

## II. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ROUND TABLE ON CAPACITY-BUILDING NEEDS<sup>4</sup>

The Round Table on Capacity-building Needs for E-commerce Legal and Regulatory Systems Development in Asia and the Pacific, meeting in Bangkok on 9 July 2004,

**Acknowledges** the importance of training and capacity building for e-commerce legal professionals (lawmakers, regulators, lawyers and judges);

**Recalls** the Geneva 2003 Declaration of Principle<sup>5</sup> of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), according to which:

- An enabling environment at national and international levels is essential for the information society. ICTs should be used as an important tool for good governance.
- The rule of law, accompanied by a supportive, transparent, pro-competitive, technology-neutral and predictable policy and regulatory framework reflecting national realities, is essential for building a people-centred information society.
- Standardization is one of the essential building blocs of the information society.
- Regional integration contributes to the development of the global information society.
- Regional dialogue should contribute to national capacity-building.

**Refers to** the WSIS Plan of Action on Capacity-building (C4, a to p)<sup>6</sup> and the Declaration on E-commerce for Development;<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> This roundtable was held on 9 July 2004 and chaired by H.E. Sok Siphana, Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia. Over 50 experts and senior government officials attended from throughout the region, as well as representatives from relevant international organizations. The list of participants and the regional capacity building plan as part of the conclusions and recommendations are at [http://www.unescap.org/tid/projects/ecom04\\_conf.asp](http://www.unescap.org/tid/projects/ecom04_conf.asp).

<sup>5</sup> See Document WSIS-03/Geneva/Doc/4-E, 12 December 2003.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Joint UNCTAD-ESCAP Asia-Pacific Regional Conference, E-Commerce Strategies for Development, 20-22 November 2002 ([http://r0.unctad.org/ecommerce/event\\_docs/bangkok\\_about.htm#documents](http://r0.unctad.org/ecommerce/event_docs/bangkok_about.htm#documents)).

**Recognizes that** regardless of the uneven stages in the development of the legal and regulatory framework of e-commerce in the Asia-Pacific region, training and capacity-building of the legal professional constitute a realistic and effective means to achieving a common understanding of e-commerce legal and regulatory issues for harmonization and trade facilitation;

**Endorses** the Technical Assistance Project for Regional Capacity-building as summarized in figure 2;

**Recommends** that ESCAP, as the regional arm of the United Nations, coordinate with other relevant capacity-building organizations, particularly UNCITRAL, ITC UNCTAD/WTO, UNCTAD, ITU, WIPO and the World Bank, to implement the regional capacity-building activities on a regional or subregional basis;

**Further recommends** that donor countries, as well as the regional and international development finance institutions, including ADB, provide the necessary financial and technical support for implementation of the technical assistance project at the regional or subregional level;

**Requests** that ESCAP incorporate the findings and recommendations of the roundtable subcommittees 1 to 3, as well as the key elements of the Report of the Cooperating Agencies,<sup>8</sup> in the implementation plan of the regional capacity-building framework so as to insure its coherence.

---

<sup>8</sup> See annex to part three entitled "Report of the Cooperating Agencies: Round Table Discussion on Capacity-building Needs for E-commerce Legal and Regulatory System Development, 9 July 2004".

Figure 2: Technical assistance project overview

