

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE
PACIFIC

The Twenty-Second Session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee (ICC) on the
Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP)

30 August 2018

UNCC, Bangkok, Thailand

Meeting Report

Prepared by the Secretariat

I. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee at its twenty-second session:

1. *Endorses* the draft Asia-Pacific plan of action for space applications for sustainable development (2018-2030) and the draft ministerial declaration as both have evolved to date.
2. *Emphasizes* that capacity development and technical support are a priority for most countries in the region, while recognizing that research and knowledge sharing, through regional cooperation platforms, remain important supporting actions.
3. *Notes* that the plan of action is developed in follow-up to “the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, (2012-2017)”.
4. *Appreciates* that the process has been inclusive, collective and country-needs driven.
5. *Underlines* that the plan of action is regionally coordinated and that it harnesses space applications and digital innovations to help countries of Asia and the Pacific, particularly those with special needs, to achieve the 2030 Goals for sustainable development.
6. *Appreciates* the efforts made by the Drafting Committee in formulating the draft plan of action and the support provided by the secretariat in facilitating the drafting of the plan of action.
7. *Requests* the Chair, with the support of the secretariat, to circulate by Monday 3 September 1) Draft Asia-Pacific plan of action for space applications for sustainable development (2018-2030), with the actions matrix as its annex; 2) Draft ministerial declaration for the third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, to the Seats of Government of ESCAP members and associate members, for coordination and reply to the secretariat by 24 September 2018.
8. *Agrees* to organize an ad-hoc session of ICC plus, on 8 to 9 October 2018, in Bangkok Thailand and further expresses that ICC plus will be open to all ICC members, Drafting Committee members, representatives from non-ICC countries and partner organizations, who are invited to attend the meeting to finalize the plan of action and ministerial declaration for adoption at the Ministerial Conference on 10 October 2018.
9. *Requests* the Chair, with the support of the secretariat, to circulate a consolidated revised draft of these documents to the ICC representatives, by 1 October 2018, for final consultations before the ad-hoc session of ICC plus.
10. *Requests* all members to report to their relevant ministries and Ministers on the progress and outcomes in formulating the plan of action and the twenty-second session of the ICC (ICC-22), and to mobilize the participation of Ministers at the Ministerial Conference on 10 October 2018.

II. PROCEEDINGS

A. Organization of the meeting

11. The Twenty-Second Session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee (ICC) on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP) was held on 30 August 2018, in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

B. Attendance

12. The meeting was attended by the following ESCAP member States: Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Caledonia, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga and Turkey. Representatives from the following United Nations organizations also attended: the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Operational Satellite Applications (UNOSAT) of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Representatives from the following regional and technical agencies also attended: Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA). The complete list of participants is included in Annex 2 of this report.

C. Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

13. The opening session commenced with a speech from Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP. In delivering his opening statement, Mr. Zahedi highlighted the opportunities and challenges presented by the new integrated global development agenda as well as the potential role of space applications and geospatial information in addressing many of these challenges. He reiterated the six priority areas, where the ICC agreed that space applications can play a significant role, in line with the Regional Road Map. He also highlighted three major achievements of the ICC, 1) the development of the draft plan of action has helped to align the work of the space community, 2) the ICC has clearly identified the major areas of convergence where space applications is ideally placed to support sustainable development and, 3) the ICC has created an actionable plan, with the support of experts from the open-ended Drafting Committee, which incorporates relevant targets from the Sustainable Development Goals, defining actions focussed around the six priority themes. Mr. Zahedi urged members to finalise the draft plan of action, which has been evolving since late 2016, through various consultations and intergovernmental measures. He also urged the Committee to finalise the ministerial declaration, so that both draft documents are ready for consideration at the next ad-hoc session of the ICC plus, to be held from 8 to 9 October 2018, and to be presented for endorsement at the third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. Finally, he stressed the need for high-level Ministers and authorities to support the space agencies and make space applications an integral part of achieving sustainable development within countries.

D. Agenda item 2: Election of the officers

14. The elected Bureau of the Twenty-Second Session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee (ICC) on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP) consisted of:
- Dr. Anond Snidvongs, Executive Director of the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA) of Thailand, as Chair of the Committee;
 - Mr. Malik Olzhabekov, Deputy Chairman, Aerospace Committee, Ministry of Defense and Aerospace Industry of Kazakhstan, as Vice-Chair;
 - Mr. Rajeev Kumar Jaiswal, Deputy Director of the Earth observation applications & Disaster management division of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), as Vice-Chair, and;
 - Ms. Ana Ilaisaane K.M. Patolo, Coordinator, Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications of Tonga, as Rapporteur.

E. Agenda item 3: Adoption of the agenda

15. A request was made for country delegates and organisations to make short presentations and statements in the afternoon session, if time permitted. This was agreed by the Committee and was included in the Agenda as Item 8 – country statements and presentations.
16. The agenda was adopted by all members as contained in document ESCAP/ICC(22)/1, taking into consideration the request, as detailed above. The amended agenda is included in Annex 1.

F. Agenda Item 4: Summary of the actions identified in thematic areas of the Plan of Action

17. The Chair provided a summary of conclusions from the Expert Group Meeting on Space Applications for Sustainable Development, which convened during the two-days EGM leading up to the ICC. He emphasised the work put into drafting the plan of action and ministerial declaration for the adoption at the upcoming Ministerial Conference. He also reiterated that the plan of action was still open to changes and called on the Committee to comment accordingly, highlighting the critical decisions which the Drafting Committee had also referred to the ICC for further consideration at the intergovernmental level.
18. The Secretariat presented the updated plan, taking into account final changes as recommended by the Drafting Committee and presented the remaining decision requiring deliberation and key areas which required further guidance and clarification.
19. Suggestions and comments from Committee members were noted by the secretariat for synthesis and revision of the final draft plan of action. These included finding appropriate terminology for references to ‘existing mechanisms’, discussing the use and appropriateness of the term ‘frontier technologies’, as well as other technical amendments and references within the draft plan of action, including proposed revisions sent by country delegates via email before ICC-22.

G. Agenda Item 5: Summary of the text of the Plan of Action

20. The secretariat presented the changes to the draft text and requested review of the text by the Committee, as well as the cross-cutting actions identified under each action area.
21. Suggestions and comments from Committee members were noted by the secretariat, within the document itself, for synthesis and revision.

H. Agenda Item 6: Summary of the phasing of actions and results in order to develop an implementation strategy

22. The secretariat made a presentation on suggested phases of implementation, as discussed by the Drafting Committee.
23. The Committee discussed the concerns raised by the Drafting Committee with regard to phasing for an implementation strategy, and acknowledged that different countries may have different priorities. Therefore, it was noted that countries may wish to prioritise actions within the plan of action differently, depending on their own national circumstances and development contexts.
24. The Committee discussed and agreed that capacity development and technical support was a priority for most countries in the region, while recognising that research and knowledge sharing, through regional cooperation platforms, remain important supporting actions.
25. With regard to phased implementation, the Committee also recognised the need to review and amend the plan of action, as it covers a period until 2030, so that it reflects the evolving needs of countries, emerging technologies, shifting priorities and unforeseen challenges arising in the region. As a result, phased review over 4-year periods, rather than phased implementation plans, was agreed as a way forward, acknowledging that as different sub-regions and countries have their own development priorities and levels of capacity, this allows room for implementation at their own pace.

I. Agenda Item 7: Summary of the considerations for means of implementation

26. The Secretariat presented a summary of the considerations for means of implementation section under the main text of the plan of action.
27. The Committee reiterated the importance of building partnerships with other entities, such as United Nations agencies. The Committee also recognised the necessity to support countries through the means of sharing satellite-derived data, tools and products, information and expertise, as well as in capacity building, and requested that to be reflected as a continued effort and as part of implementation.
28. The Committee noted the need to explore financing mechanisms, such as a trust fund, as a means of implementing the plan of action. The Committee was of the view that while financing needs to come primarily from national governments, the provision of additional

resources to support the efforts of national governments, as well as regional initiatives, should be explored by all partners.

J. Agenda Item 8: Discussion on draft Ministerial declaration of the third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

29. The Secretariat presented the revised text of the draft ministerial declaration, based on country comments and recommendations provided by the Drafting Committee so far.
30. Countries provided their suggestions and recommendations on the draft declaration, which the secretariat took note of, for revision and inclusion in the draft.

K. Agenda Item 9: Country statement and presentations

31. Presentations and statements were given by Japan on regional activities such as APRSAF and GEO; and Tajikistan, on their country's activities relevant to the plan of action. Presentations were given by other international and technical organisations including the Asian Institute of Technology. The Committee expressed appreciation to the informative presentations, underlining the useful sharing of information and knowledge.

L. Agenda Item 10: Preparation of the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and other issues for consideration

32. The secretariat provided a brief overview on the preparations leading up to third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, to be held in Bangkok Thailand on 10 October 2018, and what actions countries need to undertake before then.
33. The secretariat committed to circulate the draft plan of action, draft matrix as annex to the plan of action and draft ministerial declaration to all Seats of Government for final review and to facilitate final consideration at the ad hoc session of ICC plus, ready for submission and adoption at the third Ministerial Conference, on 10 October 2018.

M. Agenda Item 11: Other matters

34. No other matters were discussed.

N. Agenda Item 12: Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twenty-second session

35. The secretariat presented, for deliberation and endorsement, the draft conclusions and recommendations (Part I) of the Report. The Committee adopted Part I of the Report by consensus, and agreed to adopt the proceedings (Part II) by consensus, through email by 15 September 2018, and entrusted the Secretariat to accommodate, as deemed appropriate, any significant corrections to Part II proposed during the process of circulation.

O. Closing

36. Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP, delivered her closing remarks. She reiterated important discussion points; highlighted productive outcomes from those discussions; reminded the ICC of the important milestones achieved in the drafting process already, including ICC-22; and acknowledged the convergence and agreement among members and associate members, in developing the plan of action and supporting preparations for a successful upcoming Ministerial Conference. She ended by thanking the Bureau of the Committee and all ICC participants, for their active engagement during the meeting and their constructive support in drafting the ministerial documents.

List of Annex Documents

- Annex 1. Agenda of the meeting
- Annex 2. List of Participants



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English only

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

**Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the
Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development**

Twenty-second session

30 August 2018

Conference Room 4, UNCC

Bangkok, Thailand

Schedule of work*

Thursday, 30 August 2018

09.00-09.40 hrs.	Joint session	Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation <i>The second session</i>
Conference Room 2		Item 3 (b) Enhancing space applications in Asia and the Pacific for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals - Introduction by ESCAP secretariat - Discussion by delegation
09.40-10.00 hrs.		Break
10.00-10.15 hrs.	Item 1	Opening of the session - Opening speech by Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP
Conference Room 4		
10.15-10.30 hrs.	Item 2	Election of officers - Election of chair and vice-chair - Statement by the chair
10.30-10.40 hrs.	Item 3	Adoption of the agenda

* This document has been issued without formal editing.

10.40-11.10 hrs.	Item 4	<p>Summary of the actions identified in thematic areas of the Plan of Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation by the secretariat on the outcomes of the Drafting Committee - Discussions
11.10-11.20 hrs.	Item 5	<p>Summary of the text of the plan of action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation by the secretariat on the outcomes of the Drafting Committee - Discussions
11.20-11.40 hrs.	Item 6	<p>Summary of the phasing of actions for implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by the secretariat on the outcomes of the Drafting Committee • Discussions
11.40-11.50 hrs.	Item 7	<p>Summary of the considerations for means of implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation by the secretariat on the outcomes of the Drafting Committee - Discussions
11.50-12.00 hrs.	Item 8	<p>Discussion on draft Ministerial Declaration of the third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific</p>
12.00-13.00 hrs.		<p>Lunch break</p>
13.00-14.00 hrs.	Item 9	<p>Country statements and presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation from countries - Presentations from regional organizations
14.00-14.20 hrs.	Item 10	<p>Preparation of the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and other issues for consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Status of preparation of the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and its schedule - Organization an Ad hoc ICC plus from 8-9 October 2018

- Discussions

14.20-14.30 hrs. Item 11 **Other matters**

14.30-14.50 hrs. Item 12 **Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twenty-second session** (decisions made during the 22nd session of ICC)

14.50-15.10 hrs. **Closing**

- Closing remarks by chair
- Speech by Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division of ESCAP

15.10-15.20 hrs. **Break**



For participants only

The 22nd Session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee (ICC) on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP)

30 August 2018

Conference Room 4, UNCC
Bangkok, Thailand

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