United Nations **ESCAP**/MCDIT/3

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
25 June 2024

Original: English

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion
  and Transformation

Astana, 3–5 September 2024
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Digital solutions for sustainable development

Digital solutions for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

Note by the secretariat

Summary

> In the present document, the secretariat highlights experiences and good practices in adopting digital solutions for sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region and discusses policy recommendations for promoting digital solutions. In line with resolution 80/1, in which the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific noted with appreciation the initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan on establishing a digital solutions centre for sustainable development to provide practical digital solutions in Central Asia and beyond, the secretariat recommends the establishment of an ad hoc working group for members and associate members of the Commission to further study and discuss the feasibility and modalities of establishing a digital solutions centre for sustainable development.
>
> The participants in the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation may wish to discuss the issues presented in the document and provide guidance on the future work of the secretariat in that regard.

I.   Introduction

1.   Asia and the Pacific is a hub for digitally driven innovations that have the potential to accelerate sustainable development. Innovations in digital technologies, digital finance, government technology and the Internet of things are reshaping the way business is done, the delivery of public services and the protection of people and the planet. If intelligently deployed and properly governed, digital innovative solutions could turbocharge sustainable development. They could enable the extraordinary collective effort that is required to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, at a time when progress in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is alarmingly slow. However, a number of barriers are holding back that potential.

2.   In the present document, the secretariat examines the potential of digital solutions, as well as the barriers to their implementation, and it provides examples of country experiences and practices. In addition, it presents policy

---

Please recycle ♻

pathways to promote the adoption of digital solutions for the purposes of accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

II. Potential for scaling up digital solutions in Asia and the Pacific

3.   Digital technologies, analytics, machine learning and generative artificial intelligence[1] have emerged as drivers of transformational change[2] by enhancing social, economic and environmental outcomes. For example, enhanced diagnostic capabilities help to improve health care;[3] rapid data analytics can significantly mitigate disaster impacts;[4] and personalized educational content improves the quality of education. During the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, innovations in both digital identity systems and finance helped countries to disburse social assistance more quickly and effectively. All these innovations, together with improved access to digital banking and insurance for women, for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and for rural communities, have helped to address gender and income inequalities.

4.   Government technology has enhanced public service efficiency, accessibility and transparency. User-friendly, low-bandwidth government digital platforms are extending benefits and services to rural areas and marginalized groups. In addition, the Internet of things optimizes resource management through intelligent infrastructure, supports sustainable production and consumption through dematerialization and strengthens the circular economy.

III. Barriers to scaling up digital solutions for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

5.   The Asia-Pacific region faces several barriers to the adoption of digital solutions.[5] Within the region, many areas, in particular those that are rural or remote, lack adequate digital infrastructure, including high-speed Internet and a reliable electricity supply. Seamless connectivity using digital infrastructure is a crucial element to support the adoption of digital solutions. Of the region's population, 98 per cent is now covered by either a mobile or fixed network, with 96 per cent covered by a fourth-generation mobile network, demonstrating a relatively minimal urban-rural coverage gap.[6] Furthermore, there have been improvements to access to broadband connectivity, although they have been unequally distributed across the subregions, with South Asia, South-West Asia and the Pacific lagging behind.[7]

---

[1]   The creation of various forms of digital content using natural language prompts.

[2]   *Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Report 2022: Shaping Our Digital Future* (United Nations publication, 2022).

[3]   Philippe Lorenz, Karine Perset and Jamie Berryhill, "Initial policy considerations for generative artificial intelligence", OECD Artificial Intelligence Papers, No. 1 (Paris, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Publishing, 2023).

[4]   Dan Zhang and others, "Orchestrating artificial intelligence for urban sustainability", *Government Information Quarterly*, vol. 39, No. 4 (October 2022).

[5]   *Seizing the Opportunity: Digital Innovation for a Sustainable Future* (United Nations publication, 2024).

[6]   International Telecommunication Union (ITU), "Measuring digital development: facts and figures 2022" (Geneva, 2022).

[7]   *Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Report 2022*.

6.   The gender digital divide is pronounced in Asia and the Pacific. According to the data, 63 per cent of women use the Internet, compared with 69 per cent of men.[8] In East Asia and the Pacific, women are 2 per cent less likely to own a mobile phone than men, while in South Asia, the gender gap is larger, at 15 per cent. Smartphone ownership gaps are 2 per cent in East Asia and the Pacific and 42 per cent in South Asia.[9] Divides related to age, disability and location are also evident. Internet usage in 16 Asia-Pacific countries and territories skews towards younger demographics. In addition, use of mobile phones and the Internet is lower among women with disabilities (median: 81 per cent and 35 per cent, respectively) compared with those without disabilities (92 per cent and 48 per cent, respectively). Men with disabilities also use these technologies less than those without disabilities.[10] Furthermore, an urban-rural gap persists, with the rate of Internet usage at 80 per cent in urban areas compared with 52 per cent in rural areas.[11]

7.   Disparities in digital skills remain a significant barrier to scaling digital solutions for sustainable development. According to the available data, only 40 per cent of the region's population has basic digital skills. In most countries, marginalized groups are particularly ill-equipped, which prevents them from using digital technologies effectively. Women are less likely than men to be able to use technology for basic activities, such as creating simple formulas in spreadsheets, and women in manufacturing face a higher risk of being replaced by automation than their male counterparts. An estimated 86 million people, equal to 14 per cent of the workforce, in Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and Singapore need training to keep pace with technological developments and gain new digital skills to succeed in their careers. More broadly, the lack of digital and technological skills is a barrier to digital innovation ecosystems, which can benefit from population-wide linkages.[12]

8.   Investment in the inclusive expansion of digital skills training is critical and capacity-building programmes are needed at different levels, comprising foundational skills and digital literacy for all, digital skills for the workforce and advanced skills for specialists working in the information and communications technology sector. Where data are available, it is estimated that around 34 per cent of the population in the Asia-Pacific region with access to broadband does not use the Internet.[13] This is due to a lack of the digital and other educational skills necessary to effectively utilize knowledge-intensive digital innovations.[14]

9.   Another challenge is the higher costs of accessing foundational digital connectivity infrastructure and the barriers to accessing sophisticated

---

[8]   ITU, "Measuring digital development: facts and figures 2023" (Geneva, 2023).

[9]   Global System for Mobile Communications Association, *The Mobile Gender Gap Report 2023* (London, 2023).

[10]   *A Three-Decade Journey towards Inclusion: Assessing the State of Disability-Inclusive Development in Asia and the Pacific* (United Nations publication, 2022).

[11]   ITU, "Measuring digital development: facts and figures 2023".

[12]   ESCAP/80/2.

[13]   ITU, "Measuring digital development: facts and figures 2023".

[14]   Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) calculations based on Demographic and Health Surveys, available at www.dhsprogram.com/data/ accessed on 4 June 2024); United Nations Children's Fund, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (2017–2021), available at https://mics.unicef.org/ (accessed on 4 June 2024); and ESCAP, "Leaving no one behind", online platform, available at https://lnob.unescap.org/ (accessed on 4 June 2024).

technologies and solutions that are faced by developing countries compared with digitally advanced countries. While 96 per cent of the population in Asia and the Pacific lives in areas covered by a mobile broadband network, just under half does not yet subscribe to a mobile Internet service due to unaffordable mobile devices and services, limited digital skills and online safety concerns, thereby restricting mobile broadband uptake.[15]

IV. Digital solutions for sustainable development: Asia-Pacific country practices

10.   While recognizing the barriers to adopting digital technologies, several countries in the Asia-Pacific region have made notable progress in utilizing digital solutions for sustainable development.[16] The region's sociodemographic profile, technologically proficient young people, economies of scale and expanding digital infrastructure offer ideal conditions for further innovation. Emerging technologies such as fifth-generation Internet technology, artificial intelligence and the Internet of things already provide practical solutions to address development challenges and accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

11.   Singapore has implemented the Smart Nation initiative, which is focused on digital government services, the digital economy and digital society, thereby leveraging technology to improve urban living and economic competitiveness. India has launched the Digital India programme, aimed at ensuring digital access, infrastructure and empowerment, with initiatives such as the Aadhaar digital identification and unified payments interface for digital payments. China has invested heavily in digital infrastructure and innovation, promoting smart cities, e-commerce and digital health-care solutions, which significantly enhanced public service delivery and economic activities. Kazakhstan has initiated the Digital Kazakhstan programme, focusing on digital transformation across various sectors. Mongolia has initiated the national digital vision called "Mindgolia" in 2023.[17]

12.   In the power sector, smart grid technologies powered by the Internet of things are accelerating renewable energy development and improving the resilience, inclusivity and affordability of energy resources. Smart meters offer real-time signals and pricing information to consumers, enabling energy use adjustments. In the Philippines, a decentralized smart grid controlled by a cloud-based, mobile-enabled Internet-of-things application optimizes power distribution within a village.[18] Blockchain technology in peer-to-peer energy trading platforms, exemplified in the Town Sukhumvit 77 project in Bangkok, reduces information asymmetry between producers and consumers, fostering

---

[15] Global System for Mobile Communications Association, *The Mobile Economy Asia Pacific 2023* (London, 2023), p. 47.

[16] The country practices discussed in section IV were sourced from *Seizing the Opportunity: Digital Innovation for a Sustainable Future*.

[17] For further information on these national initiatives, see Singapore, Ministry of Communications and Information, "Smart Nation Singapore", available at www.smartnation.gov.sg/; India, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, "Digital India", available at www.digitalindia.gov.in/; Business Wire, "Digital China development report (2022) released, China's digital economy ranks second in the world", 30 April 2023; Kazakhstan, Electronic Government of Kazakhstan, "Digital Kazakhstan", available at https://egov.kz/cms/en/digital-kazakhstan; and Mongolia, Ministry of Digital Development and Communications, "Mindgolia", available at https://mindgolia.mn/en/.

[18] International Energy Agency, *Unlocking Smart Grid Opportunities in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies* (Paris, 2023).

efficient energy trading.[19] The integration of rooftop solar panels, battery energy storage facilities and network-enabled appliances is transforming power systems, especially in small island developing States.

13. Mobility as a service and connected vehicles, along with big data applications, have improved predictive capabilities, resulting in more reliable and evidence-based policymaking in road safety. Emerging innovations include the research conducted in Singapore on autonomous vehicles[20] and the development in Japan of real-time road and traffic information systems.[21] In Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, digital features have been integrated into the national rail networks, including electronic payment systems and digital client interfaces, enhancing connectivity within the logistics system.[22]

14. Artificial intelligence applications are helping to address climate change risks and are revolutionizing disaster early warnings, covering floods, earthquakes and landslides. Scientific monitoring and telecommunications cable systems equipped with sensors along ocean bed fibre-optic cables are enhancing tsunami early warnings. A cost-effective pilot system along a cable route between Vanuatu and New Caledonia demonstrates the technology's potential.[23] These advancements improve disaster prediction capabilities and broaden early warning accessibility, enabling all with reliable digital connectivity to take proactive risk reduction measures.

15. Digital technologies offer multiple solutions to the unequal access to health-care services in the Asia-Pacific region, tackling challenges such as geographical distance and resource constraints. In Bangladesh, successful telemedicine relies on factors, including Internet connectivity, supportive government policies, regulatory frameworks, provider partnerships and public awareness campaigns. During the COVID-19 pandemic, in the period from 8 March to 31 August 2020, the Government's Shasthyo Batayon telemedicine hotline handled up to approximately 80,000 calls per day, totalling 10 million calls over the roughly six-month period.[24] In Kazakhstan, the Digital Family Card helps the Government to identify and support vulnerable families in areas such as education, social protection, finance, justice and health, benefiting nearly 6 million families during its initial phase.[25] The Digital Family Card initiative, which was developed with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), won the 2024 GovTech Prize in the Inclusive Digital Transformation category at the World Government Summit, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

16. Digital technologies and data are revolutionizing tax administration processes in the region, enhancing speed, compliance, accuracy and

---

[19] Ksenia Petrichenko and Marco Schletz, "How can blockchain accelerate SDG 7 implementation?", ESCAP Blog, 5 June 2020.

[20] See, e.g., https://cetran.sg/.

[21] T. Yamamoto, M. Onosato and K. Ogiso, "Vehicle information and communication system (VICS) information services via FM radio multiplex", paper prepared for the Third World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems, Orlando, Florida, United States of America, 14–18 October 1996.

[22] ESCAP/80/2.

[23] For further information, see www.smartcables.org/.

[24] Nizam Uddin Ahmed and others, "Telemedicine services of 'Shasthyo Batayon 16263' during COVID-19 pandemic: opportunities and challenges", *Bangladesh Medical Research Council Bulletin*, vol. 46, No. 3 (2020).

[25] UNDP, "Digitalisation for sustainable development and social well-being of society", 13 February 2023.

responsiveness, thus reducing administrative costs and combating tax evasion. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the adoption of e-filing systems have been expedited in most countries.[26] Simplified taxpayer registration procedures and expanded tax bases using electronic tax identification numbers have been successful in the Republic of Korea and Singapore.[27] The track and trace system implemented by Pakistan in 2021 has boosted transparency and tax compliance while curbing the illicit trade in counterfeit goods. In addition, Uzbekistan has introduced e-invoicing options to improve compliance and streamline invoicing record management. The feed-in-tariff programme of Japan stands out as an innovative tax reform scheme that is driving the shift towards cleaner energy.[28] Introduced in July 2012 after the Fukushima disaster, the programme has promoted the adoption of renewable energy sources, reshaping the country's energy landscape. By offering guaranteed above-market rates for renewable electricity, including solar, wind, geothermal and biomass, the programme has spurred innovation and investment in renewable technologies. In 2021, Japan installed over 78.4 gigawatts of solar photovoltaic capacity, establishing itself as one of the world's leading solar markets.

17. Innovative programmes and regulatory flexibility can encourage private sector engagement in energy innovation. Singapore has launched a project to accelerate the uptake of artificial intelligence and the Internet of things in smart grids by incentivizing private sector engagement in research and development, using the Pasir Panjang Terminal at the Port of Singapore, aiming for sustainable and resilient digital ports.[29] In Australia, the Energy Innovation Toolkit assists energy innovators and startups in navigating regulatory complexities and testing new products and services. The Toolkit, which operates as a regulatory sandbox, provides guidance on how to implement new technologies and business models within existing regulations; a time-limited trial waiver on specific rules; and a trial rule change process enabling temporary adjustments or new rules for technology business model trials.[30]

18. Innovations in financial technology offer potential for financial inclusion and economic benefits. However, they require sufficient evidence of their net benefits compared with other technologies offering similar advantages, as well as a deeper understanding of the risks. Targeted financing of devices and Internet connections for marginalized communities can bridge usage gaps and digital divides. In India, initiatives have been taken by private companies to address the gender gap in accessing smartphones. For example, the Smart Snehidi programme has provided microloans to low-income women entrepreneurs for the purchase of smartphones. Another initiative is aimed at assisting women entrepreneurs in acquiring Internet-enabled devices; raising awareness among older persons in rural communities about the advantages of

---

[26] OECD, Forum on Tax Administration, "Tax administration: digital resilience in the COVID-19 environment", 21 April 2021.

[27] Hyung Chul Lee, "Can electronic tax invoicing improve tax compliance? A case study of the Republic of Korea's electronic tax invoicing for value-added tax", Policy Research Working Paper, No. 7592 (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2016).

[28] Japan, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, "Feed-in tariff scheme for renewable energy", 1 July 2012.

[29] Singapore, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Energy Market Authority, Energy Innovation 2022, "AIOT-enabled smart grid applications for sustainable and resilient digital ports in Singapore: project summary", 15 June 2022.

[30] Australia, Australian Energy Regulator, "Regulatory sandboxing – energy innovation toolkit". Available at www.aer.gov.au/about/strategic-initiatives/regulatory-sandboxing-energy-innovation-toolkit.

women owning smartphones and using the Internet; and tackling the cultural barriers related to women's access to smartphones.[31]

V. Policy pathways for promoting digital solutions in the Asia-Pacific region

A. Promoting the development of digital innovation platforms

19.   Digital innovation platforms allow easy access to knowledge products, tools and resources, new digital solutions and partnerships. These platforms aid in promoting interactions within and across borders, enhancing the sustainability of products and services, reducing risks and promoting scalability and inclusivity. However, digital innovation platforms require multi-stakeholder participation, user-friendly interfaces, high-quality data, tools and sources with privacy safeguards and greater engagement and cooperation.

20.   In Indonesia, the Kartu Prakerja online platform, developed by the Government in partnership with the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, enhances job skills and entrepreneurial capabilities. Using various training modalities, it caters to diverse groups, including jobseekers, small business owners, women, persons with disabilities and disadvantaged communities. Not only does the platform have a direct positive impact on Indonesian entrepreneurs, it also holds potential benefits for several other sectors. As workers improve their digital skills, their capacity to adapt and thrive in the evolving digital landscape is strengthened, leading to increased productivity, competitiveness and innovation-driven economic growth.

B. Promoting digital innovation

21.   The Government of Bangladesh has implemented regulatory sandboxes to develop regulations that promote innovation more favourable to cottage, micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and to enhance their access to finance. To improve their operational efficiency, it created a smart business profile platform, through which selected participants, adhering to robust data protection policies, have been invited to test their software's effectiveness, streamline their processes and improve data accessibility. The platform has benefited all those involved and has contributed to reducing lending costs for smallholder businesses. The same approach could be adopted by other Asia-Pacific countries to test new innovative digital solutions through a controlled regulatory environment under the oversight of the national regulatory authorities.

22.   Maldives is exploring the introduction of a central bank digital currency through a step-by-step approach, starting with the development of a regulatory sandbox framework. This involves staff training and preparation for the testing of the currency and financial technologies in a controlled environment. The primary policy objectives are to enhance the efficiency of national payments systems, promote financial inclusion and support a payment system tailored to the tourism sector. [32] At the global level, ongoing developments in central bank digital currencies include the launch of such a

---

[31] Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, *Strategies towards Universal Smartphone Access* (Geneva, 2022).

[32] ESCAP, *National Study on Central Bank Digital Currency and Stablecoin in the Maldives* (Bangkok, 2022).

currency in China and pilot schemes in India, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and Thailand.

C. Strengthening capacity-building programmes to leverage digital solutions

23. Digital innovations are sociotechnical by nature, highlighting the importance of operating institutions and stakeholders possessing competencies beyond technical skills. This ensures that digital innovation complements effective governance rather than replacing it. Key measures include investing in training programmes for government officials and establishing regional knowledge hubs for businesses and non-governmental organizations engaged in digital innovation for sustainability.

24. Educational and training programmes, such as those offered by the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development and the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, prioritize competencies that enable the seamless integration of digital innovations across policy domains. With the acceleration of digitalization during the COVID-19 pandemic, seamless integration gained strategic significance in government policymaking agencies. Supporting the development of strategic digital skills tailored to regional sustainable development needs is crucial and involves the fostering of regional forums and digital diplomacy to facilitate negotiations at the regional level.

25. Capacity-building is crucial for harnessing the opportunities arising from digital innovation. Collaborations among Governments, academic institutions and enterprises are essential to developing adaptable curricula that meet the demands of the digital era. Countries that have undertaken successful digital transitions have implemented policies to integrate digital tools inclusively into the public sphere. Connectivity-focused capacity-building programmes for regulators are necessary to support the development of seamless regional infrastructures and digital ecosystems.

26. The secretariat facilitates member State collaboration, the exchange of information and scalable strategy identification to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through analytical work and capacity-building programmes. For example, leveraging the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific platform contributes to reducing the entry barriers for using and sharing geospatial information-based digital innovations.

27. In addition, under the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030), the secretariat is collaborating with the Aerospace Information Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences to lower the cost of using cloud computing, machine learning and big Earth data, focusing on automated crop monitoring and climate-resilient agriculture in the lower Mekong region. The initiative is aimed at bolstering access to new technologies, thereby strengthening satellite and ground data processing capacities, although further research is needed to measure their impact on the Sustainable Development Goals.

D. Promoting regional policy convergence for digital innovation solutions

28. Increasingly harmonized policy frameworks across the Asia-Pacific region could foster supportive environments for the alignment of digital innovation solutions with the Sustainable Development Goals. Developing

common regional metrics can aid this effort by establishing a shared understanding of how digital innovations drive progress towards the Goals. Converging definitions and policies on trade, financing and investment in digital technologies are crucial. It is also necessary to direct investments towards scalable innovations with significant sustainable development impact, thereby benefiting marginalized groups. By aligning policies and financial strategies, Governments in Asia and the Pacific can collectively enhance the scalability, accessibility and impact of digitally driven solutions for sustainable development.

29. The secretariat supports cross-cutting initiatives to promote these pathways, including the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative, which is focused on connectivity for all; digital technology and applications; and digital data. The secretariat, under the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026), also leads initiatives to harmonize and deploy smart transport systems, increase technological awareness, interconnect maritime and port systems and shift towards smart regional transport networks. In addition, the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific facilitates digital trade and could reduce transaction costs by up to 30 per cent when fully implemented.

30. Building on these regional cooperation initiatives can accelerate the contribution of digital innovations to sustainable development in the region. Collaborative governance and effective policy frameworks are essential to leveraging the opportunities presented by artificial intelligence, digital finance, government technology and the Internet of things. While challenges exist, seizing these opportunities is crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the Asia-Pacific region.

E. Digital solutions centre for sustainable development

31. In its resolution 80/1, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific requested the secretariat to facilitate regional cooperation among members and associate members with a view to fostering digital innovation for sustainable development and promoting inclusive digital economies and societies.

32. In the same resolution, the Commission noted with appreciation the initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan on establishing a digital solutions centre for sustainable development to provide practical digital solutions in Central Asia and beyond.

33. Such a centre would promote the sharing of digital solutions to advance a sustainable, inclusive and resilient digital economy and society. In this regard, the Government recognizes the key role that digital solutions have in accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Conducting a feasibility study and establishing an ad hoc working group of experts could help to inform discussions and assist members and associate members in the decision-making process regarding the proposed establishment of the centre.

34. One potential modality for the establishment of the proposed centre is the creation of a new regional institution under the Commission. The secretariat presently oversees five regional institutions, each governed by a Governing Council composed of elected representatives of members and associate members of the Commission. The Governing Councils oversee the

administration, finances, programme implementation and future programme formulation of the regional institutions.

35.   This modality would entail consultations among members and associate members culminating in a decision to establish a new regional institution through the adoption of a resolution. Commission resolutions are the foundation for the establishment and operation of its regional institutions. In line with Commission resolution 71/1, annual operating costs of regional institutions are to be funded primarily by extrabudgetary resources. Such resources are provided mainly by the host Government and supplemented by voluntary financial contributions from other donors.

VI.   Issues for consideration by the participants in the Ministerial Conference

36.   Members and associate members of the Commission are encouraged to share their experiences and practices related to digital innovation and solutions for accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

37.   The participants in the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation are invited to provide further guidance to the secretariat on the digital solutions centre for sustainable development proposed by the Government of Kazakhstan, including with regard to establishing an ad hoc working group and a feasibility study on the operational modality of the proposed digital solutions centre.

———————————