1. Background

The rapid adoption of digital technologies, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, has transformed socioeconomic activities across the Asia-Pacific region. Digital technologies not only generated opportunities for people, but also revealed the digital divide.

In response, the United Nations Secretary General has called for global actions through the implementation of the “Roadmap for Digital Cooperation: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation”,¹ and “Our Common Agenda”, in particular the seventh commitment to “Improve digital cooperation”², which emphasizes the need to connect all people to the Internet, avoid Internet fragmentation, and protect data, among others.

At the regional level, the ESCAP Resolution 75/7 promotes the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) initiative through regional cooperation to bridge the digital divide.³ In addition, the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation (CICTSTI-3), at its third session, recommended that the secretariat set up a drafting group to develop an Action Plan for the next phase of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, for consideration and adoption by the CICTSTI at its fourth session (CICTSTI-4), to be held in 2022.

Subsequently, the secretariat supported member States to develop an Action Plan ⁴ for implementation of the AP-IS initiative, and it was adopted by the AP-IS Steering Committee at

¹ A/74/821.
³ ESCAP/RES/75/7.
its fifth session on 25 November 2021. The Action Plan serves as a blueprint for regional cooperative actions to bridge the digital divide and accelerate digital transformation. It consists of 25 actions centred on three pillars: “Connectivity for all”; “Digital technologies and applications”; and “Digital data”. Three Working Group (WG) Bureaus have been established to implement each pillar.

Against this background, the secretariat is convening the sixth session of the AP-IS Steering Committee on 29 August 2022. The Steering Committee meeting will be organized sequentially with CICTSTI-4 to present the draft AP-IS Action Plan 2022-2026 for its adoption, which will be held in the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand from 30 August to 1 September 2022.

2. Objectives
   a) To review the progress made on the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway since the 5th session of AP-IS Steering Committee, that was held on 25 November 2021;
   b) To discuss concrete activities under the AP-IS Action Plan 2022-2026; and
   c) To facilitate regional review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Action Lines in the framework of AP-IS Action Plan 2022-2026.

3. Participants (by invitation only)
   • Delegations from member States
   • Regional stakeholders and partners supporting the implementation of the AP-IS Initiative

4. Date and Venue
   • Date/Time: 09:30-17:00, 29 August 2022 (Monday)
   • Venue: Conference Room 3, United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok, Thailand

5. Interpretation Service
   • The meeting will be conducted in the English language only

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5 The Action Plan supports the UN Secretary General’s Common Agenda on Improving Digital Global Cooperation and the Action Lines of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), to connect all people to the Internet, avoid Internet fragmentation, protect data, and promote digital commons as a global public good.

## Tentative Programme

### Sixth Session of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) Steering Committee

**hybrid**

29 August 2022, 09:30-17:00 (Bangkok Time)

**Draft Programme (Second Draft)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Sessions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30 ~ 09:00</td>
<td>Registration – United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>08:30 ~ 09:30</td>
<td><strong>Pre-session: Informal bureau meeting of the AP-IS Steering Committee (Bureau members only)</strong>, moderated by the AP-IS Secretariat</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:30 ~ 10:00</td>
<td><strong>Session 1: Opening (UNCC Conference Room 3)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Opening remark by Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP</td>
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<td>(TBC) / or Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, ICT DRR Division (IDD)</td>
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<td>• Election of the Bureau of the sixth session of AP-IS SC (Chair and Vice Chairs)</td>
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<td>• Adoption of agendas</td>
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<td>Moderator: Ms. Lingling Zhang, Secretary for AP-IS &amp; Associated Economic Affairs Officer, IDD, ESCAP</td>
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<td>10:00 ~ 11:00</td>
<td><strong>Session 2: Report on the Progress of AP-IS</strong></td>
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<td>• Report on progress of the AP-IS by AP-IS Secretariat (IDS, IDD, ESCAP)</td>
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<td>• Report on activities and plans of WG 1 on ‘Connectivity for all’ by WG 1 Chair</td>
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<td>• Report on activities and plans of WG 2 on ‘Digital technologies and applications’ by WG 2 Chair</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Report on activities and plans of WG 3 on ‘Digital data’ by WG 3 Chair</td>
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<td>Moderator: Steering Committee Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 ~ 12:00</td>
<td><strong>Session 3: Formulation of WG members</strong></td>
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<td>All members are advised to select one main WG. Their names will be listed in each WG member list. WG Chairs and Vice Chairs will meet with each member in a separate room to introduce themselves and to discuss the future plan of each WG.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Moderator: Steering Committee Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Session Description</td>
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| 12:00 ~ 12:30| Chair of three working groups will be invited to present summary of separate working group meetings.  
  • Each working group / 10 minutes respectively.                                                                                       |
| 12:30 ~ 13:30| Lunch Break                                                                                                                                             |
| 13:30 ~ 15:15| **Session 4: Achievements and Plans of member States (by member States)**  
  • Country name by XXX  
  • X  
  • X  
  • X  
  Moderator: Steering Committee Chair                                                                                                    |
| 15:15 ~ 15:30| Coffee/Tea Break                                                                                                                                          |
| 15:30 ~ 16:30| **Session 5: Regional Review of the WSIS Action Lines in the framework of the AP-IS Action Plan 2022-2026**  
  - By representatives of partner organizations  
  • WSIS forum by ITU  
  • WB, ADB, APT, A4AI, SC  
  • XXXXX  
  Moderator: Mr. Tae Hyung Kim (Chief, ICT and Development Section, IDD)                                                                          |
| 16:30 ~ 17:00| **Session 6: Key Decisions and Closing Remarks**  
  • Summary of key decisions and actions  
  • Closing remarks by Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, IDD, ESCAP  
  • Closing remarks by AP-IS Steering Committee Chair  
  Moderator: Mr. Tae Hyung Kim (Chief, ICT and Development Section, IDD)                                                                          |

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