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**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

Committee on Information and Communications Technology,  
Science, Technology and Innovation

**Second session**

Bangkok, 29–31 August 2018

**Report of the Committee on Information and  
Communications Technology, Science, Technology and  
Innovation on its second session****I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought  
to its attention****A. Matters calling for action**

1. The following recommendations of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for its further consideration:

**Recommendation 1**

The Committee emphasizes the importance of science, technology and innovation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommends that the secretariat prioritize science, technology and innovation as a key means of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Recommendation 2**

The Committee recommends that the secretariat support member States, upon request in developing their science, technology and innovation policies, strategies and road maps for the Sustainable Development Goals, in order to effectively harness science, technology and innovation for sustainable development.

**Recommendation 3**

The Committee strongly supports the Commission's work on inclusive technology and innovation policies, and further recommends that the secretariat provide support member States in promoting inclusive technology and innovation; mainstreaming gender and disadvantaged groups into science, technology and innovation policies through facilitating the sharing of best practices and learning; holding forums to facilitate regional collaboration; building policymaking capacities; analysing the inclusive dimension of

science, technology and innovation policies; and making tools available for promoting and assessing inclusive technology and innovation policies.

#### **Recommendation 4**

The Committee recommends that the secretariat facilitate science, technology and innovation knowledge-sharing and collaboration in the region, and that the ESCAP discussions on science, technology and innovation be linked, as appropriate, to relevant broader conversations, including at the annual multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, which takes place throughout the lifespan of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

#### **Recommendation 5**

The Committee recommends the continuation of the current work of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology in addition to the emerging areas on information and communications technology (ICT), big data, artificial intelligence and the Internet of things.

#### **Recommendation 6**

The Committee, being of the opinion that the mandate and the work of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology is crucial and relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, recommends that the Centre's current mandate should not be changed or diluted in any form and calls for the further strengthening of the Centre.

#### **Recommendation 7**

The Committee expresses the concern that the current human resources and financial capacities of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology are not satisfactory in terms of carrying out mandated activities and meeting the growing demand for the Centre's activities. The Committee requests non-contributing member States to consider providing voluntary financial contributions, and member countries to enhance their level of voluntary contributions to strengthen support for the Centre.

#### **Recommendation 8**

The Committee recommends that the updates to the Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway and the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Regional Cooperation Framework Document be endorsed by the Commission, unless any objection is expressed by members or associate members by 31 October 2018, while also noting the satisfactory outcomes of the second session of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Committee.

#### **Recommendation 9**

The Committee recommends that the Commission prioritize the needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in the implementation of the Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway and the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Regional Cooperation Framework Document.

## **B. Matters brought to the attention of the Commission**

2. The following decisions adopted by the Committee are brought to the attention of the Commission:

### **Decision 1**

The Committee decides to carry forward the work under the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative and calls upon all ESCAP member countries to contribute substantively to the further implementation of its Master Plan.

### **Decision 2**

The Committee endorses the updates to the Master Plan, unless the secretariat receives objections by 31 October 2018 by any member or associate member.

### **Decision 3**

The Committee requests the secretariat to continue its convening role by providing a regional platform that promotes regional cooperation on ICT connectivity, noting in particular the usefulness of the analytical research generated for strengthened evidence-based policymaking and capacity development in emerging technologies related to ICT.

### **Decision 4**

The Committee calls for the active participation of Governments, the private sector, international organizations, regional institutions and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative.

### **Decision 5**

The Committee welcomes the offer of the Government of Mongolia to host an Asia-Pacific information superhighway subregional steering group meeting in Ulaanbaatar in 2019.

### **Decision 6**

The Committee calls for the active participation of ministers at the forthcoming third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, to be held in Bangkok on 10 October 2018, and expresses support for drafting the Asia-Pacific plan of action on space applications for sustainable development (2018–2030) and the ministerial declaration.

## **II. Proceedings**

### **A. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the future of technology**

(Agenda item 2)

3. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the future of technology (ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/1).

4. The Committee benefited from a panel discussion. The panel comprised: Mr. Has Bunton, Secretary-General, National Science and Technology Council, Ministry of Planning, Cambodia; Mr. Hakob Arshakyan, First Deputy Minister of Transport, Communication and Information Technologies, Armenia; Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); and Mr. Jake Lucchi, Head of Content and AI Public Policy, Google Asia-Pacific.
5. Representatives of the following members and associate members of the Commission made statements: India; Japan; and Russian Federation.
6. A representative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) also made a statement.
7. The Committee recognized that limited resources and human and institutional capacity in many developing countries were often the challenges for taking advantage of frontier technologies. In that regard, the Committee highlighted a need to ensure that the developing countries should benefit from frontier technologies and consider inclusivity of underserved groups and countries.
8. The Committee emphasized the importance of partnership and cooperation with the private sector to fulfil precursory infrastructure needs for utilizing frontier technology to achieve sustainable development.
9. The Committee noted that several countries in the region were taking active roles in formulating guiding principles and rules for artificial intelligence and information security. The representative of Japan presented the “Draft artificial intelligence research and development guidelines” that the Government of Japan had proposed to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Group of Seven for international discussions.
10. The Committee noted that, with respect to the use of artificial intelligence and geospatial information, key cases of use and sector-specific initiatives for sustainable development that could be replicated across countries needed to be identified. Furthermore, multidimensional capacity-building initiatives were essential to enhance technical skills in the areas of artificial intelligence and geospatial analysis.
11. The Committee underscored the importance of information security and called for the formulation of a set of universal rules of responsible behaviour by States in that regard.
12. The Committee noted that digital and space innovations represented key frontier technologies with the potential to bring transformative changes in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It also noted that through ESCAP regional cooperation mechanisms such as the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative, the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development and relatedly its Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning, qualitative breakthroughs in the implementation of the ESCAP programme were possible.
13. The Committee noted further that the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative had become one of the most important regional initiatives aimed at strengthening connectivity, bridging the digital divide and enhancing digital inclusion. The Committee welcomed the use of transport

infrastructure for enhancing ICT connectivity in the region, while noting the need for additional technical and legal analysis of infrastructure co-deployment and coexistence. The Committee noted that ICT, including big data, artificial intelligence and robotics, had great potential with respect to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

14. The Committee was informed of two draft resolutions, on developing ICT in the context of international security and countering the use of ICT for criminal purposes, that were to be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration at its seventy-third session, and called for member States to support them. The Committee also took note of voluntary contributions by member States for the development of ICT connectivity in the region and its applications for disaster risk reduction.

15. The Committee noted various space technology application initiatives to promote social and economic development in the Asia-Pacific region, and further noted with appreciation the offer of cooperation using satellite systems of the Russian Federation in areas such as transport, communications, disaster mitigation and remote sensing.

## **B. Policy issues for information and communications technology**

(Agenda item 3)

### **Promoting the integration and application of information and communications technology policy through the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative**

(Agenda item 3 (a))

16. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat on implementation of the Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway and the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Regional Cooperation Framework Document (ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/2), the note by the secretariat on major issues and emerging trends related to digital technologies and regional broadband connectivity (ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/3), the information document on the Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, 2019–2022 (ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/INF/1), and the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Regional Cooperation Framework Document, 2019–2022 (ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/INF/2).

17. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Armenia; China; Fiji; Japan; Kazakhstan; Kiribati; Mongolia; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; Tonga; and Vanuatu.

18. A representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat also made a statement.

19. A representative of OECD also made a statement.

20. A representative of the Russian Academy of Sciences also made a statement.

21. The Committee recognized the role of ICT in improving the delivery of government services, productivity, inclusion, e-resilience and infrastructure-sharing, and the need to prioritize ICT infrastructure investment and connectivity.

22. The Committee took note of the updated Master Plan, and welcomed the continuing implementation of the initiative in addressing the challenges of the widening digital divide and limited human technical capacity in ICT. The Committee called on member States to support the initiative with action-oriented activities, and to intensify capacity-building and skills development activities on ICT in view of rapid technological advancements.

23. The Committee was informed by the Chair of the second session of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Committee – which had been held on 27 and 28 August 2018 – of the outcomes of the Steering Committee’s deliberations. Outlining the activities of several stakeholders on the promotion of ICT connectivity in member States, the Chair thanked all partners that had committed to the implementation of the Master Plan. The Committee took note of the updated Master Plan with satisfaction, noting further the in-depth discussions and agreement by the Steering Committee. The Chair outlined the latest updates, as reflected in information document ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/INF/1.

24. The Committee noted that the Trans-Eurasian Information Superhighway project was aimed at creating transnational fibre-optic backbone networks, and noted the request by the representative of Azerbaijan for the cooperation of ESCAP members and associate members in its implementation. The Committee also noted the request by the representative of Palau to be included in future e-resilience activities under the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative.

25. The Committee also took note of the North-South Road Corridor Investment Programme of Armenia to be included as part of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative.

26. The Committee recognized the convening role of ESCAP as a regional platform for promoting regional cooperation on ICT connectivity, supported by research analyses for evidence-based policymaking and capacity-building on emerging technologies such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and blockchain.

27. The Committee welcomed the upcoming Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway subregional meeting for the Pacific, to be co-hosted by ESCAP, the International Telecommunication Union and the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association. The Committee was informed by the representative of Mongolia of his Government’s intention to host an Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway subregional meeting in Ulaanbaatar in 2019.

28. The Committee also took note of the result of the eGovernment survey developed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, highlighting that digital divides existed in all countries and that digital progress could create new divides. The Committee welcomed the commitment of the United Nations agencies, including UN-Habitat, to continue working with member States in promoting information infrastructure resilience and the development of ICT infrastructure to leave no one behind. The representative of OECD updated the Committee on synergies with the work of ESCAP in the area of digital transformation. The representative of the Russian Academy of Sciences proposed the development of a pre-feasibility study and ICT capacity development as their contribution to the implementation of the initiative.

**Enhancing space applications in Asia and the Pacific for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**

(Agenda item 3 (b))

29. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat on enhancing space applications in Asia and the Pacific for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/4).

30. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: China; Russian Federation; and Thailand.

31. A representative of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) made a statement.

32. A representative of the Russian Academy of Sciences also made a statement.

33. The Committee recognized the importance of space applications in supporting work towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and expressed appreciation and support for the draft Asia-Pacific plan of action on space applications for sustainable development (2018–2030), the matrix of activities to be annexed to the draft plan of action, and the draft ministerial declaration of the third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

34. The Committee stated that it would continue working with members and associate members, as well as the secretariat, to refine the draft Asia-Pacific plan of action on space applications for sustainable development (2018–2030) for adoption by the Ministerial Conference.

35. The Committee noted that the secretariat would submit the draft documents that were being prepared for adoption by the Ministerial Conference to the respective seats of Government of members and associate members by early September 2018.

36. The Committee noted the various activities of member States and international organizations in applying space technology applications, and expressed appreciation for the support provided by member States, the secretariat and UNITAR on capacity development, the sharing of satellite imagery and analysis for disaster response and management.

**Regional capacity-building on information and communications technology for development**

(Agenda item 3 (c))

37. The Committee had before it the report of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its activities during the period 2016–2018 (ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/5).

38. The Committee benefited from a panel comprising Mr. Damith Hettihewa, Chief Executive Officer, Information and Communications Technology Agency, Sri Lanka; Ms. Maria Teresa Garcia, Director, National Information and Communications Technology Governance, Department of Information and Communications Technology, Philippines; Mr. Almaz Bakenov, Director, National Information Technology Center, Kyrgyzstan; the Chief of the Information and Communications Technology and Development Section, Information and Communications Technology and

Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP; and the Director of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, ESCAP.

39. Information was provided on the work of the Centre and the progress in the implementation of its flagship capacity-building programmes for policymakers and civil servants (through the Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders), women entrepreneurs (Women ICT Frontier Initiative), and students and youth (Primer Series on ICT for Development for Youth).

40. The panellists shared information about the capacity-building programmes in their countries in line with their broader national ICT development priorities and strategies. They highlighted efforts to align supply and demand for ICT skills to support the digital economy, to enhance the ICT skills of the government workforce and to promote the use of ICT at the local and community levels.

41. The panellists underscored the need for capacity development support on frontier technologies, technological solutions that could facilitate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and capacity-building to support the availability and affordability of broadband Internet across the region.

42. Representatives of the following members and associate members of the Commission made statements: Bangladesh; Cambodia; Indonesia; Republic of Korea; and Thailand.

43. Representatives of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made statements.

44. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development for its capacity-building efforts in the region.

45. A representative from the Republic of Korea, the Centre's host country, noted with appreciation the significant contributions of the Centre to regional ICT capacity-building and welcomed the appointment of its new Director. The representative conveyed the continued support of the Government of the Republic of Korea for the Centre's future operations.

46. The Committee noted the implementation and utilization of the Centre's capacity-building programmes in the region, through train-the-trainer activities and workshops that benefited civil servants and women entrepreneurs. It noted its appreciation for the positive impact of the Centre's programmes and expressed its support for their continued implementation in the region.

47. In the fourth industrial revolution, ICT and frontier technologies would play more significant roles in the economy and society and at the same time create new challenges, including in the areas of automation and job security.

48. In light of the fast pace of development of frontier technologies, the Committee requested the secretariat to accord high priority to capacity-building for policymakers in the region, particularly on topics such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of things, blockchain and cloud computing, among other new and emerging technologies.

**C. Policy issues for science, technology and innovation**  
(Agenda item 4)

**Mainstreaming inclusive technology and innovation policies that leave no one behind**

(Agenda item 4 (a))

49. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat on mainstreaming inclusive technology and innovation policies that leave no one behind (ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/6).

50. The Committee benefited from a presentation on the outcomes of the Commission's regional consultation on inclusive technology and innovation policies by Ms. Fumie Imabayashi, Deputy Manager, Office of Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, Japan Science and Technology Agency, and from a panel comprising Ms. Sirimali Fernando, Chairperson, National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka; Mr. Tim Unwin, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Chair in ICT for Development, Royal Holloway, University of London; Ms. Neth Daño, Co-Executive Director, ETC Group, Member of the Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism; and Mr. Chux Daniels, Research Fellow, Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

51. The panellists highlighted that progress had been made on inclusive technology and innovation and it was increasingly included on Governments' agendas. For instance, the Government of Sri Lanka had promoted women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers and in research to address social problems. The Government of Papua New Guinea recognized that women's participation in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields could spur economic growth. However, most technology and innovation policies were not developed with an inclusive lens and did not sufficiently consider the impact of technology on the marginalized. Inclusive technology and innovation interventions tended to be at a programmatic level instead of at a holistic policy level.

52. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: Australia; China; Papua New Guinea; Republic of Korea; Sri Lanka; and Turkey.

53. Representatives of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and of UN-Habitat also made statements.

54. Without policy responses to manage change and seize opportunities arising out of innovation, there was a risk that income inequality in some countries could worsen. For instance, digital divides existed in all countries and digital progress could create new divides. It was vital to remove barriers that groups such as women and persons with disabilities faced as producers and consumers of technology and innovation. More demand-driven innovation and approaches such as social problem-solving research and development would help to support more inclusive innovation. Traditional knowledge systems played a key role in inclusive innovation, and opportunities for linking traditional knowledge systems to modern scientific knowledge and techniques were important.

55. The Committee strongly supported the Commission's work on inclusive technology and innovation policies.

56. The representative of China highlighted the importance of international collaboration on science, technology and innovation under the Commission's framework. The representative further highlighted the active role that ESCAP could play in proposing a science, technology and innovation cooperation mechanism, fostering policy harmonization, and promoting training and capacity-building activities and the sharing and disseminating of knowledge and best practices. In that regard, the representative hoped that ESCAP would organize the first Asia-Pacific Innovation Forum soon.

57. The representative of China also stated the support of the Government of China for further strengthening its collaboration with ESCAP in promoting technology transfer, ensuring frontier technology benefited all countries and people, and leaving no one behind. The representative also shared information about an event organized by ESCAP on the development of science and technology parks in China.

**Leveraging technology and trade for economic development**

(Agenda item 4 (b))

58. The Committee had before it the note by the secretariat on leveraging technology and trade for economic development (ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/7).

59. A representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement.

60. The Committee noted the efforts and progress made in the Islamic Republic of Iran towards leveraging science, technology and innovation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

61. The Committee further noted the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran to host, in 2019, the Asia-Pacific Innovation Forum as a means to enhance and facilitate knowledge-sharing and collaboration among member States, the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.

**Regional mechanisms for technology transfer for sustainable development**

(Agenda item 4 (c))

62. The Committee had before it the report of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its activities during the period 2016–2018 (ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/8).

63. Representatives of the following members and associate members made statements: China; Fiji; India; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Malaysia; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Sri Lanka; and Thailand.

64. The Committee noted the Centre's lack of human and financial resources and requested improvements, such as through voluntary contributions (financial and in terms of expertise) from members and associate members and reform of the Centre.

65. The Committee noted that the mandate of the Centre was unique and useful. The Centre was the only United Nations agency working on frontier technology topics such as nanotechnology with a focus on nanosafety, nanotechnology intellectual property issues and the commercialization of nanotech innovations, as well as renewable energy, biotechnology, climate resilient agriculture in a context of promoting South-South and regional cooperation.

66. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran requested that the Centre set up a start-up network as an online platform for dissemination of information on promoting technology start-ups, technology capacity-building programmes.

67. The representative of Fiji expressed interest in climate-smart technologies and renewable energy for the benefit of Pacific island countries, including Fiji.

68. The representative of China highlighted that the promotion of science, technology and innovation was one of the priorities of his country under the Belt and Road Initiative. He stressed the importance of the exchange of personnel working in areas of science, technology and innovation in the region and the joint building of laboratories, cooperation in science parks and technology transfer.

69. The representative of India reiterated her country's position towards the Belt and Road Initiative of the Government of China.

70. The representative of Sri Lanka requested the Centre to consider helping member States with the harmonization of standards and prototyping and testing of high-tech products and to set up a network of standards testing organizations and laboratories and an online database of institutions involved in that area.

71. The representative of Thailand requested the Centre's support on intellectual property management in the field of renewable energy technology transfer and further cooperation on water-related technologies and new applied materials for energy and water. Thailand would host the fourteenth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and an international conference focusing on new and emerging technologies in the water and energy sectors as well as field visits during the period 27 November to 2 December 2018.

72. The representative of India stated that her country was considering enhancement of its voluntary contributions in line with the host country agreement; however, utilization of existing budget and resources of the Centre needed to be evaluated along with clarity on the long-term vision and programme of the Centre.

**D. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogrammes**

(Agenda item 5)

73. The secretariat informed the Committee of General Assembly resolution 72/266 of 15 January 2018 on moving from a biennial to an annual cycle of planning and budgeting from 2020, on a trial basis.

74. The secretariat had already begun the alignment of its annual programme plan to the Sustainable Development Goals in the preparation of the strategic framework for the period 2018–2019.

**E. Consideration of possible draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-fifth session**

(Agenda item 6)

75. No draft resolutions were considered by the Committee.

**F. Dates and venue of and provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee**

(Agenda item 7)

76. The Committee agreed that the dates and venue of the next Committee session would be determined at a later date. The secretariat would consult with the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission.

**G. Other matters**

(Agenda item 8)

77. No other matters were discussed.

**H. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its second session**

(Agenda item 9)

78. The Committee adopted the present report on 31 August 2018.

**III. Organization of the session**

**A. Opening, duration and organization**

79. The Committee held its second session in Bangkok from 29 to 31 August 2018. The session was opened by Mr. Pichet Durongkaveroj, Minister of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand, and the Officer-in-Charge of ESCAP. The opening remarks were delivered by Mr. Michiharu Nakamura, United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, 10-Member Group to support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (2018–2019) and Senior Adviser (former President), Japan Science and Technology Agency.

**B. Attendance**

80. The Committee session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members: Armenia; Australia; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Fiji; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kiribati; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Macao, China; Malaysia; Mongolia; Pakistan; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Turkey; United Kingdom; and Vanuatu.

81. Representatives of the following Permanent Observers to ESCAP attended: Nigeria.

82. A representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs attended.

83. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and funds attended: International Labour Organization; UNCTAD; UNITAR; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; and UN-Habitat.

84. A representative of OECD attended.

85. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and other entities attended: Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism; Global Plan Inc.; Google Asia-Pacific; Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd; IBM Japan; Ideacorp; Innonet Co., Ltd; Inter Islamic Network on Information Technology; InterUniversity; Keio University; Korea Information Society Development Institute; Korea Institute of S&T Evaluation and Planning; Monenco Iran Consulting Engineers; National Information Society Agency; Samsung; Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex; and Royal Holloway, University of London.

**C. Election of officers**

86. The Committee elected the following officers:

Chair:	Mr. Peyman Salehi (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Vice-Chairs:	Ms. Sirimali Fernando (Sri Lanka)
	Mr. Edgar I. Garcia (Philippines)
	Mr. Thavisak Manodham (Lao People's Democratic Republic)
	Mr. Anitelu Toimoana (Tonga)

**D. Agenda**

87. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session:
  - (a) Opening statements;
  - (b) Election of the Bureau;
  - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the future of technology.
3. Policy issues for information and communications technology:
  - (a) Promoting the integration and application of information and communications technology policy through the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative;
  - (b) Enhancing space applications in Asia and the Pacific for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;
  - (c) Regional capacity-building on information and communications technology for development.
4. Policy issues for science, technology and innovation:
  - (a) Mainstreaming inclusive technology and innovation policies that leave no one behind;
  - (b) Leveraging technology and trade for economic development;
  - (c) Regional mechanisms for technology transfer for sustainable development.
5. Consideration of the future focus of the subprogrammes.

6. Consideration of possible draft resolutions for submission to the Commission at its seventy-fifth session.
7. Dates and venue of and provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its second session.

**E. Back-to-back events**

88. The following meetings, side events and special events were held in conjunction with the Committee session:

(a) 27 and 28 August 2018: Asia Development Bank-ESCAP Workshop on Promoting E-commerce in Asia and the Pacific: A Holistic Approach;

(b) 27 and 28 August 2018: second session of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Committee and World Summit on the Information Society regional review;

(c) 27 and 28 August 2018: regional consultation on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through sector-focused science, technology and innovation policies;

(d) 28 and 29 August 2018: regional consultation on inclusive technology and innovation policies;

(e) 28 and 29 August 2018: Expert Group Meeting on Space on Space Technology Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (2018–2030)

(f) 29 August 2018: applications of artificial intelligence in the public sector;

(g) 29 to 31 August 2018: consultative meeting on data-driven governance;

(h) 30 August 2018: twenty-second session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development;

(i) 30 August 2018: expert meeting on disability-inclusive technology and innovation;

(j) 30 and 31 August 2018: meeting on regional learning platform, ensuring policy coherence for disaster risk reduction and resilience;

(k) 31 August 2018: thirteenth session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development;

(l) 31 August 2018: launch of the Asia-Pacific Network on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (ARTNeT on STI).

**Annex**

**List of documents**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/1	The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the future of technology	2
ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/2	Implementation of the Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway and the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Regional Cooperation Framework Document	3 (a)
ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/3	Major issues and emerging trends related to digital technologies and regional broadband connectivity	3 (a)
ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/4	Enhancing space applications in Asia and the Pacific for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals	3 (b)
ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/5	Report of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development on its activities during the period 2016–2018	3 (c)
ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/6	Mainstreaming inclusive technology and innovation policies that leave no one behind	4 (a)
ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/7	Leveraging technology and trade for economic development	4 (b)
ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/8	Report of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology on its activities during the period 2016–2018	4 (c)
<i>Limited series</i>		
ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/L.1/Rev.1	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/L.2	Draft report	9
<i>Information series</i>		
ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/INF/1	Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, 2019–2022	3 (a)
ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/INF/2	Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Regional Cooperation Framework Document, 2019–2022	3 (a)

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>Information available online</i>		
<a href="http://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-information-and-communications-technology-science-technology-and-innovation-second">www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-information-and-communications-technology-science-technology-and-innovation-second</a>	Information for participants	
<a href="http://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-information-and-communications-technology-science-technology-and-innovation-second">www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-information-and-communications-technology-science-technology-and-innovation-second</a>	List of participants	
<a href="http://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-information-and-communications-technology-science-technology-and-innovation-second">www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/committee-information-and-communications-technology-science-technology-and-innovation-second</a>	Tentative programme	