Statement by the Delegation of Viet Nam

Agenda item 5(i): Information and communications technology, science, technology and innovation

Tuesday, 24th April, 2025

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Mr./Madam Chair,

1. The rapid advancement of technology and digital innovation, including artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things, is profoundly transforming our world and the Asia-Pacific region. It is reshaping how people work, learn, access healthcare, and engage with the society. It is also revolutionizing how businesses operate, and how governments deliver public services.

2. Asia and the Pacific have emerged as dynamic hubs for digital innovation. The region's demographic characteristic and socio-economic dynamism provide a unique foundation for the adoption and scaling up of new technologies. Over the past year, the region has made significant progress towards the achievement of SDG 9 on industry, innovation, and infrastructure, and is well positioned to lead the forthcoming wave of technological advancement.

3. In this context, Viet Nam places the highest priority on the development of science, technology, and digital transformation. A range of strategies, policies, and action plans have been adopted to promote the development of technology, innovation and digitalization. We view these efforts as instrumental in driving sustainable development, overcoming the middle-income trap, and advancing toward a new phase of development for the country.

4. At the same time, we acknowledge that the accelerating pace of technological change also introduces new risks and challenges, particularly if emerging technologies are not governed in a responsible and accountable manner. In this regard, we support the UN' ongoing efforts to strengthen global governance of technology, in line with the UN Charter and international law.

5. Allow me to suggest the followings:

First, we encourage ESCAP to actively contribute to the localization of the Global Digital Compact and to enhance coordination with other relevant global and regional initiatives on emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence. Through inclusive partnerships and multilateral cooperation, we can work towards fostering a safe, secure, and truthworthy digital environment.

Second, ensuring equitable and affordable access to digital technologies is imperative. The promotion of technology transfer from developed to developing

countries, as well as the strengthening of knowledge sharing and capacity building, will be key to unlocking the full potential of digital transformation across the region.

Third, we underscore the importance of innovative financing for technological development and digital transformation, where the private sector and financial institutions should play a critial role.

Thank you.