



Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

Fourth (4) Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology, and Innovation.

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Representative of Samoa

Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

Excellencies,

Esteemed Representatives of ESCAP Member States

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honor and privilege to be part of the 4th Session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science Technology, and Innovation.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate the Government of Thailand and UNESCAP for hosting this important meeting to improve and strengthen Information and Communications Technology. I also thank the secretariat for successfully coordinating this event. These meetings create an environment of collaboration for the members and partners in building collaborative solutions to overcoming the challenges we face in Technology, Science, and Innovation, which will influence the areas of social, health, and education.

Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

The Government of Samoa looks forward to supporting the targets of agenda item three(3) of the Action Plan for 2022-2026 of the Asia Pacific Information Superhighway and will commit herself. To ensure, that Samoa and its people play their part in building toward the successful execution of activities. That are currently developed to contribute towards the positive results for agenda item three (3) and the wider contribution to the overall goals of the Asia Pacific Information Super high way Action Plan from 2022 to 2026.

As we look forward to creating an environment of enabling infrastructure through initiatives in connectivity and Internet resources, we will develop the need to build applications and digital technology that can utilize these high-speed connections to improve access together in building the generations of technology experts that will pave the way for new digital assets, through Application development and platform enhancements. Assisting with the challenges of the various Pacific nations together with Asian nations who share the same aspiration, projects such as the Pacific IXP will allow for cross-country resource pooling in building collective platforms to improve the sustainability of applications developments for the rural population such is the case with the rural connectivity projects supported by ESCAP to encourage, the meaningful use of connected technology, Samoa together with its partners will continue to develop towards ensuring that the Asia Pacific region is well resourced and capable of reaching the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

While looking at strengthening School Connectivity initiatives, National Digital Support for Applications in the Health and Education, eAgriculture Platforms and



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Digital Tools, FinTech Support, Transport with Utilities, and various other digital transformation initiatives across the sectors. Develop relevant policies, adopt new regulations and define sustainable financing models to provide affordable ICT services and applications for all.

Through today's collaboration, the Pacific island states believe these discussions will include the improvement of local economies and cross-border support in Application and Digital Platforms development. Together with Data Infrastructure will build multi-stakeholder consensus on how we can work together and work towards our common vision of digital inclusion in developing digital application initiatives that will benefit all members. Samoa continues to build partners willing to achieve the goals of this great plan and work with those partners and friends of Asia and the Pacific. Building for meaningful connectivity through adopting connectivity-based applications or digital solutions and enhanced access to information through improved connectivity infrastructure to empower the people of all member states.

Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

With that, I wish you the best in our deliberations and way forward during this Forum.

Thank you
Soifua ma Ia Manuia