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

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

Bangkok, 10 October 2018

Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*

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

**Draft ministerial declaration on space applications for  
sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific**

*As adopted by the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for  
Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok on 10 October  
2018.*

1. *We, the Ministers for space and Heads of delegations of the members  
and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and  
the Pacific,*
2. *Having met in Bangkok on 10 October 2018 at the Third Ministerial  
Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and  
the Pacific, co-organized by the Government of Thailand and the Economic  
and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,*
3. *Reaffirming our commitment to General Assembly resolution 70/1 of  
25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for  
Sustainable Development”, and to the achievement of the Sustainable  
Development Goals and targets contained therein, based on each country’s  
individual situation and development context,*
4. *Reaffirming further the importance of the draft resolution entitled  
“Fiftieth anniversary of the First United Nations Conference on the Exploration  
and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: space as a driver of sustainable  
development”, endorsed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer  
Space, at its sixty-first session, for submission to the General Assembly for  
adoption at its seventy-third session, in December 2018, in which the  
importance of global partnership and strengthened cooperation among Member  
States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, industry and  
private sector entities, as appropriate, in fulfilling the space agenda and  
relevant plans, once agreed at the global level, is recognized,*

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\* ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/L.1.

5. *Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution XX of XX September 2018 [E/2018/L.15] on the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters for the improvement of geospatial information and services for disasters and the development and implementation of geospatial information policy, processes and services to support emergency response and disaster risk reduction that are aligned with the outcome of and follow-up to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030<sup>1</sup> and its implementation,
6. *Acknowledging* the contributions of space technology, digital innovations and geospatial information applications in addressing sustainable development in the region, and recognizing the potential for further development of these innovative technologies as a means of implementation that can help leapfrog sustainable development efforts in the region,
7. *Acknowledging also* the need for coherence across global and regional frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway<sup>2</sup> and the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific,<sup>3</sup> as well as national frameworks regarding the access, utilization, capacity and integration of space applications into all sectors of sustainable development,
8. *Recalling* Commission resolution 73/9 of 19 May 2017 on the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, in which it endorses the prioritized framework and mechanism to promote sustainable development implementation in the Asia-Pacific region,
9. *Recalling also* the First Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Beijing on 23 and 24 September 1994, which established the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development as a regional cooperation mechanism for providing valuable space-based information and resources to countries in need and supporting regional and global efforts in the peaceful uses of outer space,
10. *Recalling further* Commission resolution 69/11 of 1 May 2013 on the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012–2017, and the Plan of Action annexed thereto, in which the Commission is requested to take the lead in implementing the Plan of Action in the region,
11. *Recalling* that in the Declaration on Applications of Space Technology to Support Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the Asia-Pacific Space Leaders Forum, held in New Delhi on 2 November 2016, space leaders reaffirmed the need for closer cooperation, for the development of a new Asia-Pacific plan of action for space applications for sustainable development (2018–2030) and for coherence among global frameworks,

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

<sup>3</sup> E/ESCAP/73/31, annex II.

12. *Adopt* the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030), as contained in **annex II [tbd]** to the report of the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific,<sup>4</sup> bearing in mind that its implementation depends on each country's national circumstances and development priorities;
13. *Encourage* members and associate members to work together closely and develop appropriate joint programmes and projects that are aligned with the priority themes, goals, targets and actions of the Plan of Action;
14. *Encourage* members and associate members, United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to enhance collaboration, as appropriate, in support of the implementation of the Plan of Action and to contribute to the globally agreed space agenda formulated by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;
15. *Encourage* members and associate members to work together, within existing frameworks, to mainstream the use of space technology and geospatial information applications, where possible, in all aspects of sustainable development, as national and regional champions, and in our multiple capacities across other relevant forums;
16. *Express our appreciation* to members and associate members for their valuable contributions and efforts to further the use of space technology and geospatial information applications, globally and in the region, and pledge to continue to work in humility towards the emergence of Asia and the Pacific as a model region for cooperation in space technology applications, demonstrated by the regional mechanisms in operation;
17. *Request* the Executive Secretary:
  - (a) To facilitate implementation of the Plan of Action by mobilizing appropriate resources and prioritizing activities relating to space applications and geospatial information;
  - (b) To promote, as appropriate, regional and subregional cooperation and to foster the sharing of good practices and lessons learned to ensure coherence with global, regional and national frameworks and commitments;
  - (c) To assist members and associate members, upon request, in developing national policies and strategies related to space applications and geospatial information and in providing technical assistance and capacity development when necessary;
18. *Express our appreciation* to the Government of Thailand and to the secretariat for bringing together Ministers and high-level representatives, and pledge to redouble our cooperation on sustainable uses of space technology and geospatial information applications.

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<sup>4</sup> ESCAP/MCSASD/2018/2.