Statement of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on its Candidature for Re-election to the Governing Council of the UN APCICT

The People's Republic of Bangladesh extends its warm greetings to the esteemed Member States of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and reaffirms its unwavering commitment to advancing digital transformation through the effective use of information and communication technology (ICT). In this regard, Bangladesh is honored to seek re-election to the Governing Council of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT).

As a dedicated member of the APCICT Governing Council, Bangladesh has actively contributed to strengthening the capacities of ESCAP member and associate member states in harnessing ICT for sustainable socio-economic development. The nation prioritizes digital inclusion as a fundamental pillar of equitable and sustainable progress.

The transformative 'Digital Bangladesh' initiative has expanded digital infrastructure, improved e-governance services, and promoted digital literacy across society. Additionally, recent reforms in ICT-related laws and policies have been undertaken to make them more people-centric. These efforts have accelerated national progress and established Bangladesh as a key advocate for regional cooperation in ICT-driven development.

Throughout its tenure on the Governing Council, Bangladesh has supported APCICT's efforts by developing and disseminating training modules, sharing best practices, and collaborating on capacity-building initiatives to bridge the digital divide. Additionally, the country has facilitated regional workshops to promote knowledge exchange and foster partnerships among member states.

Recognizing the critical role of APCICT in promoting gender equality and youth empowerment, Bangladesh has championed initiatives that equip women and young people with digital skills, enabling their participation in the digital economy. These efforts reflect Bangladesh's dedication to ensuring inclusive and gender-responsive ICT policies within APCICT's framework.

Looking ahead, Bangladesh remains committed to addressing emerging digital challenges and opportunities. Rapid advancements in technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data, and blockchain offer potential for sustainable development across the Asia-Pacific region. Bangladesh will work to ensure APCICT fosters innovation and facilitates the adoption of cutting-edge ICT solutions to address socio-economic challenges.

If re-elected, Bangladesh will continue to contribute technical expertise to APCICT, supporting high-quality training programs and advocating for stronger alignment between APCICT's initiatives and broader UNESCAP frameworks Additionally, Bangladesh can contribute to the development of pro-people policies by sharing its transformative journey toward a more inclusive and non-discriminatory ICT framework. It will advocate for expanded capacity-building programs, enhanced knowledge exchange, and inclusive policies that empower women, youth, and marginalized communities, ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital era.

The People's Republic of Bangladesh respectfully seeks the support of the esteemed Member States of UNESCAP for its re-election to the APCICT Governing Council. Together, we can advance our shared vision of a digitally empowered, inclusive, and sustainable Asia-Pacific region.



(Jewel Bhowmik)
March 18, 2025 Senior Assistant Secretary
International Events Section
Information and Communication Technology Division