

First Meeting of the Drafting Group for Developing the Action Plan 2022-2026 of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS)

(Virtual Meeting) 25 May 2021

Key Outcomes

1. The First Meeting of the Drafting Group for Developing the Action Plan 2022-2026 of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS Action Plan 2022-2026) (herein after called the Drafting Group) was held virtually on 25 May 2021 to develop the draft AP-IS action plan (2022-2026) and its key priority areas.
2. The Drafting Group was attended by ICT government officials of 31 member States, namely Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, France, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam. Resource persons from LIRNEasia provided technical support for the preparation of the Action Plan. The list of online registration by participants and the programme of the meeting are attached to this outcome document (Annex 1 & 2).
3. The Drafting Group elected the following to the bureau:

Chair: Mr. Mohamed Shareef (Maldives)
Vice-Chairs: Mr. Andrew Toimoana (Tonga)
Ms. Uranchimeg Andrai (Mongolia)
4. The Drafting Group reviewed the documents prepared by the secretariat with technical support by the LIRNEasia, namely, the 'Draft Action Plan for Implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (2022-2026)' (hereinafter referred to as the 'action plan')

and the 'AP-IS action plan matrix' (hereinafter referred to as the 'matrix') and attached to this outcome document (Annex 3 & 4).

5. The Drafting Group discussed and highlighted the following:
 - a) The Drafting Group endorsed the general direction of the proposed action plan including its three pillars, on Connectivity for All (Pillar 1), Digital Transformation (Pillar 2) and Digital Data (Pillar 3), and requested the secretariat to update the action plan and the matrix with the comments by delegations. It further requested the secretariat to circulate the updated documents to all delegations for further review and consideration for endorsement at a second meeting of the Drafting Group.
 - b) The Drafting Group emphasized that the digital divide, digital infrastructure development and capacity building on digital technologies continued to be the major challenges for many Asia-Pacific countries, in particular for small islands developing countries. It requested that priority be given to countries with special needs in the action plan. The Drafting Group also highlighted the importance of information security and development of innovative funding mechanisms including public-private partnerships through the action plan and matrix.
 - c) The Drafting Group requested the secretariat to conduct an assessment of the progress on implementation of the current AP-IS Master Plan 2019-2022, and to develop clear key performance indicators for the action plan and matrix.
 - d) The Drafting Group requested the secretariat to continue undertaking analytical research for innovative digital solutions to address emerging challenges on digital transformation and digital economy in ESCAP subregions.
 - e) The Drafting Group recognized the importance of multi-stakeholder approach and partnerships with various international/regional organizations on digital connectivity and digital transformation. It requested the secretariat to consult with

and involve all key stakeholders to ensure that the action plan evolves into a regional coordination platform for all digital initiatives.

- f) The Drafting Group agreed to establish three working groups, each of which consists of one Chair, two Vice-Chairs and up to 20 member States. For this purpose, the Drafting Group requested the secretariat to prepare, in consultation with member States, the draft composition of each working group together with their draft terms of references, covering their roles and the responsibilities of the Chair, Vice-Chairs and members, and present them to a second meeting of the Drafting Group for consideration and endorsement.
- g) The Drafting Group agreed that the Chair of each working group shall play a key role on implementing the endorsed action plan, monitoring achievements, and reporting progress to the AP-IS Steering Committee on an annual basis between 2022 and 2026. Subsequently, the AP-IS Steering Committee shall review the progress reports submitted by the Chair of each working group, and report the overall progress on implementation of the action plan with recommendations to the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation for endorsement.
- h) The Drafting Group requested the secretariat to create an electronic mailing list network of members of the Drafting Group to facilitate online review and exchanges of information of the action plan and matrix by June 2021.
- i) The Drafting Group agreed that a second meeting be held in September 2021 to discuss and finalize the revised action plan and matrix, and requested the secretariat to support the preparation for the second meeting.

Annex 1 – List of Online Registration by Participants

Afghanistan

H. E. Mr. Ahmad Masood Latif-Rai, Deputy Minister of Policy and Program, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

Mr. Mirwais Naikmal, Director of Plan and Policy, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

Armenia

Mr. Hyak Aslanyan, Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of High-Tech Industry

Mr. Vahan Hovsepyan, Member of the Internet Governance Council of the Republic of Armenia, Ministry of High-Tech Industry

Azerbaijan

Mr. Emil Ahmadov, Leading Advisor, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies

Bangladesh

Mr. Syed Rashedul Hossen, Economic Counsellor and Alternative Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Bangkok

Ms. Vanesa Rodrigues, Deputy Director, Department of ICT, ICT Division, Ministry of Post, Telecommunication and Information Technology

Bhutan

Mr. Sonam Phuntsho, Chief ICT Officer, Department of Information Technology and Telecom, Ministry of Information and Communications

Cambodia

H.E. Mr. Meas Po, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications

China

Ms. Ming Xu, Deputy Director, Ministry of Industry and Information

Technology

Mr. Hui Chen, Head, China Academy of Information and Communication Technology, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology

Mr. Yi Lun, Assistant Director, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China

Mr. Yongwang Liu, Engineer, China Academy of Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Sichen Fan, Staff, China Academy of Information and Communication Technology, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology

Georgia

Mr. Giorgi Dapkviashvili , Head of Electronic Communications and Information Technologies Development Division, Communications, Information and Modern Technologies Department, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development

Ms. Eka Kubusidze, Head, Communications, Information and Modern Technologies Department, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development

Fiji

Mr. Shivendra Deo, Director, Digital Government Transformation Office

Mr. Vijendra Singh, Director, Digital Government Transformation Office

Mr. Vivek Anand, Senior Engineer, Department of Communications

France

Mr. Alexandre FAIDY, Desk Officer Digital Economy, Economic diplomacy department, Strategic sectors unit, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

Mr. Guillaume DENIS, Regulation office, Digital economy department, Directorate-general for enterprise, Desk Officer, Ministry for the Economy and Finance

India

Dr. Ajai Kumar Garg, Director, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology

Indonesia

Mr. Lessy Sutiyono Aji, Policy Analyst, Directorate of Broadband Development, Ministry of Communications and Informatics

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Mr. Alireza Shalehi-Zadeh, International Traffic and Marketing Deputy, Telecommunication Infrastructure Company, Ministry of Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Hadi Maleki-Parast, Director General for Service Development at National Network, Ministry of Information and Communications Technology

Ms. Faegheh Majidzadeh, Director of Monitoring and Strategic Analysis, Telecommunication Infrastructure Company, Ministry of Information and Communications Technology

Kazakhstan

Mr. Amirbek Islamuly, Head of Division, Department of Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Meirbek Mukatov, Deputy Director of the Department of International Cooperation of Minister of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry

Mr. Nurbolat Alimbayev, Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative, Political Affairs, Embassy of Kazakhstan in Bangkok

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Mr. Thavisak Manodham, Director General, E-Government Center, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications

Maldives

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Shareef, Minister of State, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology

Mongolia

Ms. Uranchimeg Andrai, Deputy Director, Strategic Policy and Planning Department, Communications and Information Technology Authority

Mr. Davaadash Sambuu, Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of Mongolia in Bangkok

Pakistan

Mr. Inam Ul Haque, Director Telecom, Telecom Wing, Ministry of IT and Telecommunications

Mr. Bilal Zaka, Head of IT Services, COMSATS University, Ministry of Science and Technology

Philippines

Mr. Antonio Edward Padre, Director, Government Digital Transformation Bureau, Department of Information and Communications Technology

Mr. George Tardio, OIC Director III, National Planning and Corporate Management Bureau (NPCMB), Department of Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Alberto Salvador Planning Officer Policy Formulation and Development Division Department of Information and Communications Technology

Ms. Gemma Baysic, Planning Officer V, National ICT Planning Development Division, Department of Information and Communications Technology

Republic of Korea

Mr. Sungjoon Choi, Director, Multilateral Cooperation Division, Ministry of Science and ICT

Mr. Soohyeon Kang, Deputy Director, Multilateral Cooperation Division, Ministry of Science and ICT

Mr. Yongnam Koh, Acting Deputy Director, Multilateral Cooperation Division, Ministry of Science and ICT

Mr. Sangyirl Nam, Senior Research Fellow, Dept. of International & Cooperation Research, Korea Information Society Development Institute

Mr. Kim Byungwoo, Research Associate, Dept. of International &

Cooperation Research, Korea Information Society Development Institute

Russian Federation

Mr. Zorikto Gomboin, Leading Specialist, EMC Analysis Centre, Radio Research and Development Institute

Mr. Arseny Plossky, Deputy Head of Laboratory, International Department, Radio Research and Development Institute

Solomon Islands

Mr. Alwin Danitofea, Director, Communication Department, Ministry of Communication and Aviation

Sri Lanka

Mr. Mahinda Herath, Chief Executive Officer, Information and Communication Technology

H.E. Chaminda Colonne, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Embassy and the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka in Bangkok

Mr. Saritha Ranatunga, First Secretary, Deputy Permanent Representative, Embassy of Sri Lanka in Bangkok

Tajikistan

Mr. Bakhtiyour Nodirov, Technical specialist of the Communication service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

Ms. Saodat Nazarova, Third Secretary, Economic Affairs, Embassy of Tajikistan in Malaysia

Thailand

Ms. Piyanuch Wuttisorn, Inspector General, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society

Ms. Ishariyaporn Smiprem, Director of Regional Cooperation Group, Foreign Affairs Division, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society

Mr. Jackrakrit Srisun, Foreign Relations Officer, International Affairs Division, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society

Ms. Jitsupa Tungkasiri, Foreign Relations Officer, Practitioner Level, International

Affairs Division, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society

Ms. Tip-arpa Thiralitkamhang, Foreign Relations Officer, Professional Level International Affairs Division, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society

Mr. Sira Akavipat, Strategist/Engineer, Organization Strategy, National Telecom Public Company Limited

Ms. Waleeporn Kumching, Plan and Policy Analyst, Professional, Strategy and Planning Division, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society

Ms. Kamonwan Kerdnaimongkol, Plan and Policy Analyst Practitioner Level, Digital Economy and Society Development Driven Center, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society

Mr. Jittapat Bunnag, Assistant Vice President, Corporate Strategy Planning and Development Department 1, National Telecom

Ms. Areewan Boonglam, General Administrator, Corporate Strategy Planning and Development Department 1, National Telecom Public Company Limited under the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society

Mr. Kitti Sriboonyakorn, Computer Technical Officer, Senior Professional Level, Department of Telecommunication, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society

Mr. Taran Osiri, Plan and Policy Analyst, Plan and Policy Department, Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society

Mr. Thalerngsak Vanischakorn, Manager, Strategic Department, National telecom public company limited, Office of the National Digital Economy and Society Commission, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society

Mr. Pranatthapong Kabkrathok, Plan and Policy Analyst, Practitioner Level, Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society

Timor-Leste

Mr. Fernando Carvalho da Cruz, Senior Professional and the Chief of Cabinet for the Minister of Transport and Communications

Mr. Natalino do Rosario, National Director, Land Transports, Ministry of

Transports and Communications

Tonga

Mr. Andrew Toimoana, Director for Information and Technology of the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications

Turkmenistan

Ms. Pena Suhanberdiyev, Head, Digital Economy Development Department, "Turkmenaragatnashyk" Agency

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Ms. Joanna Benn, Deputy Permanent Representative, British Embassy in Thailand

Uzbekistan

Mr. Nuriddin Mamatkulov, Deputy Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to ESCAP, Consulate General of Uzbekistan in Bangkok

Viet Nam

Mr. Phú Tiến Nguyễn, Deputy Director General, Authority of Information Technology Application, Ministry of Information and Communications

Ms. Tran Thi Quoc Hien, Deputy Director General, Authority of Information Technology Appliance, Ministry of Information and Communications

Mr. Nguyễn Thành Nam, Chief of Office, Authority of Information Technology Application, Ministry of Information and Communications

Mr. Thanh Nam Nguyen, Official, Authority of Information Technology Appliance, Ministry of Information and Communications

Ms. Thi Hang Nguyen, Official, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Information and Communications

Ms. Ngo Minh Sung, Official, Authority of Information security, Ministry of Information and Communications

Mr. Hung Do, Official, Infrastructure and Interconnection Division, Viet Nam Telecommunications Authority

Resource persons

Mr. Rohan Samarajiva, Consultant, LIRNEasia, 12 Balcombe Place, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Ms. Gayani Hurulle, Research Manager, LIRNEasia, 12 Balcombe Place, Colombo, Sri Lanka

ESCAP Secretariat**Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division**

Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director

Mr. Tae Hyung Kim, Chief, ICT and Development Section

Mr. Chang Yong Son, NRL Expert in ICT and Development

Ms. Aida Karazhanova, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Development Section

Mr. Siopé Vakataki 'Ofa, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Development Section

Ms. Elena Dyakonova, Consultant, ICT and Development Section

Ms. Jeong Yoon Kim, Consultant, ICT and Development Section

Ms. Quynh Huang Nguyen, Individual Contractor, ICT and Development Section

Ms. Gahyeon Choi, Intern, ICT and Development Section

Ms. Yu Luo, Intern, ICT and Development Section

Mr. Edward Kim, Intern, ICT and Development Section

Trade, Investment and Innovation Division

Mr. Tengfei Wang, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division

Annex 2: Agenda

**First Meeting of the Drafting Group
for Developing the Action Plan 2022-2026 of the Asia-Pacific Information
Superhighway (AP-IS)**

Virtual Meeting, 25 May 2021, 13:00-16:00 (Bangkok time)

Tentative Agenda

- 13:00-
13:05 **Session 1: Opening Session**
- ✓ Moderator: Mr. Tae Hyung Kim, Chief, ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP
 - Welcome remarks by Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP
- 13:05-
13:20 **Session 2: Election of Bureau**
- Election of Bureau (1 Chair and 2 Vice Chairs)
 - Chair's brief remarks.
- 13:20-
14:20 **Session 3: Draft AP-IS Action Plan (2022-2026)**
- Presented by the ESCAP secretariat (15 minutes)
 - ✓ First draft AP-IS action plan including framework and pillars.
 - Discussions
- 14:20-
15:40 **Session 4: Matrix of AP-IS Actions (2022-2026)**
- Presented by the ESCAP secretariat (10 minutes)
 - ✓ First draft set of proposed actions
 - Discussions
- 15:40-
16:00 **Session 5: Key Decisions and Future Plan**
- Review key decisions of the meeting
 - Future plan: next drafting group meeting and agenda