

**First Session of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Committee, 1-2 November 2017, Dhaka, Bangladesh.**

**DRAFT SUBMISSION OF GEORGIA**

**Broadband Priorities for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Master Plan**

**25.10.2017**

**Objective:** This form is sent to the representative of each country in order to prioritise activities and better align broadband connectivity gaps with solutions. All country submissions will be consolidated as per AP-IS Pillar and subregion to develop an implementation plan for 2018 and will be presented by the Secretariat during the First Session of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) Steering Committee, 1-2 November 2017, Dhaka, Bangladesh. A similar template is sent to partners to identify their planned activities.

Please complete this form and submit to ESCAP ([escap-ids@un.org](mailto:escap-ids@un.org)) by **no later than 25 October 2017**.

**(a). Background Information**

**(i). Government Ministry/Organization in charge of ICT connectivity: Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia**

**(ii). National Broadband Policy:** The ordinance of the Government of Georgia on approval of the “State Program on Broadband Infrastructure Development in Georgia”(July 28. 2016)

**(iii). Completed/Current/planned fibre-optic broadband project:**

The Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia has started a large-scale project on the development of a high-speed internet infrastructure, which will cover areas unprofitable for businesses, provided they have a population of more than 200 people. The main objective of the project is to meet the growing demand of the population for broadband services of electronic communications at an affordable price, to stimulate innovations and to improve general welfare of both, citizens and businesses through maximizing the ICT potential.

In the direction of developing international broadband digital connectivity, the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia conducts discussions and negotiations with different stakeholders regarding connecting the information spaces of Europe and Asia through the territory of Georgia, which will connect the European and Asian countries located in the area of the belt and road through the shortest way from China to Germany with the fibre-optic backbones and will bring great economic and social benefits to all involved parties, support to overcome the existing digital divide between the regions and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs).

**We express our readiness to continue cooperation with all interested parties to accelerate launching of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway through the territory of Georgia.**

**(b). Challenges and Opportunities on promoting broadband connectivity:**

Within the scope of the AP-IS four pillars

- (1). Connectivity;
- (2). Internet Traffic & Network Management;
- (3). E-resilience; and
- (4). Broadband for all,

ESCAP member countries and partners outlined seven strategic initiatives in the AP-IS Master Plan ([http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/pre-ods/CICTSTI1\\_2E\\_rev1.pdf](http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/pre-ods/CICTSTI1_2E_rev1.pdf)) to be implemented between 2016-2018 (please refer to attached chart of AP-IS 4 Pillars and AP-IS Strategic Initiatives).

The AP-IS seven strategic initiatives are as follows:

- 1. Identification, coordination, deployment, expansion and integration of the regional backbone networks at the cross-border intra- and interregional levels, in collaboration with member countries and subregional organizations;
- 2. Establish a sufficient number of Internet exchange points at the national and subregional levels and set out common principles on Internet traffic exchange to prevent Internet traffic tromboning, decrease transit costs and improve service quality
- 3. Regional social and economic studies;
- 4. Enhancing ICT infrastructure resilience in the Asia-Pacific region;
- 5. Policy and regulations for leveraging existing infrastructure, technology and inclusive broadband initiatives;
- 6. Capacity-building; and
- 7. Asia-Pacific information superhighway project funding mechanism based on public-private partnerships

**(c). AP-IS 7 Strategic Initiatives Implementation Plan 2016-2018: priority challenges and proposed activities**

In order to match country's sub-region's and region's priorities within the scope of the AP-IS seven strategic initiatives, please complete the matrix below accordingly. Please add a row as deemed necessary.

Priority Challenges	Focus Area	AP-IS Strategic Initiatives	AP-IS Pillars (1-4)	Remarks
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		(1-7)		
<b>Priority Challenges:</b>	(i) Develop domestic fixed broadband infrastructure	(i) 1 (ii) 2 (iii) 4 (iv) 5	(i) 4 (ii) 2 (iii) 3 (iv) 4	
	(ii) Develop open neutral Internet exchange points for the domestic and international traffic exchange	(v) 4 (vi) 4 (vii) 1 (viii) 6	(v) 1 (vi) 1 (vii) 1 (viii) 1	
	(iii) Transitions in to the Internet Protocol version 6			
	(iv) Update national policies and regulations on infrastructure sharing;			
	(v) Further development of next generation wireless broadband networks and services			
	(vi) Use Addition frequencies (Digital dividend) in 700 MHz for the next generation wireless broadband services			

	<p>(vii) Develop Digital Connectivity between Europe and Asia through Georgia as the shortest transit link</p> <p>(vii) Develop digital trade and different electronic services</p>			
<b>Opportunities</b>	Georgia express readiness to collaborate with Asia-Pacific, European countries and with international organisations in order to achieve above-mentioned priority challenges.			
<b>Proposed solutions/actions</b>				
<p><b>(d). Update to terrestrial/submarine fibre-optic cable projects:</b> Based on the ESCAP/ITU interactive transmission map (access via link: <a href="http://www.unescap.org/our-work/ict-disaster-risk-reduction/asia-pacific-information-superhighway/asia-pacific-information-superhighway-maps">http://www.unescap.org/our-work/ict-disaster-risk-reduction/asia-pacific-information-superhighway/asia-pacific-information-superhighway-maps</a> ), please check and list down if there is any recent fibre-optic cable project completed/planned for your country, which is not reflected in the interactive map. The input provided below will be used to update the interactive map accordingly.</p> <p>(i) [For example, terrestrial/submarine cable project X, connecting country A and country B, location(s) (city) of landing station(s) in all countries involved , estimated cost USDX million, if not completed, indicate estimated date of completion].</p>				
<b>(e). Any other suggestions/issues:</b>				

(i)