to the four pillars of the Asia-Pacific information superhighway. The draft master plan was then reviewed by the Working Group on the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, which met in China in August 2016.

The Committee is invited to consider and endorse the recommendations contained in the documents under this agenda item.

(b) Regional review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines

Documentation

Regional review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines (E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/4)

Annotation

Commission resolution 72/10 mandated the secretariat to hold a regional review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society action lines as part of the session of the Committee and to ensure linkage to the global forums on the Summit.

The agenda item will be introduced by the secretariat, followed by an open discussion regarding document E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/4, which provides an overview of progress in implementing the World Summit action lines in the context of the new Sustainable Development Goals in the Asia-Pacific region. The document sets out methods to conduct the World Summit regional review, which aims to support the implementation of the Goals in Asia and the Pacific.

The Committee may wish to discuss issues raised in the document in view of rapid technological advancements and the need to share good practices and lessons learned in this area.

(c) Space applications as a critical tool for enhanced e-resilience

Documentation

Space applications as a critical tool for enhanced e-resilience (E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/5)

Annotation

Disasters are becoming more frequent and intense in the Asia-Pacific region. People, governments and businesses throughout the region rely on a vast array of technologies, including space technology applications, to deliver vital services and maintain the operation of other critical infrastructure, at all stages of the disaster cycle.

The agenda item will be introduced by the secretariat, followed by an open discussion with regard to document E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/5, which provides an overview of national initiatives, lessons learned and good practices aimed at strengthening e-resilience, including strategies to incorporate space applications into disaster risk reduction and disaster management planning. Case studies, including the use of social media and other emerging technologies, will also be examined.

The Committee is invited to reflect on country experiences and propose policy actions that may promote space applications as a critical tool for enhanced e-resilience and disaster risk management.

(d) Regional capacity-building on information and communications technology for development

Documentation

Report of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its activities during the period 2014-2016 (E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/6)

Annotation

The Committee will have before it the report submitted by the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development which provides information on the Centre's programmes and activities related to building human and institutional capacity in using information and communications technology for inclusive and sustainable development.

An introduction by the secretariat will be followed by a panel discussion on national experiences on information and communications technology capacity development and an open discussion.

3. Policy issues for science, technology and innovation

(a) Taking the next step: developing an action agenda for science, technology and innovation for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

Documentation

Taking the next step: developing an action agenda for science, technology and innovation for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/7)

Annotation

Despite consensus on the transformative potential of science, technology and innovation, there remains a lack of clarity on how best to effectively use them to implement inclusive and sustainable development practices.

The agenda item will be introduced by the secretariat, followed by an open discussion with regard to document E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/7, which contains recommendations on effectively harnessing science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development. The document also contains a proposal on the role ESCAP could play in facilitating regional science, technology and innovation knowledge-sharing, collaboration and collective action and an outline of a potential policy prioritization process and ways forward.

The Committee is invited to reflect on, prioritize and propose policy action plans to ensure that the region as a whole reaps the benefits of science, technology and innovation. The Committee is also invited to review and agree on the proposed role of ESCAP in the area of science, technology and innovation.

(b) Fostering regional science, technology and innovation collaboration through an Asia-Pacific innovation forum

Documentation

Terms of reference for the Asia-Pacific Innovation Forum (E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/8)

Annotation

In resolution 72/12, the Commission invited member States to work further on convening a biennial Asia-Pacific innovation forum starting in 2017 through the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation and to work further on its terms of reference and modalities, the forum to be held alternatively with that Committee, as a means to enhance and facilitate knowledge-sharing and collaboration among member States, the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders as appropriate.

While the Committee will provide an important venue to share knowledge, foster collaboration and facilitate collective action, the biennial meeting schedule may hamper countries' ability to keep pace with the fast-changing landscape of science, technology and innovation. Thus, an innovation forum would provide an additional avenue of cooperation, which could be convened on alternate years to the Committee. Such a forum would provide a unique opportunity for Asia-Pacific countries to convene on a more regular basis to collectively act on the challenges and opportunities that science, technology and innovation present and to engage a broader range of stakeholders (such as the private sector and civil society) in deliberations.

The Committee is invited to review and agree on the terms of reference contained in document E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/8. The agenda item will be introduced by the secretariat, followed by an open discussion.

(c) Facilitating knowledge-sharing between subregional science, technology and innovation cooperation mechanisms in Asia and the Pacific

Documentation

Report on subregional science, technology and innovation cooperation mechanisms in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/9)

Annotation

There is a dynamic, vibrant and pioneering science, technology and innovation ecosystem in the region, and there are many regional science, technology and innovation cooperation mechanisms (such as APEC and ASEAN) that have been put in place to share knowledge and experience in creating an enabling environment in this area, as well as to collaborate on pressing global challenges.

However, these mechanisms are disparate and unconnected and, as a result, do not fully harness the region's vast knowledge and potential. They also do not include many countries in the region – 19 Asian-Pacific economies (including many Pacific island countries) do not belong to any of the subregional science, technology and innovation networks. Therefore, much work can be done to further integrate the disparate network of platforms, so as to promote deeper collaboration within the entire Asia-Pacific region and promote inclusive and sustainable innovation.

Likewise, the fact that many countries in the region are not parties to existing science, technology and innovation cooperation platforms or mechanisms is a distinct challenge for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. To fully harness the underlying potential of the region, it is necessary to establish a platform that spans the whole of Asia and the Pacific, promotes inclusive science, technology and innovation cooperation and provides a forum for both South-South and North-South cooperation. The Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation presents a unique opportunity to create a truly integrated and inclusive approach to sharing knowledge, capturing the diversity and dynamism of science, technology and innovation across the region, and facilitating collaboration.

Document E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/9 provides a review of the form, function and focus of the various subregional science, technology and innovation cooperation mechanisms in the region.

The Committee is invited to review the document and make proposals regarding the role of the Committee in ensuring that the region as a whole is fully informed on subregional science, technology and innovation cooperation agendas. The agenda item will be introduced by the secretariat, followed by an open discussion.

4. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogrammes

Under this agenda item, the subcommittees may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the focus of the short- and long-term work in the area of information and communications technology and science, technology and innovation, respectively, taking into account the programme direction and priorities outlined in the strategic framework for 2016-2017. The subcommittees may also wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on enabling the full integration of the outcome of the Committee's deliberations into the planning of the strategic framework and programme of work for 2018-2019.

5. Consideration of possible draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-third session

Member States may wish to circulate, in advance, proposals and/or texts of draft resolutions on priority issues relating to information and communications technology and science, technology and innovation for consideration by the Commission at its seventy-third session.

6. Dates and venue of and provisional agenda for the second session of the Committee

The Committee may wish to discuss the tentative dates and venue of and provisional agenda for the second session of the Committee, to be held in 2018.

7. Other matters

The Committee may raise any matter not covered under the items mentioned above.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its first session

Documentation

Draft report (E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/L.2)

Annotation

The Committee will consider and adopt the report on its first session for submission to the Commission at its seventy-third session, to be held in 2017.
