REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

ASSESSMENT OF ICT CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
Assistant Secretary Philip A. Varilla
August 31, 2022

Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, Good morning.

The Philippines welcome the result of the Assessment of information and communications technology capacity-building needs in Asia and the Pacific, which was prepared for the United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for ICT for Development (UN APCICT) to help the Center select thematic priority areas, create new flagship programs, identify opportunities for greater collaboration with ESCAP member States and enhance relationships with existing regional and international organizations.

The Philippines has taken note of the top seven prioritized topics for capacity building which are (1) National e-government policies related to the delivery of government services (2) ICT and health care (3) Incentivizing and enabling infrastructure investment and roll-out such as for 5G, national and international backhaul, spectrum, (4) ICT and

agriculture, fishery and livestock (5) ICT and education (6) ICT for e-trade and supply chains, logistics, maritime transport, and (7) ICT for climate change, green ICT, disaster management. These are all very important to the Philippines given the country's challenges and ICT development agenda. We have also taken note that the rest in the list of priority topics were close to each other, and we cannot deny that they are also important components of the ICT ecosystem.

There were issues that were provided in the report for discussion in the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation, such as the Committee's further guidance and identification of capacity building needs of policy makers and civil servants, highlighting good practices and lessons learned on effective application of digital technologies and provision of guidance on impactful and demand-driven ICT capacity building programs.

The Philippines, through the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) has continuously supported the Centre's objective to build and strengthen the capacity of members and associate members of ESCAP to leverage ICT focusing on training, knowledge sharing, and multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnership.

The government of the Philippines assures its continued support to the APCICT programs and projects and contribute to the attainment of its goals and objectives. As an Academy Partner, it will continuously implement the various trainings on ICT4D nationwide. Moreover, as a

Governing Council member, it will participate in the review of the administration and implementation of the Centre's programs, as well as planning for the ICT capacity-building needs in the region in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Philippines will support APCICT towards the:

- Alignment of APCICT's strategies and programs to the 2023 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and Building Back Better strategies;
- Provision of responsive and forward-looking programs and services;
- Mainstreaming UN-wide initiatives in the areas of Gender, Disability, and Innovation into APCICT's programs;
- Broaden the Centre's reach by expanding existing partnerships and forging new ones;
- Enhancement of Monitoring and Evaluation of APCICT's programs; and
- Nurturing APCICT as the Regional hub for digital capacity development and transformation.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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