



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Subcommittee on Information, Communications and Space Technology

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**PROGRAMME MATTERS: PRIORITY AREAS FOR INCLUSION IN  
THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2006-2007**

(Item 7 (b) of the provisional agenda)

*Note by the secretariat*



## **Introduction**

1. In its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on a trial basis, for submission to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, a strategic framework to replace the current four-year medium-term plan. The strategic framework would comprise part one, a plan outline, reflecting the longer-term objectives of the Organization; and part two, a biennial programme plan that would cover two years.

2. Under these new arrangements, the programme narrative for the next programme budget (covering the period 2006-2007) will be identical to the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement provided in the biennial programme plan. The biennial plan is based largely on the content of the draft indicative medium-term plan endorsed by the Committee on Managing Globalization at its first session, in November 2003 (see E/ESCAP/1307, para. 125).

3. At its sixtieth session, in April 2004, the Commission endorsed the draft strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 (E/ESCAP/1313/Rev.1), including the proposed biennial plan for information, communication and space technology. The framework was then transmitted to the Secretary-General, along with the comments of the Commission, for eventual consideration during the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly (see A/59/6 (Prog. 15)). At its forty-fourth session, in July 2004, the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended that the General Assembly approve the narrative of the proposed biennial programme plan.<sup>1</sup>

4. The present document contains the biennial programme plan for the subprogramme on information, communication and space technology covering the period 2006-2007, including objectives, expected accomplishments and strategies, as it appears in A/59/6 (Prog. 15).

5. The Subcommittee is invited to review the present document and to make suggestions for priority areas of focus for inclusion in the programme budget for 2006-2007. Priorities should focus on outputs and activities that could contribute to the expected accomplishments and strategic direction stated in the narrative of the subprogramme on information, communication and space technology.

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<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/59/16)*, para. 241.

**Subprogramme 7. Information, communication and space technology**

<b>Objective:</b> To improve access to, and the development, transfer and application of, information, communication and space technology in order to maximize the benefits of globalization.	
<b>Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat</b>	<b>Indicators of achievement</b>
(a) Increased national capacities to develop and implement policies and programmes, including regulatory and institutional frameworks, that facilitate equitable access to information, communication and space technology for development	(a) An increase in the number of measures taken to improve regulatory frameworks
(b) Enhanced national capacities to apply information, communication and space technology in planning and implementing socio-economic development programmes, including for the promotion of gender equality	(b) An increase in the number of measures taken at the national level to apply information, communication and space technology in the development of national socio-economic development programmes

**Strategy**

The substantive responsibility for this subprogramme lies with the Information, Communication and Space Technology Division, which will cooperate closely with other divisions under the theme of managing globalization. The subprogramme's strategic direction derives from the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the World Summit on the Information Society, the Tokyo Declaration of the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on the World Summit on the Information Society and the Delhi Declaration on Space Technology Applications in Asia and the Pacific for Improved Quality of Life in the New Millennium.

The subprogramme will be implemented, particularly in the least developed countries and small island developing countries, by employing the following strategic modalities: the organization of intergovernmental and expert group meetings; the undertaking of research and studies; the development of knowledge management tools and knowledge networks among individuals and institutions working in the field to exchange or share information and knowledge; the implementation of operational activities, including training and pilot projects; and the provision of advisory services to assist members, at their request, in expanding access to information, communication and space technology to support national development. The activities of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology will contribute to this subprogramme.