



ASIA-PACIFIC INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY SUBREGIONAL MEETING FOR PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

ICT and Development Section
ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division

IMPROVING REGIONAL BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY THROUGH THE
ASIA-PACIFIC INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY



Outline:

1. Objectives of the workshop & agenda;
2. Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) initiative;
3. Progress on implementation of the AP-IS Master Plan;
4. Way forward



Objectives:

1. To identify common ICT priorities in PICs, in light of various ICT plans (national/subregional/regional);
2. To strengthen the statistical evidence-based analysis for a more integrated telecom market in PICs.



Draft agenda

Day	Activity
Monday	<p>Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP-IS initiative & Master Plan (ESCAP); • Infrastructure connectivity (ITU); • Internet traffic & network managements (PITA);
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT infrastructure resilience to natural disasters (LIRNEasia); • E-resilience exercise – assessing resilience (LIRNEasia); • Affordable broadband for all (ITU); • AP-IS subregional ICT plan for PICs (ESCAP);
Wednesday	ICT statistics for evidence-based policymaking in PICs (Training - ESCAP and SPC)
Thursday-Friday	ICT indicators and the IDI (National and Global Data Collection) (ITU and PITA)



AP-IS initiative

The **Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway** initiative aims to **increase the availability and affordability of broadband Internet** across Asia and the Pacific, by strengthening the underlying Internet infrastructure in the region.

- Promote **terrestrial and submarine fibre-optic connectivity**
- **Provide a regional intergovernmental platform** focusing on the missing fibre-optic links between ESCAP countries
- ESCAP resolution 73/6 = mandate

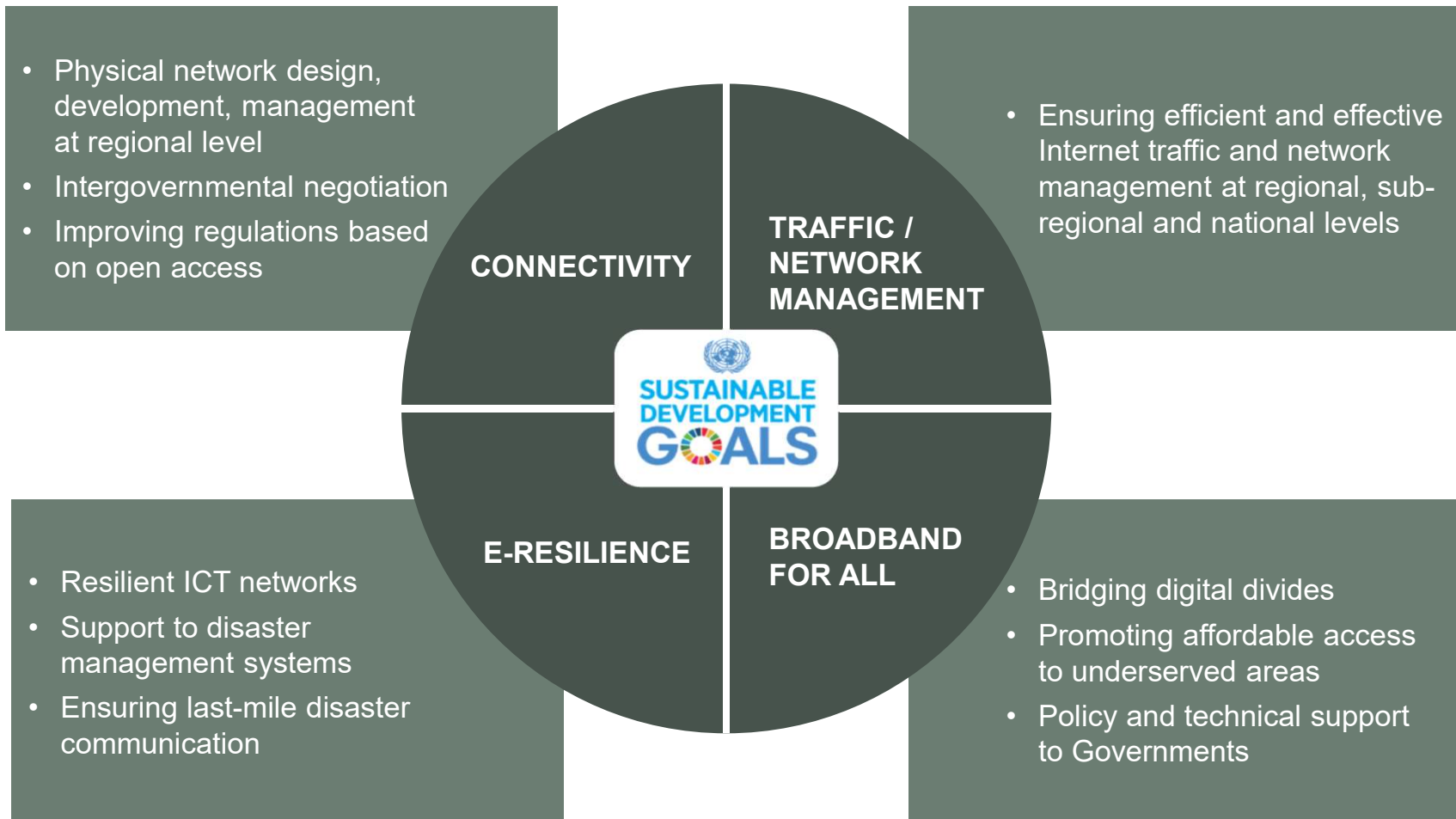


ESCAP Resolution 73/6

- (a) **Accord priority** to the implementation of the Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, including the **support to members and associate members for their implementation**;
- (b) **Encourage the participation of various stakeholders** in the implementation of activities of the Master Plan;
- (c) Continue to **conduct research and analysis and capacity development to identify challenges and opportunities** associated with the four pillars of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative;
- (d) Maximize opportunities for collaboration with SROs/Ris
- (e) Report to CICTSTI in 2018 and 75th Commission session in 2019

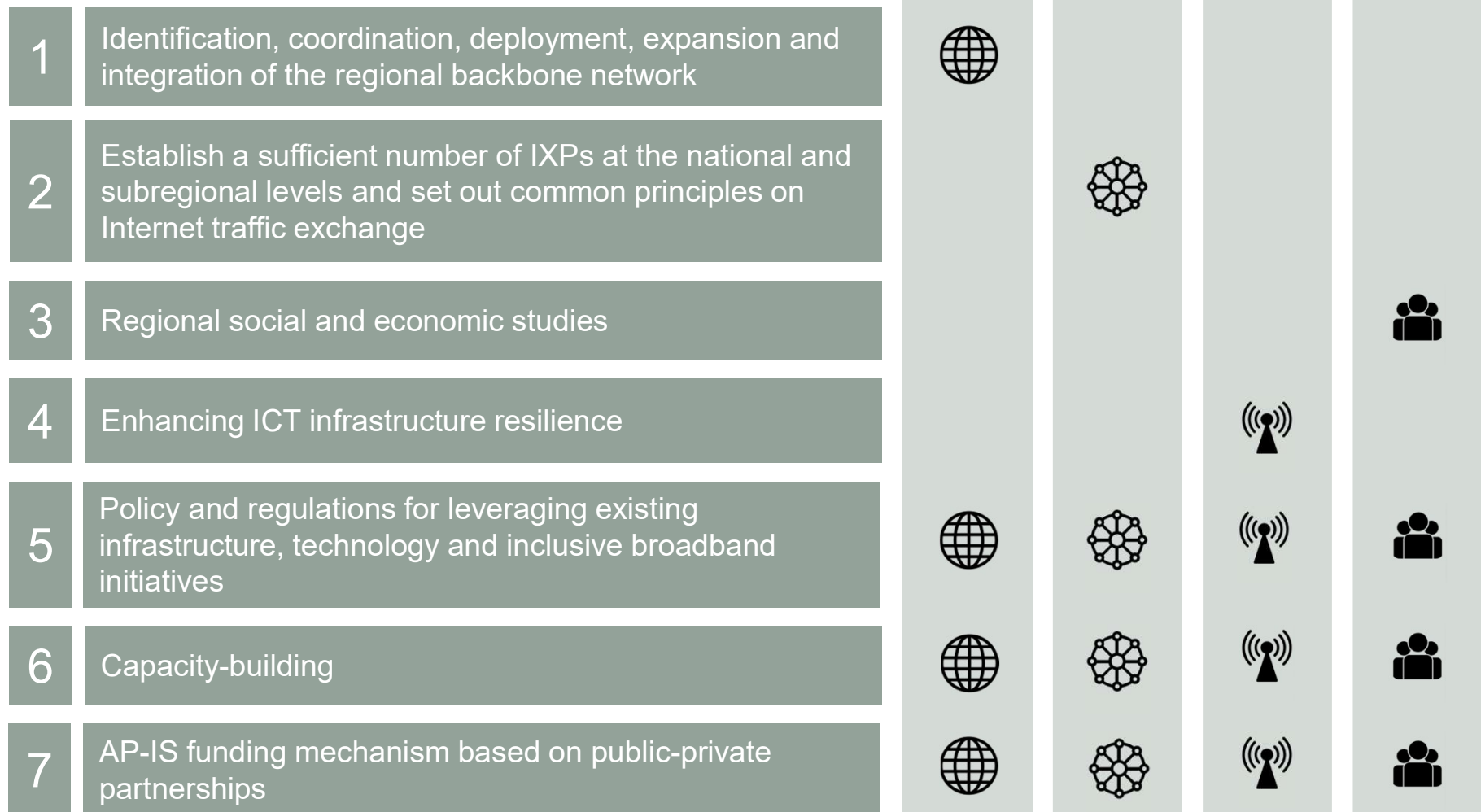


Four Pillars of AP-IS

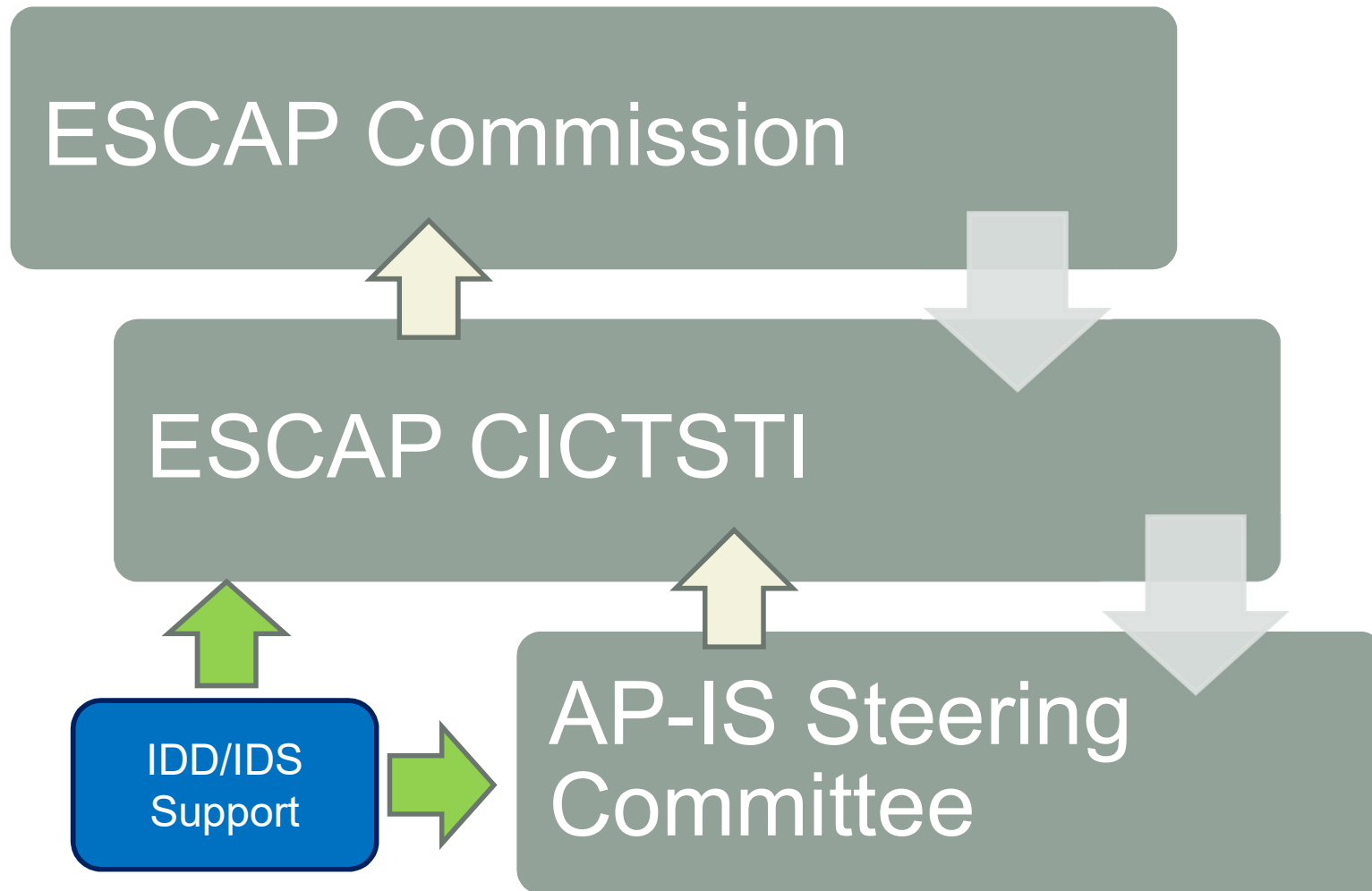


AP-IS Initiatives

Strategic Initiatives 2016-2018



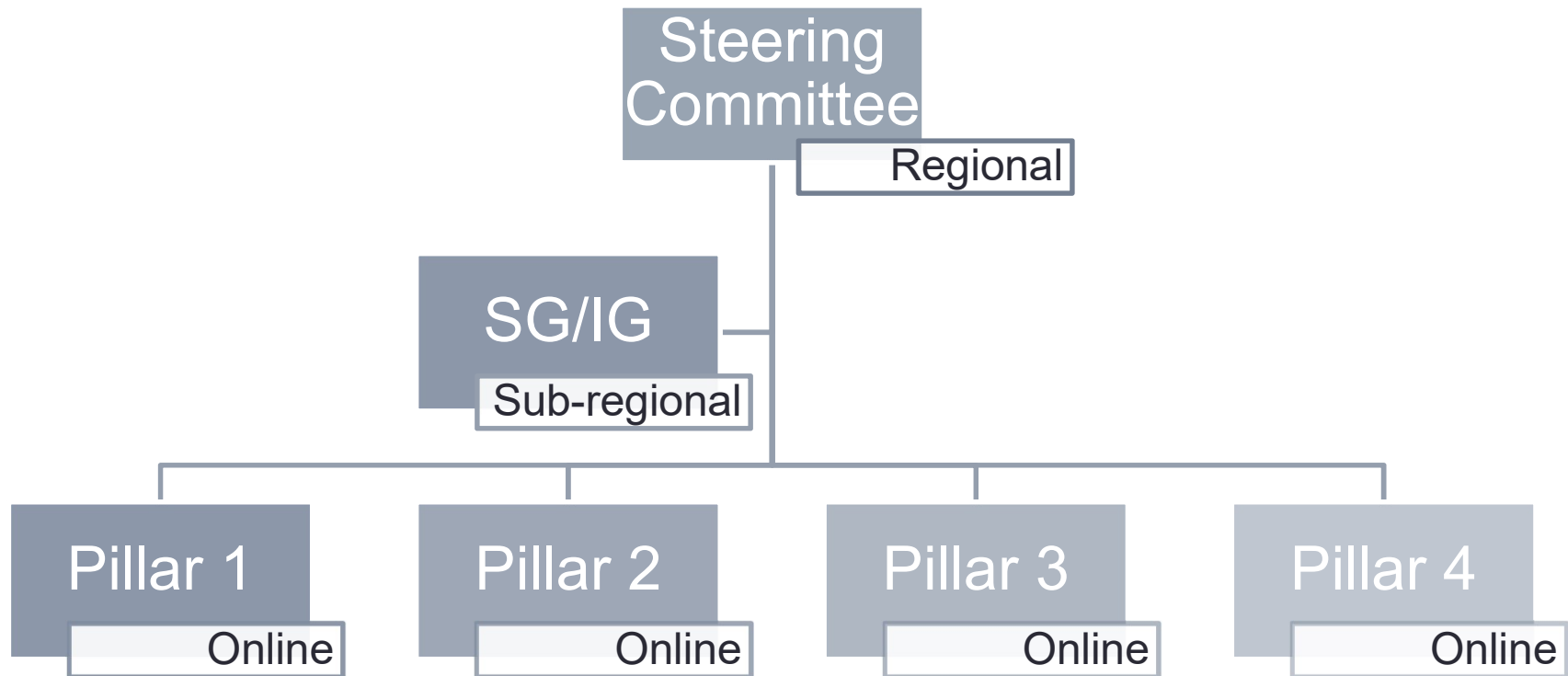
AP-IS Governance Structure within Commission



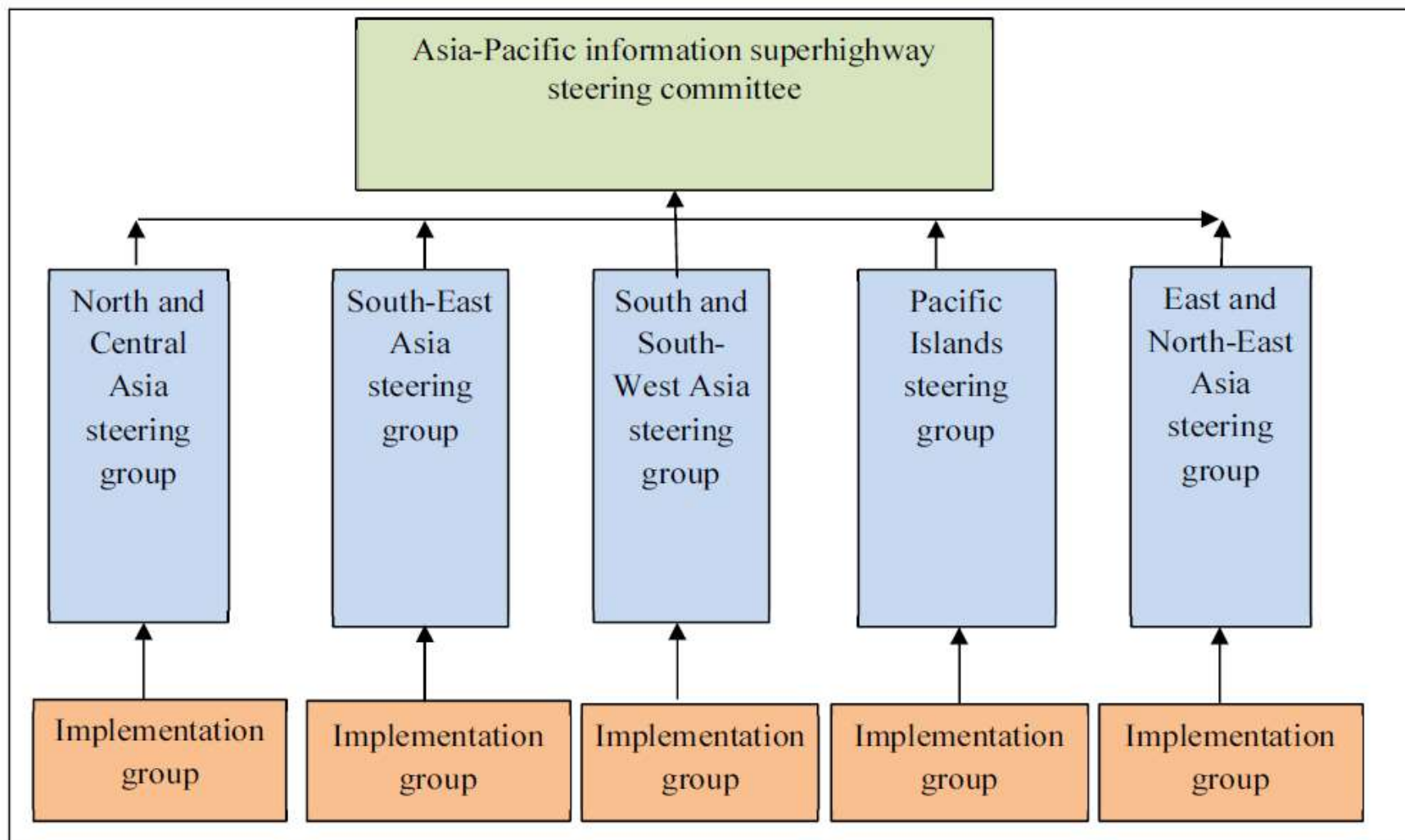
IMPROVING REGIONAL BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY THROUGH THE
ASIA-PACIFIC INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY



AP-IS Pillars



AP-IS SG by sub-region



North and Central Asia

Armenia
 Azerbaijan
 Georgia
 Kazakhstan
 Kyrgyzstan
 Russian Federation
 Tajikistan
 Turkmenistan
 Uzbekistan

South and South-West Asia

Afghanistan
 Bangladesh
 Bhutan
 India
 Iran (Islamic Republic of)
 Maldives
 Nepal
 Pakistan
 Sri Lanka
 Turkey

East and North-East Asia

China
 Democratic People's Republic of Korea
 Hong Kong, China
 Japan
 Macau
 Mongolia
 Republic of Korea
 Taiwan

South-East Asia

Brunei Darussalam
 Cambodia
 Indonesia
 Lao (People's Democratic Republic)
 Malaysia
 Myanmar
 Philippines
 Singapore
 Thailand
 Timor-Leste
 Viet Nam

Pacific

American Samoa
 Australia
 Cook Islands
 Fiji
 French Polynesia
 Guam
 Kiribati
 Marshall Islands
 Micronesia (Federated States of)
 Nauru
 New Caledonia
 New Zealand
 Niue
 Northern Mariana Islands
 Palau
 Papua New Guinea
 Samoa
 Solomon Islands
 Tonga
 Tuvalu
 Vanuatu



Progress on AP-IS implementation

Action item	2016				2017				2018			
	1/4	2/4	3/4	4/4	1/4	2/4	3/4	4/4	1/4	2/4	3/4	4/4
Steering committee to be established and operational												
1.1 Conduct feasibility studies												
2.3 Internet exchange point system and operation model												
3. Regional social and economic studies												
4.1 Study route diversification as part of e-resilience												
5.1 Undertake policy initiatives for cross-border connectivity												
6.1 Capacity development												
7.1 Formulation of Asia-Pacific information superhighway funding platform												
Present Master Plan for adoption												
Evaluation and progress report												

First session of the Committee

Seventy-third session of the Commission

Seventy-fourth session of the Commission

- AP-IS Master Plan (E/ESCAP/CICTSTI (1)/2) outlines key areas of focus and implementation plan (2016-2018).



Implementation progress (as of August 2018)

Action item (a): Steering Committee (SC) to be established and operational (Completed);

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|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st AP-IS SC meeting held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, September 2017; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to conduct pre-feasibility study to identify challenges and opportunities of ICT connectivity in each ESCAP subregion; • In collaboration with partner organizations, conduct technical studies on various ICT challenges highlighted by the meeting; • To establish an academia network for AP-IS researches; • To develop a UNV partnership programme for supporting, coordination and monitoring of the AP-IS implementation; • To continue collaboration with ITU in updating the AP-IS Transmission Map; |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd AP-IS SC meeting, Bangkok, August 2018. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review updated AP-IS Master Plan (2019-2022), and recommend for the consideration of the 2nd session of CICTSTI; |

Implementation progress (as of August 2018)

Action item (b): Present AP-IS Master Plan for adoption (Completed);

- Presented **AP-IS Master Plan** (E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/2) & **Regional Cooperation Framework Document** (E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/3) to ESCAP Intergovernmental forums;
- Recommended by **1st session of CICTSTI**, October 2016;
- Endorsed by the **73rd session of the Commission**, May 2017;
- **ESCAP resolution 73/6** on the 'Implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative through regional cooperation' (sponsored by Bangladesh and co-sponsored by China, Fiji, Islamic Republic of Iran, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and Thailand)



Implementation progress (as of August 2018)

Action item (c): Evaluation and progress report;

- Updated member States and stakeholders on implementation progress:
- The first session of CICTSTI in October 2016;
- Report (E/ESCAP/73/10) to the **73rd session of the Commission**, May 2017;
- 1st session of the **AP-IS SC, Dhaka**, Bangladesh, November 2017;
- AP-IS **Steering Group Meeting**, Bangkok, 12 December 2017 and Joint Session with the Working Group on the Asian Highway Network, Bangkok, 13 December 2017
- Second session of the AP-IS Steering Committee meeting, Bangkok, August 2018

Implementation progress (as of August 2018)

Action item 1.1: Conduct feasibility studies (Ongoing);

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-feasibility studies conducted (completed): 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Pre-Feasibility Study on the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway in the ASEAN Sub-region (2016); A Study of ICT Connectivity for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): Enhancing the Collaboration in China-Central Asia Corridor (2017);
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility studies (planned) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCA, SEA, SSWA, ENEA & Pacific (2019-2022)

Action item 2.3: Internet exchange point system and operational model (Ongoing);

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study that included IXP management (in progress): 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An In-depth Study on Asia Pacific Information Superhighway in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) Countries (2017)
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Implementation progress (as of August 2018)

Action item 3: Regional economic and social studies (Ongoing);

- Economic/Social studies (completed):
 - A Study on Cost-Benefit Analysis of **Fibre-Optic Co-Deployment** with the Asian Highway Connectivity (2018)
 - Broadband connectivity in **Pacific island countries** (2018);
 - **Artificial Intelligence** and Broadband Divide: State of ICT Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific (2017)
 - The Impact of **Universal Service Funds** on Fixed-Broadband Deployment and Internet Adoption in Asia and the Pacific (2017)
 - Effect of **Open International Gateways** on the Broadband Connectivity Market (2017)

Implementation progress (as of August 2018)

Action item 3: Regional economic and social studies (Ongoing) (cont);

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic/Social studies (completed): | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning processes, policies and initiatives in ICTD education at institutions of higher learning (IHLs) in Asia and the Pacific (2017) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic/Social studies (in progress) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICT and education (ESCAP & UNESCO) Enhancing Cybersecurity in the Asia-Pacific's "Fourth Industrial Revolution" Internet of People Social Media and Gender |



Implementation progress (as of August 2018)

Action item 4: Studies on e-resilience (Ongoing);

- E-resilience studies (completed):
 - e-Resilience: A Review of National Broadband Policies, Regulations, Strategies and Initiatives of **China, Japan and the Republic of Korea** (2018);
 - ICT in Disaster Risk management Initiatives in Asia and the Pacific (2016);
 - Building e-Resilience in **Sri Lanka**: Enhancing the Role of information and Connections Technology for Disaster Risk Management (2016);
 - Building e-Resilience in **Mongolia**: Enhancing the Role of information and Connections Technology for Disaster Risk Management (2016);
 - Building e-Resilience in the **Philippines**: Enhancing the Role of Information and Communications Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction (2016);
 - Building e-Resilience in **China**: Enhancing the Role of Information and Communications Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction (2016)

Implementation progress (as of August 2018)

Action item 4: Studies on e-resilience (*Ongoing*) (cont)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-resilience studies (completed): 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building a Resilient Digital Economy: Fostering SMEs in Central Asia (2017);
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-resilience studies (planned): 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-resilience and emergency telecommunications (ESCAP & LIRNEAsia)



Implementation progress (as of August 2018)

Action item 5.1: Undertake policy initiatives for cross-border connectivity (Ongoing)

AP-IS Subregional meeting to identify subregional plan for subregional cooperation

- AP-IS Subregional meeting for NCA, October 2018, Almaty (upcoming);
- AP-IS Subregional meeting for Pacific, November 2018, Nadi (upcoming);

Action item 6.1: Capacity development (Ongoing)

AP-IS capacity development activities;

- Sub-Regional Workshops on **Internet Traffic Management** and **E-resilience** for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway **SSWA** (2016) (completed);
- AP-IS Subregional meeting for Pacific, November 2018, Nadi (upcoming);

Implementation progress (as of August 2018)

Action item 7.1: Formulation of AP-IS funding mechanism platform (Ongoing)

Establishment of an AP-IS funding mechanism platform (ongoing)

- Informal meeting on AP-IS financing mechanisms, Bangkok 31 August
- Partnerships with private sector companies
- **UN partnerships** strengthened through the organization of the inter-agency working group meetings (Dec and Jan 2018) and joint production of report “Report of the Side Event of the Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development on ICT for Transformation and Resilience”



Updates to the AP-IS Master Plan (Aug 2018)

- The AP-IS Master Plan (E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/2) (2016-2018) updated;
- Suggested changes (new initiatives/projects/studies) and new partners have been added to the Master Plan;
- CICTSTI endorsed the updated AP-IS Master Plan and RCFD 2019-2022.



Way forward

- **Studies** addressing opportunities and challenges using qualitative and quantitative methods;
- Technical capacity activities **linking ICT and other sectors**;
- Expanded **partnerships** and implementation arrangements;
- Collaboration with **UN country team** (UNCT) to better serve member country in the future;
- Developing future **research agenda** to guide AP-IS implementation



Way forward

- AP-IS subregional meeting for North and Central Asia, Almaty, Kazakhstan, October 2018;
- AP-IS subregion meeting for Pacific, Nadi, Fiji, November 2018;
- AP-IS subregion meeting for SSWA, ENEA, & SEA, scheduled for 2019;

