



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

### Seventy-fifth session

Agenda item 4 (i)

### Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

#### 75/7. Advancing the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative through regional cooperation

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

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 71/212 of 21 December 2016 on information and communications technologies for development,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, resolution 69/137 of 12 December 2014 on the Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and resolution 69/15 of 14 November 2014 on the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,

*Recognizing* that access to information and communications technology and related capacity-building, including for youth, older persons, women, persons with disabilities, and remote and rural communities, are fundamental to reducing the digital divide, alleviating poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and other international development goals in Asia and the Pacific,

*Acknowledging* resolution 73/6 of 19 May 2017 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative through regional cooperation, in which the Commission invited members and associate members to cooperate in the implementation of the Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway<sup>1</sup> and the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Regional Cooperation Framework Document,<sup>2</sup>

*Recognizing* that the International Telecommunication Union at the World Telecommunication Development Conference in Buenos Aires in 2017 called for strengthening cooperation with international and regional organizations to enhance regional information and communications

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<sup>1</sup> E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/2.

<sup>2</sup> E/ESCAP/CICTSTI(1)/3.

technology connectivity, including through initiatives such as the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative,

*Acknowledging with satisfaction* the outcomes of the second meeting of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Committee and of the second session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation, held in Bangkok in August 2018, at which the Committee endorsed the Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, 2019–2022,<sup>3</sup> and the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Regional Cooperation Framework Document, 2019–2022,<sup>4</sup>

1. *Invites* members and associate members to cooperate in the implementation of the Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway, 2019–2022,<sup>3</sup> and the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Regional Cooperation Framework Document, 2019–2022,<sup>4</sup> as endorsed by the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation at its second session;

2. *Also invites* members and associate members to consider developing and implementing subregional implementation plans for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative, as appropriate and on a voluntary basis, taking into account the specificities of each subregion and the national legislation of the countries concerned, including, but not limited to, infrastructure sharing and co-deployment of fibre-optic cables along passive infrastructure;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue support to the ongoing activities on the implementation of the Asia Pacific Information Superhighway initiative;

(b) To support member countries with policy advice, technical studies and capacity-building, upon request, in relation to the development and implementation of subregional implementation plans for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative;

(c) To encourage the participation of various stakeholders, such as United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, regional and subregional organizations, and international financial institutions and partners, as well as the private sector, civil society, research institutes and think tanks, as appropriate, in the development and implementation of subregional implementation plans for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative;

(d) To continue to conduct research and analysis and capacity development to identify challenges and opportunities associated with the four pillars of and subregional implementation plans for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative;

(e) To report to the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation at its third session on the progress made in the development and implementation of subregional implementation plans for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative;

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<sup>3</sup> ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/INF/1.

<sup>4</sup> ESCAP/CICTSTI/2018/INF/2.

(f) To report to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-seventh session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

*5th plenary meeting  
31 May 2019*

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