INFORMATION NOTICE

I. INTRODUCTION

This information note is prepared for the attention of delegates joining the above meetings in Almaty with the objective to guide on the logistics. Each delegate is responsible to take personal measures of precautions to ensure safe entry and commute into Kazakhstan.

II. ORGANIZATION

The Expert Group Meeting on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development will be held from 09:30 until 16:00 on 19 July 2022 (UCT+6) and from 09:30 until 13:00 on 20 July 2022 (UCT+6). The Third Session of the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development will be held from 14:00 until 16:00 on 20 July 2022 (UCT+6). The two meetings will be delivered in hybrid mode (in person and through the Zoom platform).

III. PARTICIPATION

The participants of the events are the nominated representatives of SPECA countries and regional experts from North and Central Asia and East and North-East Asia, and the secretariat of ESCAP and Economic Commission for Europe. The representatives consist of the senior government officials from the relevant ministries and authorities and the senior experts concerned with information and communications technology (ICT), digital connectivity, and digital transformation and innovation for sustainable development.
VI. TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS REGARDING COVID-19

Kazakhstan regulations governing the entry of international passengers and safety precautions that international participants should strictly observe in Almaty, are listed hereunder. International participants are also required to strictly adhere to national regulations in place, announced by the Chief Sanitary Officer of Almaty city.

Official resource on situation on coronavirus could be found here: Ситуация с коронавирусом официально (coronavirus2020.kz). The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases per day is increasing in Kazakhstan and Almaty is in the “Yellow Zone” as of 12 July 2022. According to the decree announced by the Chief Sanitary Officer of Almaty city, which is in force from 7 July 2022 until the further announcement, the following are to be strictly observed:

- Participants of the meeting who are not vaccinated against COVID-19 due to medical contraindications to vaccination, pregnant women, and persons who live with a COVID-19 patient at home, should work from home and attend the meeting online.
- Participants that develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 should stay self-isolated until recovered.
- Participants of the meetings are recommended to:
  - Wear masks in public places.
  - Refrain from using public transportation, or wear a mask in public transportation.
  - Maintain a physical distance of at least 1 metre from others, even if other people don’t appear to be sick.
  - Avoid crowd and close contact.
  - Clean hands frequently with an alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
  - Choose the online mode for meetings, if the number of participants is more than 10 persons in the room.

VII. THE VISA REQUIREMENT FOR ENTRY INTO KAZAKHSTAN

The nationality and/or official passport being held by the international passenger is determining the visa requirements. Certain nationalities of SPECA member states may be eligible to enter Kazakhstan without an entry visa. Passengers of other nationalities must apply for an entry visa through the Embassy of Kazakhstan in their respective countries. Participants are responsible for obtaining the necessary entry visa prior to their travel. Information for border crossing through aviation could be found here: www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/shekaraknb/press/article/details/51091?lang=en.

V. ACCOMMODATION:

To ensure safety and easy access to the venue of the meeting at SONCA premises, the secretariat has identified the following accommodations for participants:

- Holiday Inn (Please click here for online reservation and related information)
- Intercontinental (Please click here for online reservation and related information)
- Garden Park Inn Almaty (Please click here for online reservation and related information)
- Rahat Palace Hotel (Please click here for online reservation and related information)
• Best Western Plus Atakent Park Hotel (Please click here for online reservation and related information)
• Astana International Hotel (Please click here for online reservation and related information)

Delegates are requested to make own online reservation or request the secretariat to do so on your behalf, via e-mail: escap-ids@un.org.

VI. TRANSPORTATION

Delegates should arrange own transportation from airport to the accommodation/hotel and vice versa. The secretariat recommends that participant consults with the hotel on the route of their travel or make own transportation arrangements to the venue of the meeting.

VII. DAILY SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE AND TERMINAL EXPENSES IN ALMATY:

The secretariat will provide cash in US$ to cover three days of daily subsistence allowance (i.e. US$ 163.-per day) and the Terminal expenses (i.e. US$ 188.-) for the nominated participants and experts at the meeting venue.

VIII. VENUE:

ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia (SONCA), 2nd floor, 303 Bayzakov Street, Block A, UN Building, Almaty 050040, Kazakhstan, Phone: +7 727 338 4417, e-mail: escap-sonca@un.org, website: https://www.unescap.org/subregional-office/north-central-asia

IX. PRELIMINARY REGISTRATION

Invited and nominated online participants are requested to fill in the online Zoom Registration forms by 17 July 2022 latest, namely through the following links:

- Expert Group Meeting on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJErdOihrz8iGNyJahuPLQm08fH_T6elkJMvb
- Third Session of the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0sd-6sqTojHdQESwvo29fMnTEaRROBybz1

X. DOCUMENTATION

Documents for the Expert Group Meeting on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development and the SPECA Group Meeting on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development can be found on the ESCAP website through the following links:

- https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/expert-group-meeting-innovation-and-technology-sustainable-development
XI. INTERPRETATION

Simultaneous interpretation in English and Russian will be provided by organisers.

XII. CONTACT INFORMATION

Further information on the meetings can be obtained from:

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