Connecting economies and empowering people

ESCAP Committee on ICT
Fourth Session

Item 4: Measuring progress: the digital divide and review of targets of the World Summit on the Information Society

15 October 2014

Tiziana Bonapace
Chief
ICT and Development Section
ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD)
**United Nations Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)**

ESCAP and the WSIS review

- ESCAP is a member of the *Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development*

- The Partnership requested UN Regional Economic Commissions to assist in surveying the WSIS targets. ESCAP carried out the survey in 2012, Asia-Pacific obtained the highest response rate of all developing-regions.

- ESCAP resolution 69/10 requested the secretariat to facilitate and coordinate the regional review of the WSIS targets

- The secretariat produced a regional review of the WSIS targets

- ESCAP also cooperating with UNCTAD for its Ten-year review of the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes for the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology

UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Results of the regional WSIS review

- Salient regional results

  - Overall improvement in ICT connectivity in the region, including in rural areas (target 1), and in many institutions (targets 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

  - Progress led by mobile telephony, less in terms of internet connectivity

  - Some improvement in cultural diversity and the availability of locally relevant content, in particular for large population regional languages (Chinese, Russian)

- Methodological considerations

  - The targets were too focused on access, did not cover crucial ICT-related questions (gender dimension, ICT and environment, types of ICT use, ICT transmission infrastructure)

  - Targets not flexible enough to meaningfully encompass rapid technological changes, e.g. no specific broadband targets

  - ICT measurement capacity a big problem for many countries, many targets were not measured, require increased capacity

- Conclusions in terms of future international ICT for development goals

  - Future Targets will need to be reviewed more frequently

  - Targets will need to be made easily measurable, use existing standards set by Partnership

  - Many existing targets still relevant for the future, with adaptation (e-government, e-education, urban/rural divide)

  - Need to embed targets within wider post-2015 development agenda

ESCAP, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division

Connecting economies and empowering people

Regional review findings

...tee may want to consider the following issues:

...evelopment goals will need to be devised to update the WSIS targets, they will need ...e discussions on new global development objectives

...eed to be reviewed on a more frequent basis than in the past, and include new areas ...adband connectivity, as well as the gender dimension of ICT.

...tee may also wish to provide the Secretariat with guidance on the ...atives:

...Commissions expected to play a role in monitoring and evaluation of ...tation of post 2015 development agenda goals

...ariat could coordinate institutional capacity building activities in the region ...uring ICT core indicators, in close cooperation with the Partnership ...especially UNCTAD, ITU

...peration with other relevant institutions, the secretariat could continue to ...ne assessment of the WSIS outcome at the regional level, and further ...he linkage between ICT , its measurements and the evolving post-2015

ESCAP, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division