



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
21 January 2019

Original: English

---

### Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

#### Seventy-fifth session

Bangkok, 27–31 May 2019

Item 4 (d) of the provisional agenda\*

#### **Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific: disaster risk reduction**

### **Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific**

#### **Note by the secretariat**

##### *Summary*

The contributions of space science, digital innovations and geospatial information applications in addressing sustainable development, as well as the potential for the further development of these innovative technologies as a means of implementation that can help to further stimulate sustainable development efforts in the Asia-Pacific region, have been well recognized.

Through the Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, Ministers for space and Heads of delegations of the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific pledged to work together closely on the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030), which is aligned with the priority themes and goals of the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

---

\* ESCAP/75/L.1

## **Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific**

*As adopted by the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok on 10 October 2018.*

1. *We, the Ministers for space and Heads of delegations of the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*
2. *Having met* in Bangkok on 10 October 2018 at the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, co-organized by the Government of Thailand and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,
3. *Reaffirming our commitment* to General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets contained therein, based on each country’s individual situation and development context,
4. *Reaffirming also our commitment* to General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
5. *Noting* the importance of the draft resolution entitled “Fiftieth anniversary of the First United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: space as a driver of sustainable development”, endorsed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its sixty-first session, for submission to the General Assembly for adoption at its seventy-third session, in which the importance of global partnership and strengthened cooperation among Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, industry and private sector entities, as appropriate, in fulfilling the “Space2030” agenda and its implementation plan, once agreed, is acknowledged,
6. *Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/14 of 2 July 2018 on the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters for the improvement of geospatial information and services for disasters and the development and implementation of geospatial information policy, processes and services to support emergency response and disaster risk reduction that are aligned with the outcome of and follow-up to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030<sup>1</sup> and its implementation,
7. *Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/31 of 22 July 2015 and the recent establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management, which contributes to the programme of work of the Commission in the area of information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction,
8. *Acknowledging* the contributions of space technology, digital innovations and geospatial information applications in addressing sustainable development in the region, and recognizing the potential for further

---

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

development of these innovative technologies as a means of implementation that can help to further stimulate sustainable development efforts in the region,

9. *Recalling* Commission resolution 73/9 of 19 May 2017 on the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, in which it endorses the prioritized framework and mechanism to promote sustainable development implementation in the Asia-Pacific region,

10. *Acknowledging* the need for coherence across global and regional frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway<sup>2</sup> and the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific,<sup>3</sup> as well as national frameworks regarding the access, utilization, capacity and integration of space applications into all appropriate sectors of sustainable development,

11. *Recalling* the First Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Beijing on 23 and 24 September 1994, which established the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development as a regional cooperation mechanism for providing valuable space-based information and resources to countries in the region and supporting regional and global efforts in the peaceful uses of outer space,

12. *Recalling also* Commission resolution 69/11 of 1 May 2013 on the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012–2017, and the Plan of Action annexed thereto, in which the Commission is requested to take the lead in implementing the Plan of Action in the region,

13. *Recalling further* that in the Declaration on Applications of Space Technology to Support Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the Asia-Pacific Space Leaders Forum, held in New Delhi on 2 November 2016, space leaders reaffirmed the need for closer cooperation, for the development of a new Asia-Pacific plan of action on space applications for sustainable development (2018–2030) and for coherence among global frameworks,

14. *Adopt* the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030), as contained in annex III to the report of the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific,<sup>4</sup> bearing in mind that its implementation would be voluntary and depends on each country's national circumstances and development priorities;

15. *Encourage* members and associate members to work together closely and develop appropriate joint programmes and projects that are aligned with the priority themes, goals, targets and actions of the Plan of Action;

16. *Encourage* members and associate members, United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to enhance cooperation, as appropriate, in support of the

---

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

<sup>3</sup> E/ESCAP/73/31, annex II.

<sup>4</sup> ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/2.

implementation of the Plan of Action and to contribute to a “Space2030” agenda, to be formulated by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

17. *Encourage* members and associate members to work together, within existing frameworks, to mainstream the use of space technology and geospatial information applications, where possible, in all appropriate aspects of sustainable development, as national and regional champions, and in our multiple capacities across other relevant forums;

18. *Also encourage* members and associate members to promote and enhance women’s participation, particularly in science and technology education and in using space applications for sustainable development and disaster risk reduction;

19. *Express our appreciation* to members and associate members for their valuable contributions and efforts to further the use of space technology and geospatial information applications, globally and in the region, and pledge to continue to work collectively and assiduously towards the emergence of Asia and the Pacific as a model region for cooperation in space technology applications, demonstrated by the regional mechanisms in operation;

20. *Request* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To facilitate the implementation, in line with the Commission’s mandates, of the Plan of Action by mobilizing appropriate resources;

(b) To promote, as appropriate, regional and subregional cooperation and to foster the sharing of good practices and lessons learned to ensure coherence with global, regional and national frameworks and commitments;

(c) To assist members and associate members, upon request, in developing national policies and strategies related to space applications and geospatial information and in providing technical assistance and capacity development when necessary;

(d) To provide to members and associate members biennial reports on space and geospatial information applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, and to convene at the ministerial level, at a time that coincides with the end of the phases of implementation of the Plan of Action;

21. *Express our appreciation* to the Government of Thailand and to the secretariat for bringing together Ministers and high-level representatives, and pledge to redouble our cooperation on sustainable uses of space technology and geospatial information applications.