
[4th CICT&STI] Rep. of Korea Statements

□ [Item 3] Action Plan 2022-2026 of AP-IS

o The Republic of Korea would like to appreciate the ESCAP Secretariat and all the member states participating the AP-IS SC for their efforts to develop and draft the AP-IS Action Plan 2022-2026 guiding the next stage cooperation for digital innovation in the Asia-Pacific region.

o The use of ICT and emerging digital technologies for the sustainable development of the Asia Pacific region has become more important with the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- During the pandemic, it is observed that digital transformation has accelerated, new business models have emerged, and the impact of ICT and emerging digital technologies has become more important, but at the same time the digital divide has widened in the Asia-Pacific region as well.

- To address the challenges, it is necessary to improve the quality of digital services as well as expand their coverage, which should be accompanied by improving the deployment of digital infrastructure and strengthening digital capacity.

o ESCAP has promoted the AP-IS initiative since 2012 in order to support ICT connectivity and capacity building in the Asia-Pacific region, and the Republic of Korea has actively participated in the initiative from the beginning.

- In 2021, ESCAP expanded the AP-IS project to cover discussions on digital transformation in general in the Asia-Pacific region, and developed the action plan for implementing the AP-IS initiative 2022-2026 by operating a drafting group.

- The Republic of Korea has been actively participating in the AP-IS Action Plan 2022-2026 from the developing stage, including serving as the chair of the working group on digital data (WG3), and will continue to participate and contribute in the future.

- To maximize the benefits of digital transformation in the future, cross-border business activities and international cooperation is important. We expect ESCAP secretariat and member states to actively participate in the AP-IS initiative in the future.