



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**Seventy-third session**

Agenda item 3 (e)

**Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific****73/6. Implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway
initiative through regional cooperation**

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/212 of 21 December 2016 on information and communications technologies for development, in which the Assembly recognized the role of regional commissions in the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society processes and called upon the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to ensure that no one was left behind and no country was left behind in its implementation,

Recalling also the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,¹ in particular the goals and targets on striving to provide universal access to the Internet by 2020, developing productive capacities and expanding broadband connectivity, e-networking and e-connectivity,

Recalling further the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024,² in particular the actions required to support landlocked developing countries in developing their information and communications technology sector, expanding broadband infrastructure and building capacity for the use of modern and affordable communications technology,

Reaffirming the call for support for enhancing and promoting connectivity and use of information and communications technology articulated in the annex to General Assembly resolution 69/15 of 14 November 2014 on the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,

Recognizing that access to information and communications technology and related capacity-building, including for youth, older persons, women, people with disabilities, and remote and rural communities, are fundamental to reducing the digital divide, alleviating poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals in Asia and the Pacific,

¹ *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.*

² General Assembly resolution 69/137, annex II.

Recalling resolution 69/10 of 1 May 2013 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on promoting regional information and communications technology connectivity and building knowledge-networked societies in Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling also its resolution 71/10 of 29 May 2015 on strengthening regional information and communications technology connectivity through the establishment of the open-ended Working Group on the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, and noting that a proposal for amendments to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network³ and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network⁴ is under consideration, to enhance information and communications technology and transport cross-sectoral synergies,

Recalling further its resolution 72/10 of 19 May 2016, in which the Commission requested the Executive Secretary 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 on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation on its first session,⁵

Acknowledging with satisfaction the outcomes of the second meeting of the Working Group on the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, which was held in Guangzhou, China, in August 2016, and expressing its appreciation to the members of the Working Group and to the secretariat,

1. *Invites* members and associate members to cooperate in the implementation of the Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway⁶ and the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Regional Cooperation Framework Document⁷ as endorsed by the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation at its first session;

2. *Also invites* members and associate members to promote broad-based partnerships, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and highlighting the importance of such partnerships, for the implementation of the Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway and the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Regional Cooperation Framework Document;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Accord priority to the implementation of the Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway and the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Regional Cooperation Framework Document, including the support to members and associate members for their implementation;

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2323, No. 41607.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 2596, No. 46171.

⁵ E/ESCAP/73/10.

⁶ E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/2.

⁷ E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/3.

(b) Encourage the participation of various stakeholders, such as United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions and partners, as well as the private sector, civil society, research institutes and think tanks, as appropriate, in the implementation of activities of the Master Plan;

(c) Continue to conduct research and analysis and capacity development to identify challenges and opportunities associated with the four pillars of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative and the implementation of the strategic initiatives included in the Master Plan, including support for formulating regional, subregional and national action plans, based on paragraph 39 of the Master Plan, for the achievement of sustainable development;

(d) Maximize opportunities created by the subregional offices and regional institutions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in order to advance the implementation of activities, consultations and cooperation for the Asia-Pacific information superhighway, while deepening cross-sectoral synergies;

(e) Report to the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation at its second session on the progress made in the implementation of the strategic initiatives articulated in the Master Plan;

(f) Report to the Commission at its seventy-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*6th plenary meeting
19 May 2017*