

E-Resilience for Pandemic Recovery: Intercountry Consultations in Preparations to CICTSTI

3 July 2020

Concept Note

Scope: In the fight against the pandemic digital connectivity and inclusion have become more critical than ever. The core Internet-infrastructure networks takes on unprecedented importance. The capacity of technology to absorb and process big data in real-time and deliver bandwidth-intensive high-value-added services instantaneously, ability of transport infrastructure operational framework to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential goods to affected people heavily depends on the resilience¹ of the infrastructure. In this regard, new emerging opportunities, challenges, and benefits of regional cooperation in East and North-East and North and Central Asia are rising. Notably, on 11 June 2020, the [Secretary General's Roadmap on Digital Cooperation](#) highlighting key collaborative actions was launched.

The ESCAP Secretariat is organizing this virtual meeting as part of the series of activities under the Development Account Project on “Addressing the Transboundary Dimensions of the 2030 Agenda through Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific” (RECI), in preparations to the [Third Session of the Committee on ICT and Science Technology and Innovation](#) (CICTSTI) of ESCAP, scheduled on 19-20 August 2020.

Target audience: The virtual meeting is gathering policymakers and, representatives from government agencies responsible for ICT, transport, energy infrastructure development, emergency situations, and for the SDGs. The focal points from the project's three pilot countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia are the main target beneficiaries.

Objectives: The virtual meeting aims to review results to date and agree on follow-up activities on infrastructure development policies in energy, ICT, and transport in the three target countries. The meeting aims to provide an overview of the feasibility and practical implementation of ESCAP tools, methodologies, and guidelines, in line with national priorities and needs. In particular, the meeting aims to discuss:

- Feasibility of developing a single information platform with automation modules on determining compatibility, economic efficiency and identification of infrastructure projects that lend themselves to ICT co-deployment.
- Development of a methodology and simulation model for the development of smart corridors with a particular focus on the three potential corridors.
- Enhancing e-resilience and monitoring of e-resilience

Expected outcomes: Policymakers capacity to design and implement relevant policy measures and strategies, which consider cross-sectoral synergy and e-resilience against the demands placed by COVID-19 on ICT, transport and energy infrastructure networks for higher resilience and better crisis preparedness in future. The meeting aims to enhance the capacity of member states to implement national digital economy strategies which includes co-deployment of ICT, transport and energy infrastructure, identifying strategic entry points and coordinated and collaborative actions to further implement the 2019-2022 Master Plan of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway. Specific emphasis on the alignment of policies related to infrastructure development in energy, ICT and transport and SDGs will be highlighted.

Background: The virtual meeting is supported by an ESCAP project on RECI, which aims to strengthen the capacity of three target countries to develop sustainable and inclusive policies and mechanisms for the development of trans-boundary infrastructure connectivity within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Policymakers review cross-sectoral aspects and explore opportunities across sectors

¹ E-resilience is defined as the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.

(i.e. energy, transport and ICT) in order to ensure that the existing and future expansion of infrastructure utilizes sustainable practices, including co-deployment, while putting greater emphasis on social inclusion, disaster resilience, and possible viable financing.

TENTATIVE AGENDA (Bangkok Time)

10:00-10:20 Moderator: Ms Aida Karazhanova, IDD, ESCAP	<p>Welcome remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Tiziana Bonapace, Director of Information and Communication Technology & Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD), ESCAP • Mr Nikolay Pomoshnikov, Officer-in-Charge, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, ESCAP
10:20-11:00: Moderator: Mr. Nikolay Pomoshnikov, ESCAP	<p>COVID -19 Pandemic and E-resilience: enhancing digital, transport and energy infrastructure connectivity and inclusion in East and North and Central Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single information platform, simulation models for development of smart corridors by sharing ICT infrastructure with transport and energy infrastructure, by Mr Vadim Kaptur, ESCAP consultant
11:00 -11:30	<p>Country perspectives and feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kazakhstan ○ Kyrgyzstan ○ Mongolia
11:30-12:30	<p>Interactive reflections among RECI project focal points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing by key Ministries, dealing with ICT, transport, energy infrastructure from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia; • Perception-based on-line survey on e-resilience readiness by Ms Aida Karazhanova, IDD, ESCAP (15 min)
12:30-12:45	<p>Wrap up and the way forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Vadim Kaptur, ESCAP consultant • Ms Tiziana Bonapace, Director, IDD ESCAP <p>Moderator: Mr. Nikolay Pomoshnikov, ESCAP</p>
12:45-13:00	<p>On-line evaluation of the meeting</p> <p>Moderator: Aida Karazhanova, ESCAP</p>

Simultaneous Interpretation

Resource materials:

- ESCAP studies (2020)^{2,3,4} on deployment and co-deployment of ICT, energy, and transport infrastructure
- ESCAP tools to support strategies of implementation of the AP-IS Master Plan 2020-2030
- ESCAP policy briefs on enhancing e-resilience for digital economy⁵ and ICTs and financial inclusion in Central Asia, Mongolia ⁶
- ESCAP's on-line platforms with a highlight the e-resilience pillar of AP-IS: SDG Help Desk, ICT&DRR Gateway.

² <https://www.unescap.org/resources/kazakhstan-study-ict-deployment-along-transport-and-energy-part-1>

³ <https://www.unescap.org/resources/kazakhstan-study-ict-deployment-along-transport-and-energy-part-1>

⁴ <https://www.unescap.org/resources/research-report-ict-infrastructure-co-deployment-transport-and-energy-infrastructures>

⁵ <https://www.unescap.org/resources/ap-policy-briefs-no2-enhancing-e-resilience-digital-economy-central-asia-december-2018>

⁶ https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/RECI_Inequality%20of%20Opportunity.pdf