



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
22 May 2023

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventy-ninth session

Agenda item 4 (i)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on 19 May 2023

79/10. Promoting digital cooperation and inclusion through the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 78/1 of 27 May 2022, entitled “Bangkok Declaration Commemorating the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: a Common Agenda to Advance Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific”, in which members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific committed themselves to improving digital cooperation, expressed their intention to cooperate at all levels, including at the ministerial level, and recognized that the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative could be one of the useful regional platforms for the promotion of digital cooperation,

Welcoming the endorsement of the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026, by the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation at its fourth session, held in Bangkok and online from 30 August to 1 September 2022,¹

Noting the Asia-Pacific Digital Ministerial Conference, organized by the Republic of Korea in collaboration with the secretariat of the Commission and held in Seoul on 10 November 2022,

Noting with appreciation the initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan on establishing a digital solutions centre for sustainable development to provide practical digital solutions in Central Asia and beyond,

1. *Invites* its members and associate members to promote regional cooperation with a view to advancing inclusive digital connectivity and transformation;

2. *Decides* to convene a ministerial conference on digital inclusion and transformation to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and regional technology initiatives, including the Asia-

¹ ESCAP/CICTSTI/2022/6, decision 1.

Pacific Information Superhighway initiative, in line with the provisions of the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific;

3. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of Kazakhstan to host such a ministerial conference in 2024;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To promote, as appropriate, regional and subregional digital connectivity and transformation by assisting members and associate members in carrying out the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026;

(b) To foster digital cooperation among members and associate members in order to bridge the digital divide, ensure the provision of digital skills training, strengthen digital connectivity, address and enhance digital trust and security, share good policies, practices and lessons learned, and promote inclusive digital economies and societies;

(c) To mobilize the efforts of members and associate members to collaborate in the digital transformation process, including under the framework of the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026;

(d) To continue to provide technical assistance, policy analysis and capacity development and promote knowledge-sharing among members and associate members, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, on digital connectivity and transformation through regional cooperation, as appropriate;

(e) To continue to engage with other United Nations agencies and regional organizations, as well as with major groups and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to advance inclusive digital connectivity and transformation;

(f) To support the holding of the ministerial conference on digital inclusion and transformation in 2024;

(g) To facilitate the implementation of the present resolution and report to the Commission at its eighty-second session on progress made in that regard.

*9th plenary meeting
19 May 2023*