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Fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

Jakarta and online, 26 October 2022

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (section I) and the annotations thereto (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the Fourth Ministerial Conference:
 - (a) Opening statements and keynote addresses;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Scaling up space applications to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific under the theme “Space+ for our Earth and future”.
3. Report on the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030), phase I (2018–2022).
4. Other matters.
5. Adoption of the report on the Fourth Ministerial Conference and a ministerial declaration on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the Fourth Ministerial Conference

(a) Opening statements and keynote addresses

The tentative programme for the Fourth Ministerial Conference will be available online at <https://unescap.org/events/2022/fourth-ministerial-conference-space-applications-sustainable-development-asia-and>.

(b) Election of officers

The participants in the Fourth Ministerial Conference will elect a chair and two vice-chairs.

(c) **Adoption of the agenda**

Documentation

Provisional agenda (ESCAP/MCSASD/2022/L.1)

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/MCSASD/2022/L.2)

Annotation

The participants in the Fourth Ministerial Conference will consider and adopt the provisional agenda, subject to such changes as may be necessary.

2. **Scaling up space applications to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific under the theme “Space+ for our Earth and future”**

Documentation

Space+ for our Earth and future (ESCAP/MCSASD/2022/1)

Draft ministerial declaration on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCSASD/2022/L.4)

Annotation

At its twenty-fifth session, held in August 2021, the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Application Programme for Sustainable Development proposed “Space+ for our Earth and future” as the theme of the Fourth Ministerial Conference. In line with that proposal and with recommendation 7 adopted by the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation at its third session, the secretariat presents the theme “Space+ for our Earth and future” as a pathway for making progress in the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030), phase II (2022–2026). The theme was chosen because it is cross-cutting and is focused on advancing the use of space applications and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through the development of geospatial information systems and by promoting digital technologies, innovation, research and capacity-building. It was also chosen as a means of transcending traditional approaches to space applications by: (a) leveraging innovations in digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, cloud computing and big data; (b) engaging end users in multiple sectors, including youth and the private sector; (c) managing data and information more effectively through unique products and services, including cloud-based platforms; and (d) strengthening implementation by increasing collaboration with global and regional stakeholders. Furthermore, in document ESCAP/MCSASD/2022/1, the secretariat describes potential regional cooperation opportunities under the theme “Space+ for our Earth and future” to overcome barriers to the use of space applications with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The participants in the Fourth Ministerial Conference may wish to discuss the issues raised in the document and identify policy priorities and areas for cooperation to help ensure the full implementation of the actions set out in the six priority areas identified in the Plan of Action as it enters its phase II.

They may also wish to consider and adopt a draft ministerial declaration reflecting the consensus reached by member States on the theme of the Fourth Ministerial Conference and to facilitate and accelerate the implementation of phase II of the Plan of Action. In the draft ministerial declaration, members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific will reaffirm their commitment to promoting universal access to and the use of space applications in support of sustainable development.

3. Report on the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030), phase I (2018–2022)

Documentation

Implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030), phase I (2018–2022) (ESCAP/MCSASD/2022/2)

Annotation

At the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in 2018, agreement was reached on taking a phased review of the implementation of the Plan of Action over four-year periods, at the ministerial level, to reflect the evolving needs of countries, emerging technologies, shifting priorities and unforeseen challenges arising in the region.

Under agenda item 3, a report containing a summary of the independent evaluation of phase I (2018–2022), as well as conclusions and recommendations, will be presented pursuant to the request contained in Commission resolution 75/6. The report also contains information on activities implemented, key outcomes and participating countries.

4. Other matters

Any matter not covered under the items mentioned above may be raised under agenda item 4.

5. Adoption of the report on the Fourth Ministerial Conference and a ministerial declaration on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

Documentation

Draft report (ESCAP/MCSASD/2022/L.3)

Draft ministerial declaration on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCSASD/2022/L.4)

Annotation

Participants will consider and adopt the report on the Fourth Ministerial Conference for submission to the Commission at its seventy-ninth session. They may also wish to consider and adopt a ministerial declaration on space applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.