

**Expert Group Meeting & Third Session of the SPECA Working Group on
Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development
19 July -20 July 2022
Meeting Evaluation**

The evaluation of questionnaire of the workshop is aimed at collecting the views and inputs on the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness of the meetings and each session. The evaluation was comprised of 14 questions offering multiple-choice answers, descriptive answers by the respondents and covering aspects of:

- Part I: Relevance
- Part II: Effectiveness
- Part III: Efficiency
- Part IV: Views and Inputs on Each Session

The overview of responses to the survey is represented visually in the Figures and the narrative overview of the four sections herewith.

In total, 17 responses were received from representatives of governments, international organizations, academy, and business who participated in the above-mentioned meetings on 19-20 July 2022.

General Overview

Out of 66 participants from Asia-Pacific and European countries, international organizations, academy, and business, 23 participants attended the meeting in person in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Among the 66 participants, 38 speakers presented their idea and information during the meeting.

The workshop poll quizzes were answered by 17 respondents with a women and men ratio of 13:4. See the Figures below.

OVERVIEW OF THE PARTICIPANTS (INDUSTRY AND GENDER)

Figure 1: Distribution of industry representation of 17 meeting evaluation respondents by organization/entity



Figure 2: Distribution of all respondents by gender



Part I: Relevance

Overall, 70.8% of respondents believe that the topics discussed in the meeting reflect the present development trends/issues of importance to their countries. More than half, namely, 58.8% of the respondents believe that the topics covered by the meeting are in line with my own expertise and ongoing work. Majority, 70.6 % of the respondents were willing to apply/use the information shared and knowledge gained into my ongoing work.

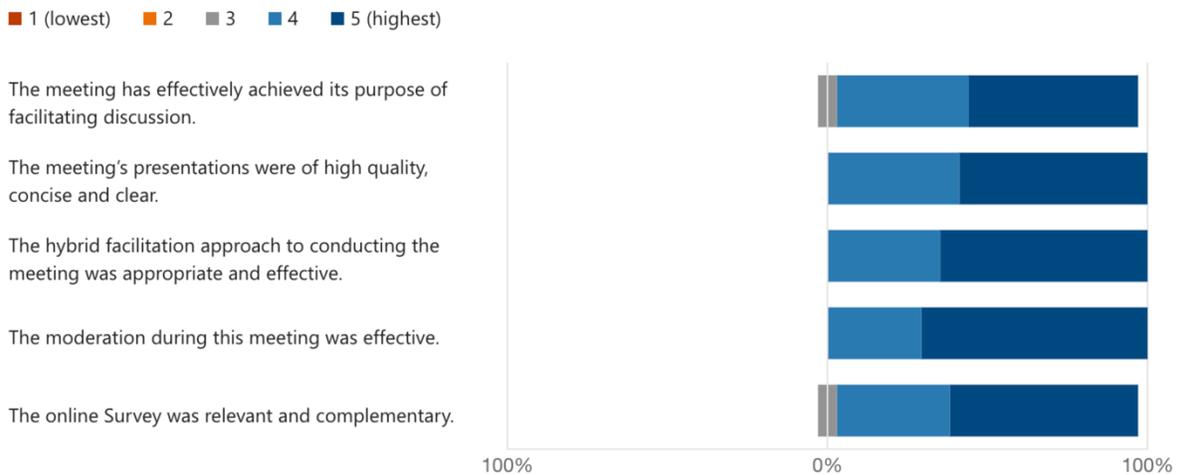
Figure 3 Responses to Relevance



Part II: Effectiveness

Regarding effectiveness of the meetings, most of the respondents, 52.9%, highly agreed that meeting has effectively achieved its purposes of facilitating discussion. Nearly all the respondents reflected positive feedback. Most of the respondents, 58.5%, believed that the presentations were high quality, concise and clear. Most of the respondents, 67.4%, agreed that the hybrid facilitation approach to conducting the meetings was appropriate and effective. A large proportion of the respondents, 70.6%, found that the moderation during the meetings was effective. No negative responses were found from the feedback, regarding these three indicators. Very few respondents found irrelevance and flaws in online survey, but overall, over 58.8% of respondents found the online Survey was relevant and complementary.

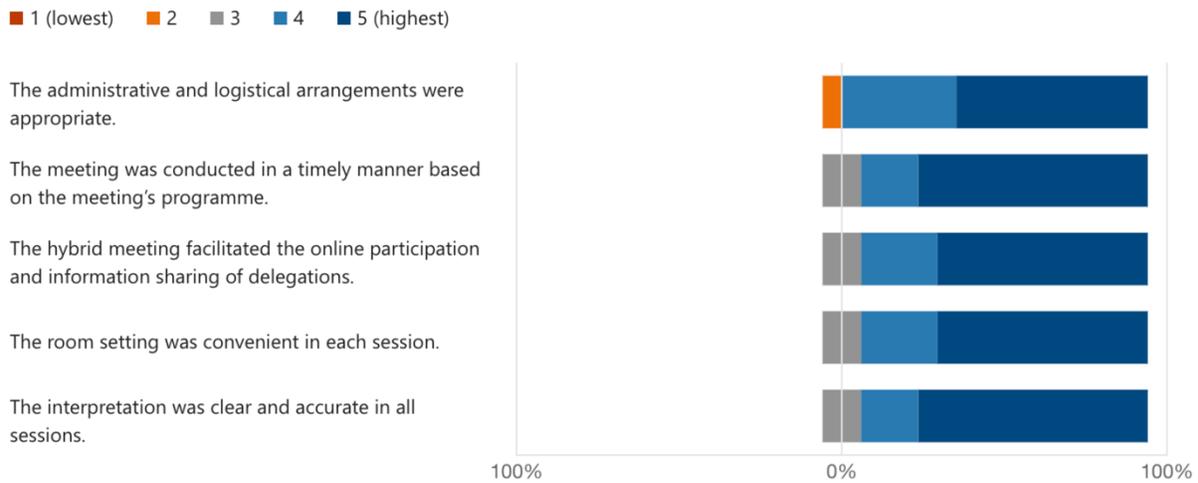
Figure 4 Responses to Effectiveness



Part III: Efficiency

In case of the efficiency, 58.8% of the respondents found administrative and logistical arrangements as appropriate. Most of the respondents, 70.6%, believe that meeting was conducted in a timely manner based on the meeting's programme. The 69% of the respondents agreed that the hybrid meeting facilitated the online participation and information sharing of delegations. The room setting was convenient in each session. Moreover, most of the respondents, 64.7% and 70.6% respectively had shown satisfaction in room setting and interpretation.

Figure 5 Responses to Efficiency



Part IV: Views and Inputs on Each Session

Session 1: Opening Session

More than half of the respondents scored the highest, regarding the statement that the opening remarks presented in this session were clear and visionary and summarized the trends and objectives, serving as guidelines for the further cooperation framework.

Figure 6.1 Responses to Session 1



Session 2: Digital transformation: Connectivity, Technology, and Data

Nearly 2/3 (70.6%) of the respondents believed that the presentations and discussions during session 2 deepened their understanding of Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Action Plan 2022-2026 and ESCAP tools, and agreed that that the resources, discussion, and moderation during this session increased their awareness and reasoning on the establishment of the Digital Solutions Center in Central Asia and beyond and constructed a solid knowledge foundation for their future work in their countries/organizations.

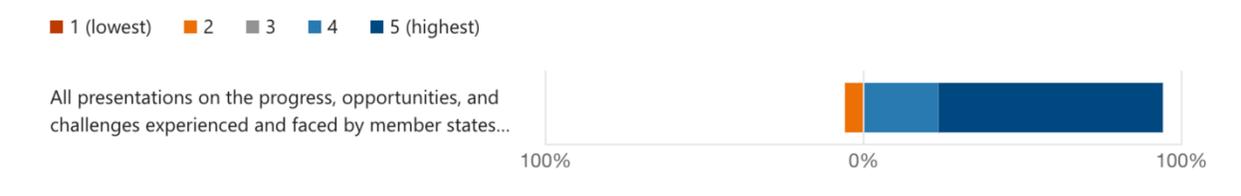
Figure 6.2 Responses to Session 2



Session 3: Progress and challenges of member States in technology applications

Regarding session 3, even we found a few numbers of negative responses, most of the respondents believed that all presentations on the progress, opportunities, and challenges experienced and faced by member states discussed in this session strengthened the capacity of his/her organization's/country's effective participation on the implementation of the SPECA work in technology applications.

Figure 6.3 Responses to Session 3



Additional comments and suggestions offered by the respondents for follow-up are as followings:

- It will be great if we will have "challenges pool" and "solutions pool". Then we can prepare "Digital solutions catalogue" to share our best solutions with each other.
- We should also focus on protecting the network from physical and cybernetic interference by intruders. Innovation and new technologies should be entered (with different steps) in all States little be different, depending on the current progressive situation.
- Excellent discussions! They provided insight into multiple cross cutting priorities that many countries are struggling with - it could be useful to establish more frequent targeted joint regional working to discuss the effectiveness of policy implementation, the degree of

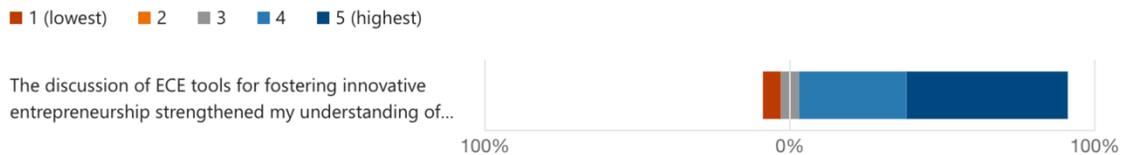
support towards SMART project implementation, multi-sector stakeholders and donors funding specific projects etc. This will fast track and help countries leapfrog and leverage the experience of their neighbors.

- Funding of work with a business incubator for the purpose of development and support of the business incubator in the regions. Increasing the number of contests.

Session 4: Fostering innovative entrepreneurship in the SPECA sub-region for sustainable development: ECE tools

More than a half of the respondents believed that the discussion of ECE tools for fostering innovative entrepreneurship strengthened their understanding of business incubators and on the support to innovative high-growth enterprises and will be useful for their ongoing work. .

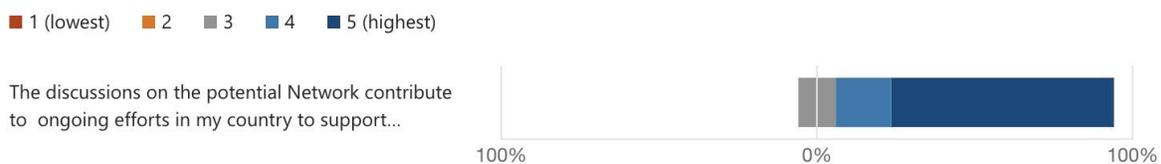
Figure 6.4 Responses to Session 4



Session 5: Consultations on the pilot SPECA Business Incubators and Accelerators Network

A large proportion of the respondents, 70.6 %, agreed that the discussions on the potential Network contribute to ongoing efforts in their countries to support innovative entrepreneurship and the experience of business incubators and accelerators shed the light into the main challenges in supporting innovative firms in their countries.

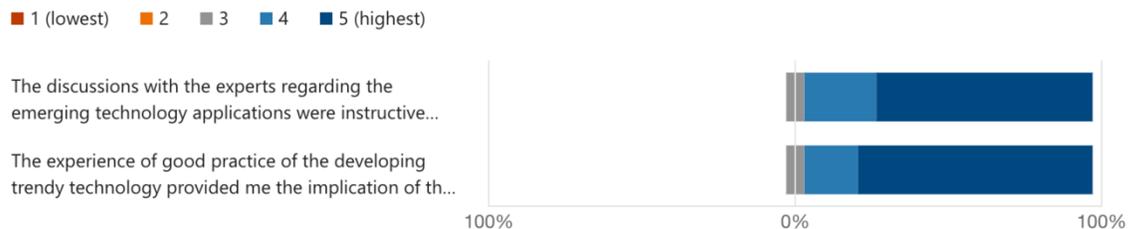
Figure 6.5 Responses to Session 5



Session 6: Good practices of emerging technology applications

Most of the respondents, 70.6% and 76.5% respectively, scored 5 out of 5 to the statement that the discussions with the experts regarding the emerging technology applications were instructive and inspiring, and to the statement that the experience of good practice of the developing trendy technology provided them the implication of the application and study in their countries/organizations.

Figure 6.6 Responses to Session 6



Additional comments and suggestions offered by the respondents for follow-up are as followings:

- It would be great if we can have an opportunity to see the real working process of emerging technology applications. It is much more effective than the presentations.
- I think the best way to organize an international business incubator. We can achieve our goals faster and more effectively.
- There is an interesting opportunity to holistically capture the lessons learnt to create checklists and standards for the region for digital transformation in harmony with the green economy and the SDGs.
- Direction of work with business incubator for the purpose of development and support of business incubator direction in the regions
- Smart water management and data log with blockchain is interesting

Session 7: Summary and the Way Forward

Most of the respondents believed that the take-aways discussed in this session strengthened the capacity of his/her organization's/country's effective participation and contribution to design and implement innovation policies while promoting regional integration and cooperation on innovation for sustainable development, and that the moderation led to a clear set of take-aways and the recommendation.

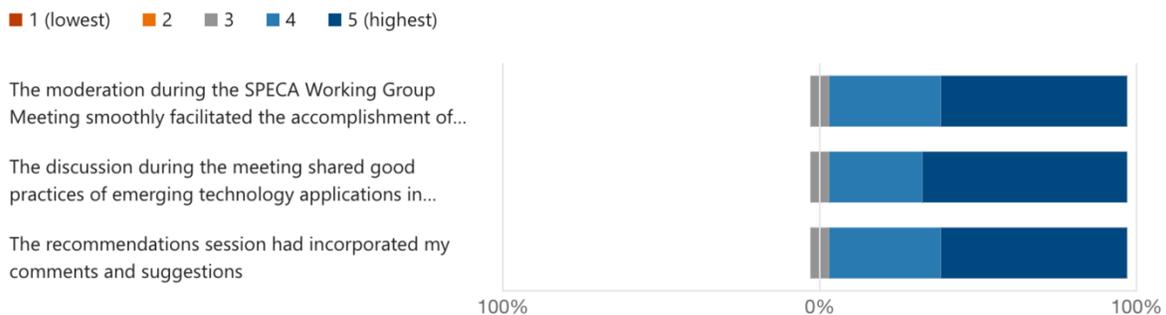
Figure 6.7 Responses to Session 7



SPECA Working Group Meeting

Most of the respondents agreed that the moderation during the SPECA Working Group Meeting smoothly facilitated the accomplishment of the adoption of the Programme of Work 2022-2023 and the review of the feedback on the draft documentation on setting up the Digital Solutions Centre for Sustainable Development (DSC SD). Meanwhile, it is also highly believed that the discussion during the meeting shared good practices of emerging technology applications in coherence with ESCAP's AP-ISAction Plan 2022-2026 and that the recommendations session had incorporated the respondents' comments and suggestions.

Figure 6.8 Responses to SPECA Working Group Meeting



Additional comments and suggestions offered by the respondents for follow-up are as followings:

- Just more frequent meetings are held to keep the momentum
- It was a great pleasure to have the collaboration and the opportunity to discuss the innovative development and growth of start-ups and technology entrepreneurship at all stages.
- Direction of work with business incubator for the purpose of development and support of business incubator direction in the regions
- Tech cooperation projects are needed

LIST OF QUESTIONS IN THE SURVEY

Applicable Answer 1-5 (1 not satisfied, 5 very satisfied)

Relevance

- The topics discussed in the meeting reflects the present development trends/issues of importance to my country.
- The topics covered by the meeting is in line with my own expertise and ongoing work.
- I will apply/use the information shared and knowledge gained into my ongoing work.

Effectiveness

- The meeting has effectively achieved its purpose on facilitating discussion
- The meeting's presentations were of high quality, concise and clear.
- The hybrid facilitation approach on conducting the meeting was appropriate and effective.
- The moderation during this meeting was effective.
- The online Survey was relevant and complementary

Efficiency

- The administrative and logistical arrangements were appropriate.
- The meeting was conducted in a timely manner based on the meeting's programme.
- The hybrid meeting facilitated the online participation and information sharing of delegations.
- The room setting was convenient in each session
- The interpretation was clear and accurate in all sessions

Session 1: Opening Session

- The opening remarks presented in this session were clear and visionary and summarized the trends and objectives, serving as guidelines for the further cooperation framework.

Session 2: Digital transformation: Connectivity, Technology, and Data

- The presentations and discussions during this session deepened my understanding of Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Action Plan 2022-2026 and ESCAP tools
- The resources, discussion and moderation during this session facilitated increase on my awareness and reasoning on establishment of the Digital Solutions Center in Central Asia and beyond and constructed a solid knowledge foundation for my future work in my country/organization.

Session 3: Progress and challenges of member States in technology applications

- All presentations on the progress, opportunities and challenges experienced and faced by member states discussed in this session strengthened the capacity of my organization's/country's effective participation on implementation of the SPECA work in technology applications.

-Please provide any additional comments and suggestions you may offer for follow-up.

Session 4: Fostering innovative entrepreneurship in the SPECA sub-region for sustainable development: ECE tools

-The discussion of ECE tools for fostering innovative entrepreneurship strengthened my understanding of business incubators and on the support to innovative high-growth enterprises and will be useful for my ongoing work.

Session 5: Consultations on the pilot SPECA Business Incubators and Accelerators Network

-The discussions on the potential Network contribute to ongoing efforts in my country to support innovative entrepreneurship and the experience of business incubators and accelerators shed the light into the main challenges in supporting innovative firms in my country.

Session 6: Good practices of emerging technology applications

-The discussions with the experts regarding the emerging technology applications were instructive and inspiring.

-The experience of good practice of the developing trendy technology provided me implication of the application and study in my country/organization.

-Please provide any additional comments and suggestions you may offer for follow-up.

Session 7: Summary and the Way Forward

-The take-aways discussed in this session strengthened the capacity of my organization's/country's effective participation and contribution to design and implement innovation policies while promoting regional integration and cooperation on innovation for sustainable development.

-Please provide any additional comments and suggestions you may offer for follow-up.

SPECA Working Group Meeting

-The moderation during the SPECA Working Group Meeting smoothly facilitated the accomplishment of the adoption of the Programme of Work 2022-2023 and the review of the feedback on the draft documentation on setting up the Digital Solutions Centre for Sustainable Development (DSC SD).

-The discussion during the meeting shared good practices of emerging technology applications in coherence with ESCAP's AP-ISAction Plan 2022-2026

-The recommendations session had incorporated my comments and suggestions

-Please provide any additional comments and suggestions you may offer for follow-up.