Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation, Fourth Session

30 August – 1 September 2022

Agenda 2: Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Landscape

Kazakhstan - Country statement

Her Excellency Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Excellencies, Distinguished guests and Participants!

On behalf of the Ministry of Digital Development of Kazakhstan and myself let me extend my gratitude to the UN ESCAP for creating constant dialogues to strengthen regional cooperation.

Let me briefly outline how we contributed to SDG's.

We believe that "digital" is one of the answers to global challenges the world faces today.

Insights provided by the big data and created opportunities could allow us to transform everything. Technologies affect the supply chains, can bring the education and medical services closer to citizens, the data gathered in immediate format can make possible to develop strategies to address climate change, water supply shortage and so on.

The global connectivity is the most important to accelerate progress, to reduce the digital divide and to develop information society.

In this regard, Kazakhstan successfully implemented two most important digital infrastructure projects "fiber optic to the villages" and "mobile broadband to the villages" that allowed us to cover 98,6% of our population with the internet.

Along with this, we are improving our regulations to provide satellite communication systems (*Starlink*, *SES and others*).

Furthermore, we are about to build a fiber optic through the Caspian sea, so the our country would contribute to boosting Eurasian internet traffic, making digital services available to all. This is another step to reduce the digital divide.

One of the main goals is to make the national economy truly digital. One of those examples is IoTs.

Starting from 2023 big industrial plants are obliged to install IoTs integrated to the central database.

It would be collected from the censors and compiled in one place. The government, thus, would have a data online on the level of emissions.

In terms of healthcare, we believe this AI-based monitoring solution will also help reduce related diseases.

Let me also outline the main aspects of digital transformation.

The basic principle is establishing a digital system that is "citizen centric" and oriented towards their needs.

As the prior step our government has automatized the public services, so the citizens could fully enjoy the simplicity of e-services. Now 90% of them are electronic.

As a result, we are 29th out of 192 countries on "E-government of UN index", 11th on "e-services". 1st in CIS countries list.

Let me give you an example! Our citizens are able to download 18 types of digital documents from the platforms of e-government and commercial banks.

They are **ID's**, birth certificates, passports of vaccination, driver licenses and etc. We have introduced Digital Identity biometric system, in progress of enrolling digital consent platform. All this is forming solid basis for digital transformation and allows widening the scope of digitalization of services.

In addition, to ensure the simplicity or user-friendliness of services, we are moving towards the **total reengineering of the business processes**.

The ultimate goal is as we call it to make the **government invisible**, so people receiving public services, **do not have to directly interact with the government.**

In other words, we started to **analyze and** reconsider established processes.

Let me give another example, our citizens can "make a deal" on car selling on a bank platform. The banks have connected to public database now. So, no one goes to government agencies anymore

The same with the mortgages! They are also can be made on banking platforms saving money and time of our citizens.

Nevertheless, the digital transformation is currently underway in order to further transform the public service sector and to create opportunities for the development of new types of business.

Many of us today are demonstrating their contributions to SDGs and achievements in IT.

Our understanding is that digitization of one state apart from others will not be useful for final consumer – that is our citizen!

In this regard we in need on a special platform to promote important international initiatives in the subregion.

Strengthening institutional capacities through analytical and policy related work of the <u>Digital Solutions Center for Sustainable Development</u> under UN ESCAP would play an essential role in preparing basis for the digital transformation of the region.

Moreover, Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) is unique initiative to strengthen interstate politics and increase the availability of broadband Internet by expanding the Internet infrastructure in the region.

Therefore, <u>Digital Solutions Center</u> could accelerate our productive cooperation in the implementation of the APIS Action Plan 2022 2026 in collaboration with member States.

We are certain, <u>Digital Solutions Center</u> functioning under the UN ESCAP will create conditions to enhance cooperation in the region as whole.

We are open to close discussions and to cooperate with ESCAP and with our colleagues on widening our cooperation in mutually beneficial areas.

I thank you all for your attention and wish successful work to all participants.