**Draft outcome document of the first session of the Working Group
on the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway**

1-2 September 2015

Emphasizing the importance of strengthening regional broadband connectivity;

Recalling Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolutions 69/10 and 71/10 on promoting regional connectivity and building knowledge-networked societies in Asia and the Pacific, in which members and associate members agreed to implement information and communications technology policies that promote social and economic development;

The open-ended Working Group on the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, having met for the first time in Incheon, Republic of Korea on 1 and 2 September 2015, decided on the following:

Draft master plan of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway

To elaborate on a master plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, which will consist of the long-term vision, targeted goals, specific activities and milestones with regard to the four pillars: Strengthening regional broadband terrestrial back-bone network; establishing sufficient Internet Exchange Points (IXPs), harmonizing Internet traffic management systems and policies; enhancing transmission infrastructure resilience, and providing inclusive access to broadband internet for all;

In this regard, call on the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to continue to build up on related in-depth analytical studies, especially on feasibility, demand forecasts, and network resilience in collaboration with national, regional and international development partners, civil society and the private sector, and to continue updating of ESCAP-ITU broadband networks maps;

Undertake capacity-building initiatives and sharing of national experiences on the above four pillars, in partnership with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), the Internet Society (ISOC) and other partners;

Draft regional cooperation framework for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway

1. Strengthening regional broadband terrestrial back-bone network

Shall endeavor to enhance a seamless regional broadband backbone connectivity by encouraging investments in the deployment, up-grading and increasing the resilience of, and integrating cross-border, intra and inter regional broadband cohesive backbone networks, which will lead to open access and more well-balanced undersea and terrestrial networks in this region;

Further endeavor to leverage existing regional connectivity opportunities offered by the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway, as well as other trans-border infrastructures, in order to utilize the right-of-way of existing and planned transport networks, and achieve rapid, cost-effective deployment of optical fiber across and within countries;

In this context, undertake to propose amendments to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network;

2. Establishing sufficient Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) and harmonizing Internet traffic management systems and policies

Endeavor to enhance the Internet traffic exchange and management systems and harmonize related policies in a more efficient and effective manner, domestically as well as at the subregional and regional levels, which will lead to better quality of service and the reduction of currently severe tromboning, high rates of latency and costly transit prices in this region;

In this regard,

Firstly, encourage investing in the establishment of sufficient Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) within the region;

Secondly, endeavor to harmonize the Internet traffic management practice, principles, and related policy and regulatory frameworks towards more open, neutral and non-discriminatory ways;

Thirdly, to lay out the general principles on the establishment of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs);

3. Enhancing ICT infrastructure resilience

Recognizing the importance of resilient infrastructure to sustainable development, together with the critical role played by ICTs in disaster risk reduction and management, endeavor to consider redundancy and resilience when promoting telecommunications infrastructure enhancement; and shall likewise prioritize the identification of opportunities to enhance the resilience of existing ICT infrastructure through methods such as enhanced network diversity;

4. Providing inclusive access to broadband internet

Recognizing that large segments of the population in the Asia Pacific region remain unconnected and excluded from the many social and economic opportunities offered by broadband Internet connectivity, agree that efforts should be undertaken to foster the necessary environment that will lead to the promotion of inclusive access for all;

Endeavor to work together, including through existing and planned global, regional and national partnerships, to bring reliable and affordable broadband Internet services to all people in Asia-

Pacific through the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, acknowledging the special challenges faced by least developed and landlocked developing countries;

Encourage public funding arrangements and public-private partnerships for the promotion of infrastructure development;

Structure and operation of the Working Group on the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway

Decides to establish a Steering Group, consisting of the members of the Bureau and an appropriate number of multi-stakeholder representatives with policy and technical expertise, to be determined by the Chairperson of the Working Group, that will review the above draft master plan and draft regional cooperation framework for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway to be discussed by the Working Group;

Decides that the Working Group will, in principle, hold annual sessions. The Chairperson of the Working Group may call for ad hoc meetings of the Working Group to review the above-mentioned draft texts;

Further decides to report the findings and outcomes through the Working Group activities to the fifth session of the ESCAP Committee on Information and Communications Technology in late 2016, and in this regard, decides to hold its second meeting, tentatively, before June 2016.

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