



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

Report of the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific on its third session

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, co-organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Government of Thailand, was held in Bangkok on 10 October 2018.

Recognizing that space science, digital innovations and their applications would have an increasingly significant role in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Ministerial Conference was convened with a universal vision to enhance regional cooperation and consider concrete steps towards expanding the access to and use of space applications for sustainable development.

The Conference provided guidance for concrete action under the priority thematic areas of the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. At the closure of the Conference, the ministers adopted the report of the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific on its third session (ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/2) as well as the Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/75/10/Add.1) and the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030) (ESCAP/75/10/Add.2).

The Commission may wish to review and endorse the report of the Ministerial Conference and provide guidance on its implementation.

* ESCAP/75/L.1.

I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention

A. Matters calling for action by the Commission

1. The following recommendation of the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for its consideration and possible action:

Recommendation

The Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific recommends the Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030), as contained in ESCAP/75/10/Add.1 and ESCAP/75/10/Add.2, for endorsement by the Commission at its seventy-fifth session, in 2019.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Commission

2. The following decisions adopted by the Ministerial Conference are brought to the attention of the Commission:

Decision 1

The Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific adopts the Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030), as contained in ESCAP/75/10/Add.1 and ESCAP/75/10/Add.2.

Decision 2

The Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific supports the issuance of a biennial report on space and geospatial applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific that will guide policy actions over the implementation period of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030).

Decision 3

The Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific decides to convene a fourth Ministerial Conference to coincide with the end of the phase-I implementation and the start of the phase-II implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030).

II. Proceedings

A. Supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific through universal access to and use of space applications

(Agenda item 2)

3. The Ministerial Conference had before it the note by the secretariat on achieving universal access to and use of space applications for sustainable development (ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/1), the draft ministerial declaration on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/L.2/Add.1) and the draft Asia-Pacific plan of action on space applications for sustainable development (2018–2030) (ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/L.2/Add.2).

4. Representatives of the following members and associate members of the Commission made statements: Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; China; Fiji; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Myanmar; Pakistan; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tuvalu; and Viet Nam.

5. The representative of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization made a statement.

6. The Ministerial Conference noted a number of forward-looking initiatives in the region aimed at maximizing the contribution of space applications to sustainable development.

7. The Ministerial Conference expressed full commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recognized the importance of space applications in supporting work for that purpose.

8. The Ministerial Conference recognized that the draft Asia-Pacific plan of action on space applications for sustainable development (2018–2030) had been developed based on the needs expressed by members and associate members in an open, collective and inclusive consultation process.

9. The Ministerial Conference noted that several challenges still needed to be addressed to effectively utilize space applications and recognized that the Asia-Pacific plan of action, once adopted, could help overcome those challenges.

10. The Ministerial Conference expressed support for regional cooperation as an important means to support the implementation of the Asia-Pacific plan of action and called upon intergovernmental mechanisms, national Governments and international and technical organizations to cooperate and align their work to support the plan of action where possible.

11. The Ministerial Conference stated that it would continue working with members, associate members, intergovernmental mechanisms, the secretariat and international and technical organizations to implement the Asia-Pacific plan of action.

12. The Ministerial Conference noted the work being done by several countries to improve their programmes on space technology and applications to support work towards the 2030 Agenda.

13. The Ministerial Conference expressed 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 pledged to continue that work collectively 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.

B. Adoption of the report of the Ministerial Conference
(Agenda item 3)

14. The Ministerial Conference adopted the present report on 10 October 2018, including ESCAP/75/10/Add.1, containing the Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and ESCAP/75/10/Add.2, containing the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030).

III. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the Ministerial Conference

15. The Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific was held in Bangkok on 10 October 2018.

16. The ministerial segment was opened by Air Chief Marshal Prajin Juntong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, Chair of the National Space Policy Committee, Thailand. The Officer-in-Charge of ESCAP also made a statement.

17. Keynote speeches were made by Mr. Adam Shareef Umar, Minister of Defence and National Security, Maldives, and Mr. Nidup Dorji, Interim Adviser, Ministry of Information and Communications, Royal Government of Bhutan.

B. Attendance

18. The Ministerial Conference was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members: Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Fiji; France; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Maldives; Mongolia; Myanmar; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Turkey; Tuvalu; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and Viet Nam.

19. Representatives of the following Permanent Observer to ESCAP attended: Nigeria.

20. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds and other entities attended: United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Institute for Training and Research; and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

21. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations attended: Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization; Asia-Pacific Telecommunity; and Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and South-East Asia.

22. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and other entities attended: Asian Institute of Technology; and World Geospatial Industry Council/Geospatial Media and Communication.

C. Election of officers

23. The Ministerial Conference elected the following officers:

Chair: Ms. Kanyawim Kirtikara (Thailand)
Vice-Chairs: Mr. Karunaratna Paranavithana (Sri Lanka)
Mr. Thomas Djamaluddin (Indonesia)

D. Agenda

24. The Ministerial Conference adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements and keynote addresses;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific through universal access to and use of space applications.
3. Adoption of the report of the Ministerial Conference.

Annex

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/1	Achieving universal access to and use of space applications for sustainable development	2
ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/2	Report of the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific on its third session	
<i>Working papers series</i>		
ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/WP.1	Draft ministerial declaration on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	
ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/WP.2	Draft Asia-Pacific plan of action on space applications for sustainable development (2018–2030)	
<i>Limited series</i>		
ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/L.1	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/L.2	Draft report	3
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<i>Information available online</i>		
www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/third-ministerial-conference-space-applications-sustainable-development#	Information for participants	
www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/third-ministerial-conference-space-applications-sustainable-development#	Tentative programme	