

Enabling resilience through sustainable and seamless connectivity

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Third Ministerial Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation
and Integration in Asia and the Pacific

Bangkok and online, 28–30 September 2022

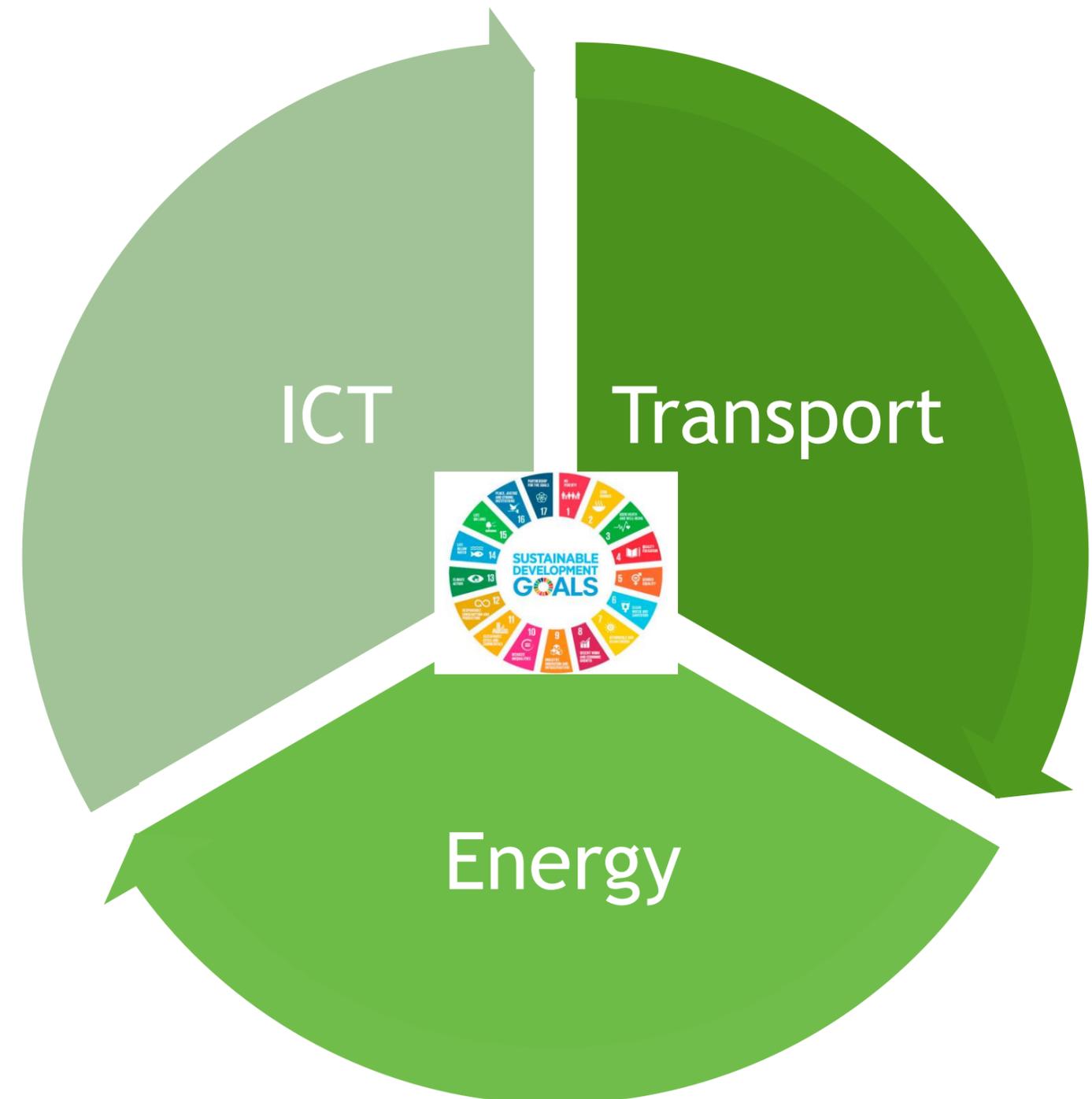
Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda**

Building resilience to crises through regional economic cooperation and integration: strengthening resilience through seamless and sustainable connectivity



Enabling resilience through sustainable and seamless connectivity (Document ESCAP/MCREI/2022/3)

- ❑ Provides a brief overview of the **energy, digital and transport connectivity** in Asia and the Pacific
- ❑ Discusses the **recent and ongoing connectivity shocks** which amplified the pre-existing connectivity gaps with a notable impact on countries in special situations in particular
- ❑ Highlights of **recent achievements** and **underlines the role of regional cooperation**

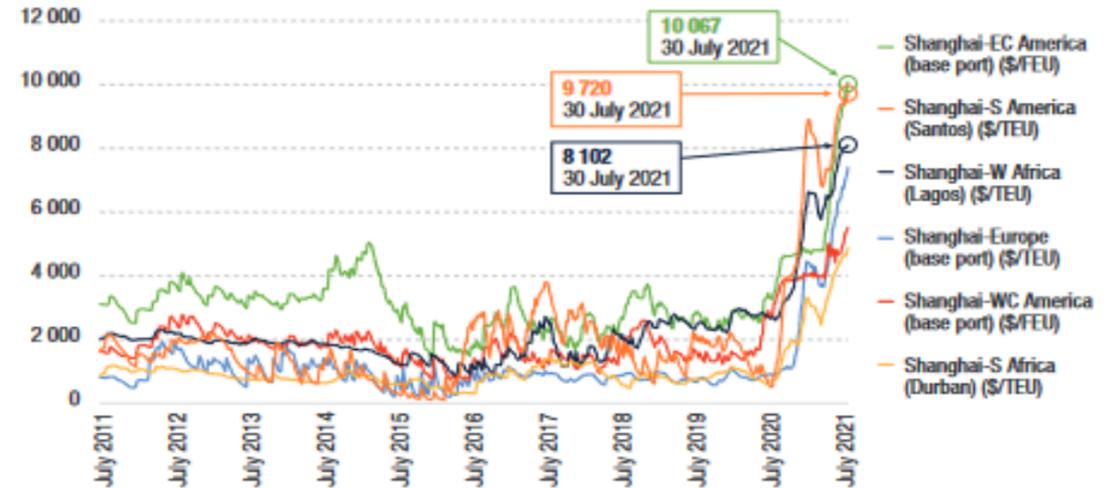




1. TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY: Issues and challenges

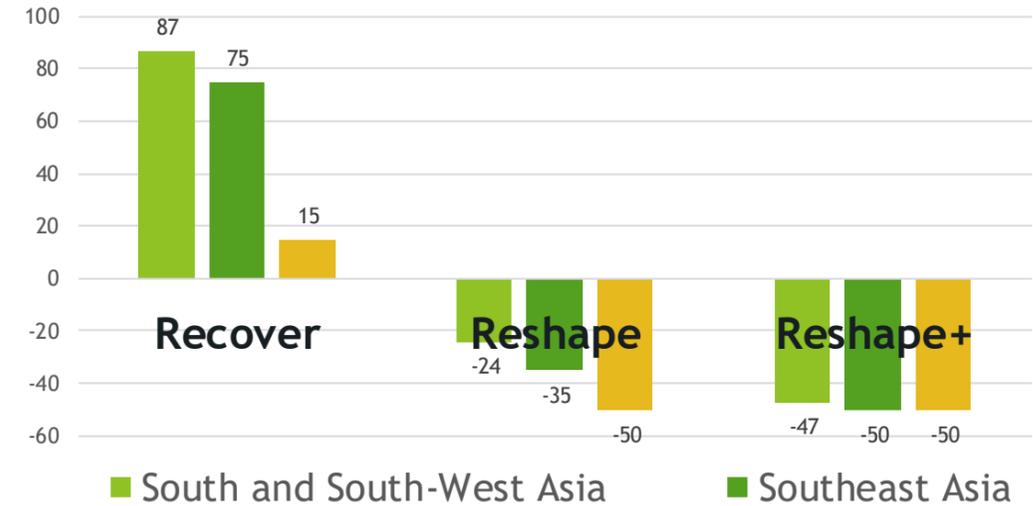
- ❑ While the region was **successful overall in preserving transport connectivity during the pandemic**, the crisis disrupted freight transport and led to **increased delays and costs**
- ❑ Current developments provided **another connectivity shocks including along the Europe-Asia transport corridors**, strongly affecting landlocked countries in North and Central Asia.
- ❑ **Resilience and connectivity concerns** have heightened awareness of the **pressing need to decarbonize** the Asia-Pacific development path.

Shanghai Containerized Freight Index weekly spot rates, selected routes



Source: UNCTAD secretariat, based on data from Clarkson Shipping Intelligence Network.

Estimated change in carbon dioxide emissions of non-urban freight: 2015 and 2050, by scenario



Source: ITF North and Central Asia Transport Outlook; ITF Southeast Asia Transport Outlook; and ITF South and Southwest Asia Transport Outlook (Paris, 2022).

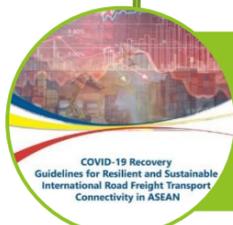
1. TRANSPORT CONNECTIVITY: Highlighted developments in regional cooperation and integration



Ongoing efforts to fill in missing links along the Asian Highways and the Trans-Asian Railways



Digitalization and smart transport as a priority for the Asian Highways and the Trans-Asian Railways operational development



Freight transport decarbonization as part of the national and regional recovery policies



Improving access to comprehensive, reliable data on the status of the regional transport infrastructure network

New Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026)

	Overarching objectives		
	Towards efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth	Towards environmentally sustainable transport systems and services	Towards safe and inclusive transport and mobility
	Relevant Sustainable Development Goals		
Thematic areas	Classification of contribution		
Regional land transport connectivity and logistics	Direct impact	Direct impact	Direct impact
Maritime and interregional transport connectivity	Direct impact	Direct impact	Direct impact
Digitalization of transport	Direct impact	Direct impact	Direct impact
Low carbon mobility and logistics	Direct impact	Direct impact	Indirect impact
Urban transport	Direct impact	Direct impact	Direct impact
Road safety	Indirect impact	Indirect impact	Direct impact
Inclusive transport and mobility	Indirect impact	Direct impact	Direct impact



2. ENERGY CONNECTIVITY: Issues and challenges

- ▶ Connectivity enables affordable, secure, and sustainable power systems
 - ▶ Access to low-cost RE
 - ▶ Increase power system diversity
- ▶ ESCAP “Regional Road Map on Power System Connectivity”
 - ▶ Vision, set of principles, and nine strategies
- ▶ Goal: Increase regional collaboration and connectivity to support sustainable development

Strategies

Trust and political consensus

Grid master plan

Intergovernmental agreements

Harmonization

Multilateral power trading

Coordinate planning

Mobilize investment

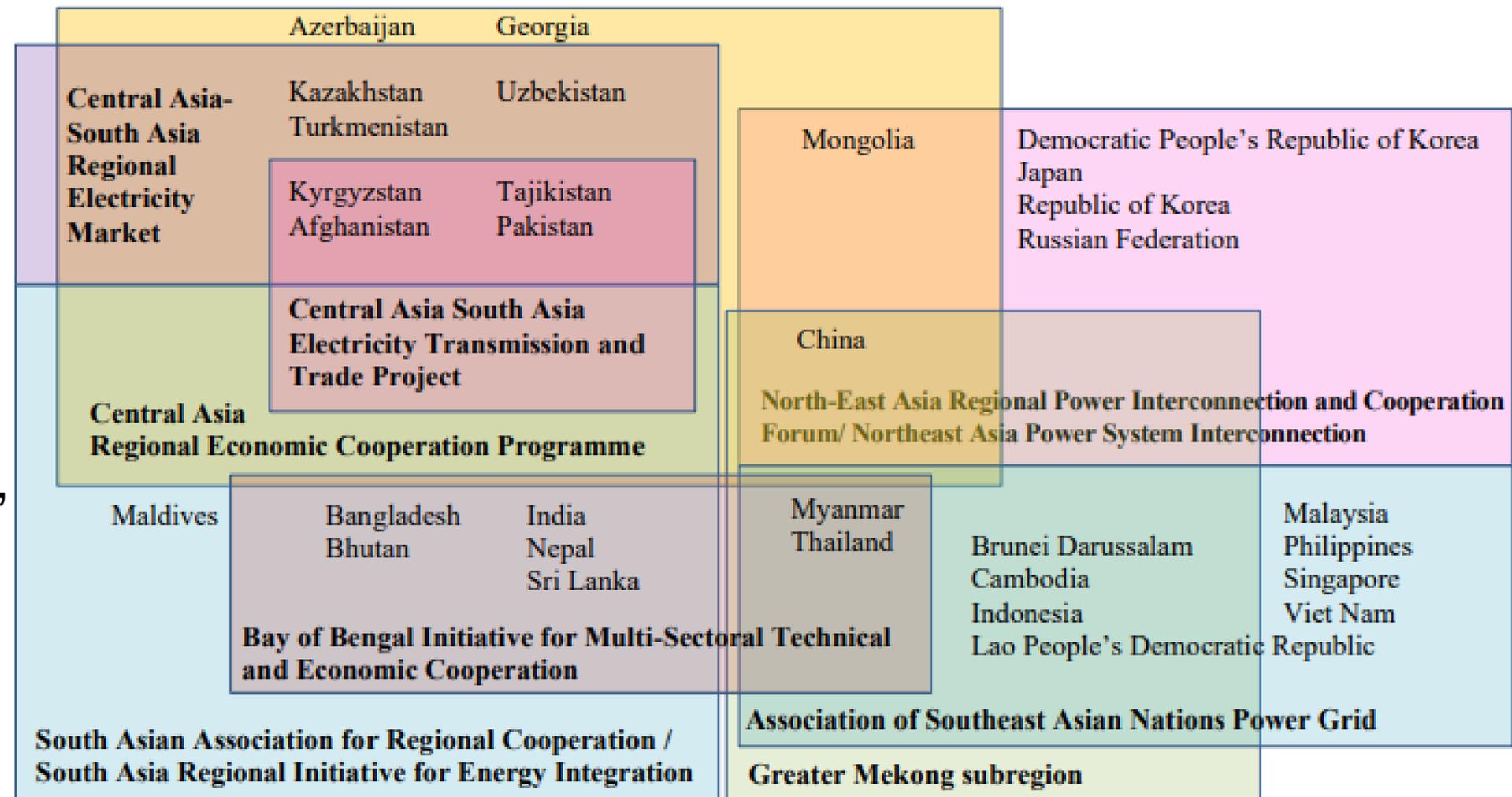
Capacity building

Alignment with SDGs



2. ENERGY CONNECTIVITY: Highlighted developments in regional cooperation and integration

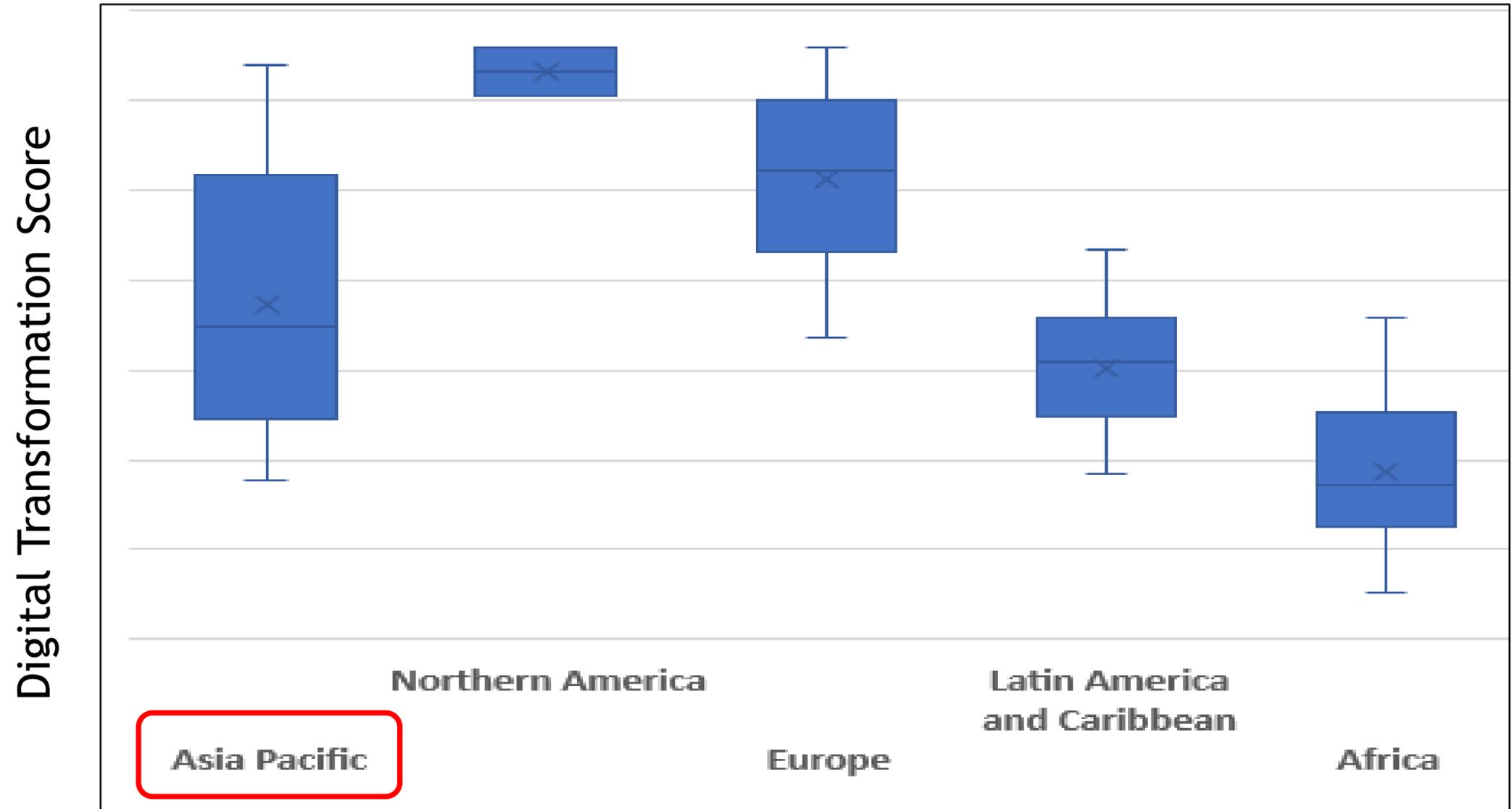
- Benefits for LDCs, LLDCs, and small and vulnerable countries
- Overlapping power connectivity initiatives in region
- Challenges moving past study stage to implementation
- Gaps: political will and trust building, institutional frameworks, financing
- ESCAP working with member States to implement Road Map strategies and support connectivity initiatives



3. DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY: Issues and Challenges



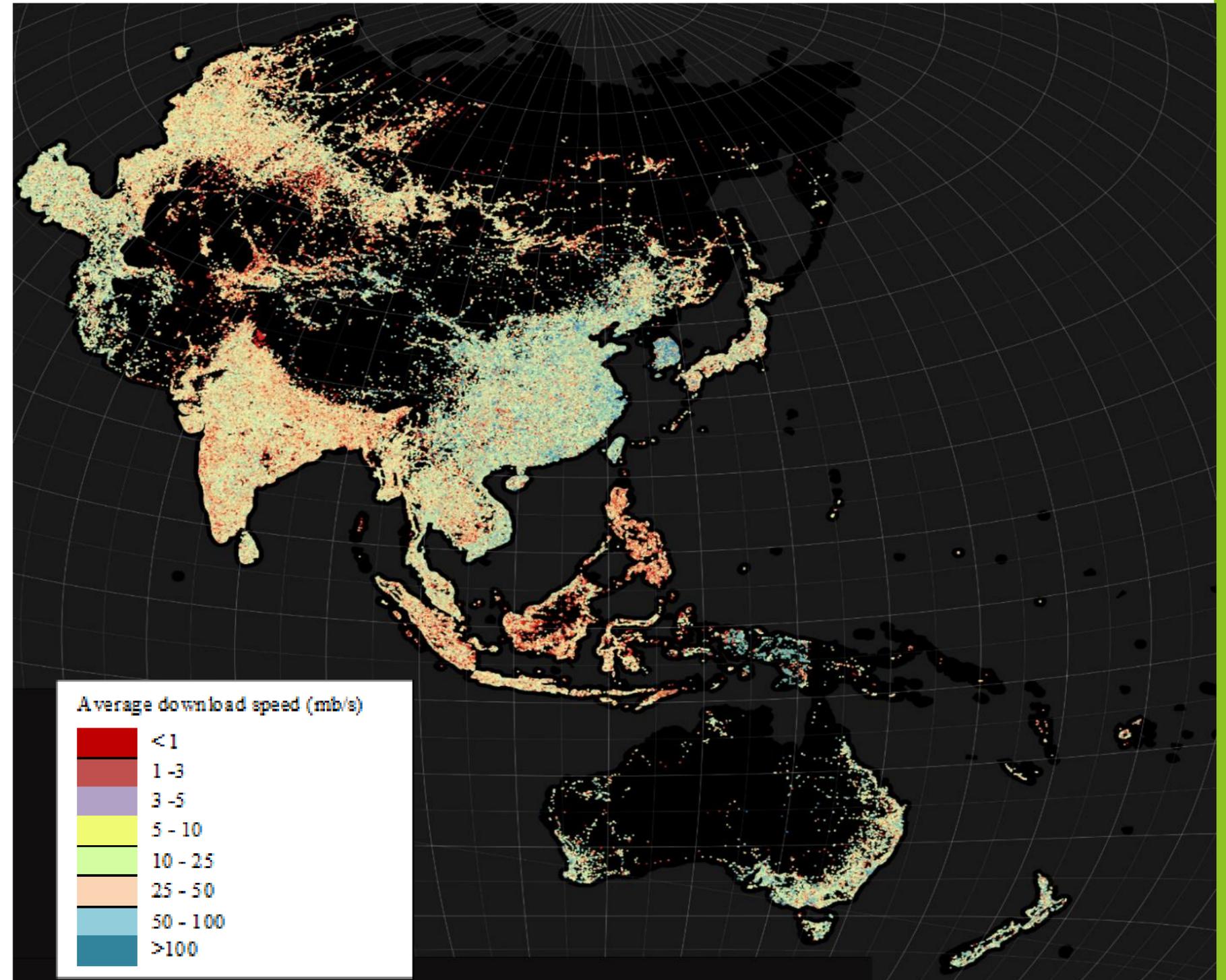
- ❑ The Asia-Pacific is the most divided in terms of digital transformation.



3. DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY: Issues and Challenges



- ❑ The adoption of digital technologies has been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❑ But this ‘big bang’ has also left many people and countries behind
- ❑ The map shows the real speed of Internet among countries and between rural and urban areas

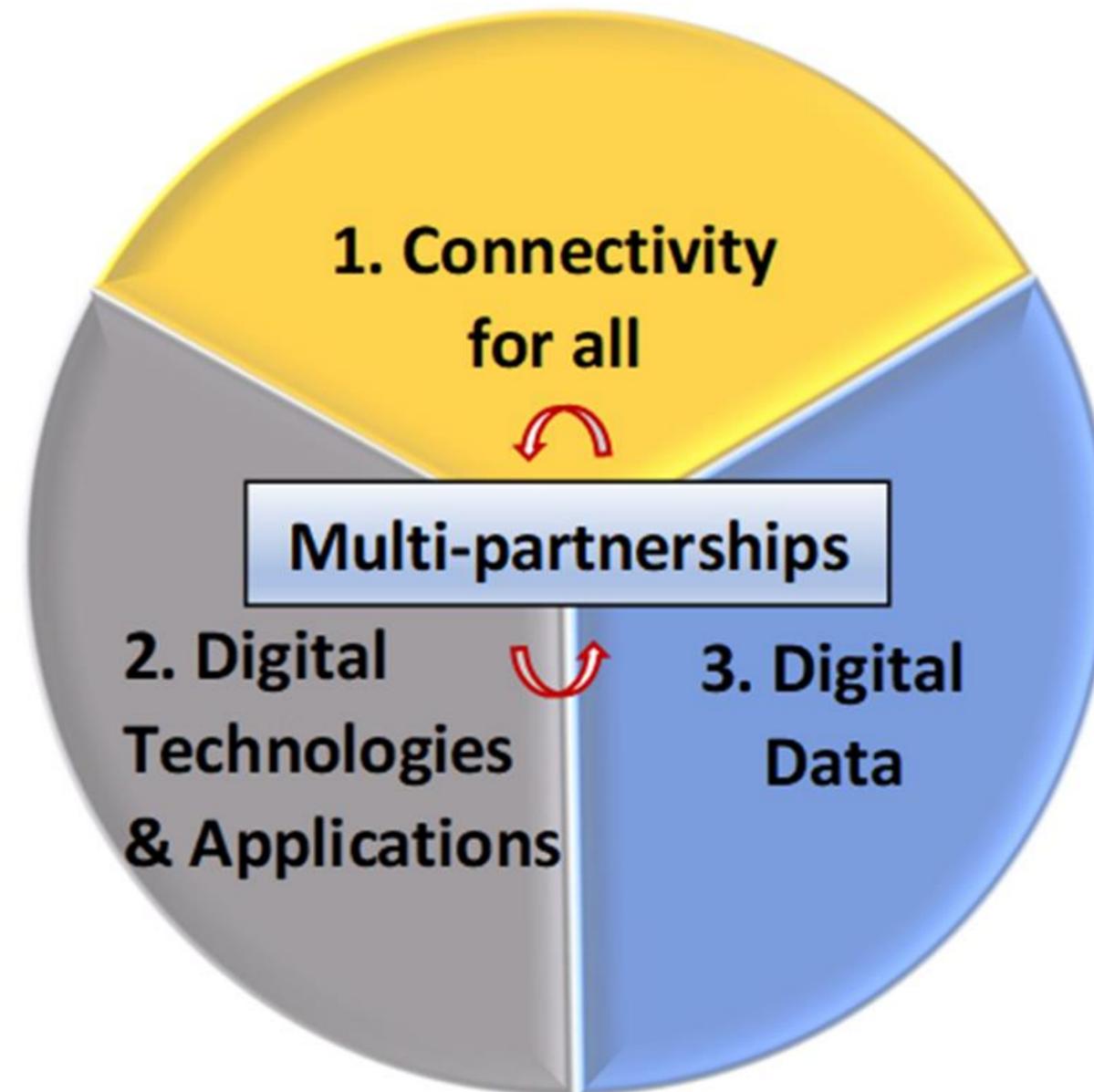


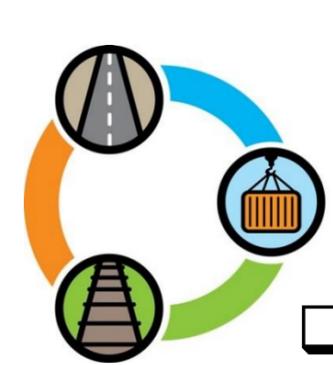


3. DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY: Development pathway for regional cooperation and integration

Framework of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Action Plan

3 pillars and 25 actions





Members and associate members may wish to:

- **CONSIDER** the policy directions and activities described, welcoming the new developments in regional energy and digital and transport connectivity
- **ACKNOWLEDGE** the synergy between these initiatives and also **ACKNOWLEDGE** the following ongoing national and regional efforts:
 - (a) To support digitalization efforts along the trans-Asian railways, Asian highways and dry ports;
 - (b) To leverage transport networks and energy corridors to help global, regional and subregional decarbonization efforts;
 - (c) To promote regional cooperation to bridge the digital divide through the implementation of the action plan for implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative, 2022–2026.
- **SHARE** relevant updates and highlight national, bilateral and multilateral policies and initiatives