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Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for
Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

Bangkok, 10 October 2018

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda of the third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements and keynote addresses;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific through universal access to and use of space applications.
3. Adoption of the report of the Ministerial Conference.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the session

(a) Opening statements and keynote addresses

The tentative programme for the opening of the session will be available online in due course at www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/third-ministerial-conference-space-applications-sustainable-development.

(b) Election of officers

The list of participants will be available online at www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/third-ministerial-conference-space-applications-sustainable-development.

The Bureau for the third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific will be comprised of a chair and two vice-chairs.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/L.1)

Annotation

The Conference will consider and adopt the provisional agenda, subject to such changes as may be necessary.

2. Supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific through universal access to and use of space applications

Documentation

Achieving universal access to and use of space applications for sustainable development (ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/1)

Draft ministerial declaration on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/L.2/Add.1)

Draft Asia-Pacific plan of action on space applications for sustainable development (2018–2030) (ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/L.2/Add.2)

Annotation

Despite advances in space science and its innovative applications, which includes enhancements to the quality, accessibility and reliability of space-based data and improvements to regional partnerships, there are still gaps and challenges in the areas of knowledge-sharing, information sharing and capacity development as well as in the forging of regional agreements, norms and standards. Many developing countries, including small island developing States, often do not have the critical mass of people who are able to analyse and utilize space-based information in a timely way.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has given the space community a unique opportunity to scale up the use of space applications and geospatial information across the region. The Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development (2012–2017) has concluded, and member States have drafted a new Asia-Pacific plan of action on space applications for sustainable development for the period 2018–2030. Its objective is to enable space applications and geospatial information services to contribute to the fullest extent possible in the implementation of the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and to support country and regional needs for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Conference is invited to consider the new plan of action (ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/L.2/Add.2) in light of the key opportunities and challenges identified in the note by the secretariat (ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/1).

The Conference is also invited to consider a draft ministerial declaration which contains a vision that member States in the Asia-Pacific

region will have access to and use of space science, technology and its applications to the fullest extent at the national and regional levels for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The draft ministerial declaration will reaffirm the commitment of members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to promote universal access to and use of space applications in support of sustainable development.

Delegates are invited to propose supportive initiatives designed to facilitate policy action, on a regional cooperative basis, in pursuit of the common vision articulated in the declaration. Delegates are also invited to make policy statements on country-specific trends and progress. They may wish to make statements about recent national plans and emerging best practices and experiences in optimizing the contribution of space applications to sustainable development efforts and capacity-building. Delegates are invited to support the draft ministerial declaration by highlighting the contribution of their countries to the implementation of the related Asia-Pacific plan of action on space applications for sustainable development (2018–2030).

United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and international and regional organizations, as partners in the implementation of the action plan, are invited to deliver brief statements. Partners may wish to elaborate on their proposed support and anticipated collaboration in the implementation of the Asia-Pacific plan of action on space applications for sustainable development (2018–2030).

3. Adoption of the report of the Ministerial Conference

Documentation

Draft report (ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/L.2)

Annotation

The Conference will consider and adopt its report, which will contain a description of the proceedings and key recommendations and decisions made by the Conference, including annex I, containing the Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and annex II, containing the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030).
