Economic and Social Council

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion
 and Transformation

Astana, 3–5 September 2024

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation (sect. I) and the annotations thereto (sect. II).

I.   Provisional agenda

1.   Opening of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation:

(a)   Opening addresses;

(b)   Election of officers;

(c)   Adoption of the agenda.

2.   Policy perspectives on building an inclusive and sustainable digital future for accelerated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

3.   Digital solutions for sustainable development.

4.   Strengthening regional digital cooperation for sustainable development.

5.   Adoption of the Astana Ministerial Declaration on Digital Inclusion and Transformation in Asia and the Pacific.

6.   Other matters.

7.   Adoption of the report on the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation.

II.   Annotations

1.   **Opening of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation**

(a)   **Opening addresses**

Opening addresses will be delivered by the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, senior officials and government representatives.

(b)   Election of officers

The participants in the Ministerial Conference will elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs.

(c)   Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Provisional agenda (ESCAP/MCDIT/1)

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/MCDIT/1/Add.1)

Annotation

The provisional agenda will be considered and adopted, subject to such changes as may be necessary.

The list of participants and the programme for the Ministerial Conference will be available online in due course at https://unescap.org/events/2024/asia-pacific-ministerial-conference-digital-inclusion-and-transformation.

2.   Policy perspectives on building an inclusive and sustainable digital future for accelerated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

Documentation

Policy perspectives on building an inclusive and sustainable digital future for accelerated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (ESCAP/MCDIT/2)

Annotation

Accelerating progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a priority in Asia and the Pacific, and innovations in digital technology applications are emerging as a powerful means of implementation. In the document, the secretariat discusses the role of digital transformation in building an inclusive and sustainable future in the context of the 2030 Agenda. It also provides a summary of the key findings contained in the *Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Report 2024*. The digital transformation framework developed by the secretariat was used in the preparation of the report to introduce a hypothesis on the nexus between digital transformation, growth and climate change and to identify emerging good practices. Furthermore, the secretariat proposes policy recommendations aimed at strengthening regional cooperation on digital transformation in support of accelerated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The participants in the Ministerial Conference may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on its policy recommendations regarding regional cooperation on digital transformation. Following the presentations given by the secretariat, a panel of experts consisting of government officials and representatives of academia and the private sector will discuss the findings presented in the document and make recommendations related to promoting digital transformation and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

3. **Digital solutions for sustainable development**

Documentation

Digital solutions for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCDIT/3)

Annotation

In the document, the secretariat highlights experiences and good practices in adopting digital solutions for sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region and discusses policy recommendations for promoting digital solutions. In line with resolution 80/1, in which the Commission noted with appreciation the initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan on establishing a digital solutions centre for sustainable development to provide practical digital solutions in Central Asia and beyond, the secretariat recommends the establishment of an ad hoc working group for members and associate members of the Commission to further study and discuss the modalities of establishing a digital solutions centre for sustainable development.

The participants in the Ministerial Conference may wish to discuss the issues presented in the document and provide guidance on the future work of the secretariat in that regard.

4. **Strengthening regional digital cooperation for sustainable development**

Documentation

Progress made in strengthening regional digital cooperation in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCDIT/4)

Annotation

In its resolution 80/1, the Commission encouraged all its members and associate members to strengthen regional and multi-stakeholder cooperation and to work together closely for the promotion of research and development in digital technologies and the fostering of human development and a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship with a view to expediting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in accordance with their national laws and priorities. In its document on progress made in regional digital cooperation, the secretariat discusses global and regional initiatives, notably progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026, which is aimed at strengthening digital cooperation for sustainable development. The secretariat also proposes policy recommendations on digital regional cooperation for Asia-Pacific countries.

The participants in the Ministerial Conference may wish to discuss the issues presented in the document and provide further guidance to the secretariat on strengthening regional digital cooperation, notably through the implementation of the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026, in support of international cooperation.

5. **Adoption of the Astana Ministerial Declaration on Digital Inclusion and Transformation in Asia and the Pacific**

   Documentation

   Astana Ministerial Declaration on Digital Inclusion and Transformation in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCDIT/L.2)

   Annotation

   The participants in the Ministerial Conference may wish to consider and adopt the Astana Ministerial Declaration on Digital Inclusion and Transformation in Asia and the Pacific for submission to the Commission at its eighty-first session.

6. **Other matters**

   The participants in the Ministerial Conference may wish to consider other matters not covered under the items mentioned above.

7. **Adoption of the report on the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation**

   Documentation

   Draft report (ESCAP/MCDIT/L.1)

   Annotation

   The participants in the Ministerial Conference may wish to consider and adopt the report on the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation for submission to the Commission at its eighty-first session.