Towards an Inclusive Digital Future

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• A defining feature of the post-pandemic world is the digital transformation that has permeated into every aspect of our lives.

• However, while digital technologies have been a lifeline to many during the pandemic, many have been left behind.

• In this context, inclusion must be at the heart of digital policies and strategies if the promise to “leave no one behind” is to be met.
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• Document ESCAP/MCREI/2022/4 contains an overview of emerging policy options for steering the Asia-Pacific region towards an inclusive digital future.

• The core challenges to achieving an inclusive digital future are reviewed, with a focus on issues related to five core foundations of digital economies and societies, namely: Internet connectivity, digital skills, digital identification, digital finance and e-commerce.

• Additionally, the document contains information on government approaches to channeling investment and data into digital economies and societies.
Issues for Consideration

Members and associate members may wish to:

a) Share national experiences – including effective practices and lessons learned – in promoting an inclusive digital future;

b) Indicate the types of support that may be required from the secretariat to promote an inclusive digital future both nationally and regionally;

c) Consider the recommendations, actions and initiatives highlighted in the present document to advance an inclusive digital future both nationally and regionally;

d) Identify new and priority policy issues related to inclusive digital development that the secretariat should address in greater detail.
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