

## Summary Assessment

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### Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation Fourth Session 30 August -1 September 2022

#### I. Introduction

The fourth session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation took place from 30 August to 1 September 2022 in a hybrid mode due to the COVID-19 and related travel restrictions in many countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

An online questionnaire assessing the relevance, effectiveness and quality of the meeting was conducted. The main purpose of this assessment is to support the secretariat's ongoing efforts to improve its servicing of the session.

#### II. Attendance

The fourth session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation was attended by 44 per cent of all ESCAP members and associate members (27 of 62). Delegations of 17 members or associate members (63 per cent - 17 of 27) were headed by officials from the respective capital, including 6 participants at ministerial level. In total there were 139 individual representatives of member or associate member states, of whom 56 were female (40 per cent).

A number of other entities participated, including United Nations bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations. From these entities, there were 35 participants of whom 11 were female (31 per cent). Therefore, the total number of participants from both governments and other entities was 174 individuals and the total number of female participants was 67 (39 per cent).

	Onsite	Online	TOTAL
<b>Delegates</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>139</b>
Male	39 60%	44 59%	83 60%
Female	26 40%	30 41%	56 40%
<b>Non-Delegates</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>35</b>
Male	8 73%	16 67%	24 69%
Female	3 27%	8 33%	11 31%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>174</b>
Male	47 62%	60 61%	107 61%
Female	29 38%	38 39%	67 39%

### III. Respondent's Profile

A total of 20 individual respondents from 11 ESCAP member states, shown in the table below, completed the questionnaire. Of this total, 8 respondents participated in-person and 11 participated virtually, and 1 both in person and virtually. 13 respondents were male, 7 were female.

<b>SEA</b>	<b>SSWA</b>
Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines	Bangladesh, India
<b>ENEA</b>	<b>Pacific</b>
DPRK	-
<b>NCA</b>	<b>Others</b>
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan	-

### IV. Preparatory dry-test session (for the participant via online platforms)

A total of 16 persons participated in the dry-test session organized by the secretariat, of which 13 tested their connection. A few participants reported minor problems with their connection or camera. The dry-run started at 10:00 hrs. and finished at 13:02 hrs. At 11:30hrs internal Kudo server error 500 interrupted the session until 12:18.

### V. Relevance

Overall, respondents agreed that the agenda items reflected the present development trends and issues in the Asian and Pacific region. The respondents also agreed that the issues discussed were useful for their government/organization. The rating is slightly lower on the discussion related to gender issues and concepts.

Please rate your agreement of the following statements	Rating Average, range 1-5
The issues discussed reflected the present development trends/issues in the Asia-Pacific region.	4.6
The issues discussed were useful for my government/ organization.	4.7
The meeting discussed related gender issues and concepts.	3.7

Please rate your agreement of the following statements	Rating Average, range 1-5
The issues discussed reflected the present development trends/issues in the Asia-Pacific region.	4.6
The issues discussed were useful for my government/ organization.	4.7
The meeting discussed related gender issues and concepts.	3.7
The meeting effectively enhanced my knowledge of the issues discussed.	4.2
The meeting effectively promoted regional cooperation and networking among participants.	4.5
The facilitators effectively engaged with participants in discussions.	4.6
Enough time was available for discussion.	4.4
The meeting documents and presentations were of high quality, concise & clear.	4.5
I am satisfied with the administrative and logistical arrangement of the meeting.	4.5
The meeting was organized in a timely manner and according to the programme.	4.9
The communications from ESCAP to the member States on the preparation for the meeting were effective.	4.7
The duration of the meeting was appropriate.	4.8

## VI. Effectiveness

The respondents agreed that the meeting effectively promoted regional cooperation and networking among participants; the facilitators effectively engaged with participants in discussion; enough time was available for discussion; and the meeting documents and presentations were of high quality, concise and clear. However, the respondents gave a slightly lower rating that the meeting effectively enhanced their knowledge of the issues discussed.

Please rate your agreement of the following statements	Rating Average, range 1-5
The meeting effectively enhanced my knowledge of the issues discussed.	4.2
The meeting effectively promoted regional cooperation and networking among participants.	4.5
The facilitators effectively engaged with participants in discussions.	4.6
Enough time was available for discussion.	4.4
The meeting documents and presentations were of high quality, concise & clear.	4.5

## VII. Efficiency

Generally, the respondents rated positively on the efficiency of the meeting, in particular, they highly agreed that the meeting was organized in a timely manner and according to the programme; and that the communications from ESCAP to the member States on the preparation for the meeting were effective.

Please rate your agreement of the following statements	Rating Average, range 1-5
I am satisfied with the administrative and logistical arrangement of the meeting.	4.5
The meeting was organized in a timely manner and according to the programme.	4.9
The communications from ESCAP to the member States on the preparation for the meeting were effective.	4.7
The duration of the meeting was appropriate.	4.8

Please rate your agreement of the following statements	Rating Average, range 1-5
I am satisfied with the administrative and logistical arrangement of the meeting.	4.5
The meeting was organized in a timely manner and according to the programme.	4.9
The communications from ESCAP to the member States on the preparation for the meeting were effective.	4.7
The duration of the meeting was appropriate.	4.8

## VIII. Comments and suggestion received

The results achieved through this meeting indicated by respondents included:

- Many participants expressed that the fourth session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation was very fruitful and effectively organized.
- Participants underlined that the Committee increased their understanding of discussed topics.
- Participants acknowledged endorsement of the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026.

Suggestions:

- ✓ One participant suggested more clarification on allocation of KUDO links.
- ✓ One participant suggested creation of a platform and toolkit for later adoption of the action plan.
- ✓ The meeting needs more time.

## IX. Conclusion

Overall, delegations agreed that the fourth session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation was well organized and fruitful. The session was highly relevant to the needs of the region, especially in highlighting regional connectivity, addressing digital divide including understanding recent trends and key issues, highlighting inclusive technology and innovation policies, and showcasing policies to enable innovative business models and practices. The efficiency of the session also received positive feedback, in particular, the servicing, including adherence to time, and organization of the session by the secretariat, as well as the communications between the secretariat and member States. Some issues such as gender balance in the field of ICT/STI

and the allocated time for discussions during the session may need more consideration in future sessions.

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