Resolution 69/10
Promoting regional information and communications technology connectivity and building knowledge-networked societies in Asia and the Pacific[1]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Inspired by the global commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and sustainable information society,[2]

Recognizing that information and communications technology has the potential to provide new solutions to foster economic growth, towards an informed and knowledgeable society,

Acknowledging the importance of information and communications technology in enhancing productivity and development, particularly in poverty eradication, improving delivery of public services through e-governance, disaster mitigation and management, and social inclusion, resulting in the increased competitiveness of the region,

Acknowledging also the significance of information and communications technology in building and promoting a safe, secure and trusted online environment, encouraging widespread use of information and communications technology and related services,

Recalling its resolution 62/5 on building the information society in Asia and the Pacific, in particular the reaffirmation of the regional commitment to strengthening regional cooperation in information and communications technologies for development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 60/252 on the World Summit on the Information Society, in which the Assembly acknowledged the urgent need to bridge the digital divide and to assist developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition to benefit fully from the potential of information and communications technologies,

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[1]   See chap. III, paras. 116-132.

[2]   See the Declaration of Principles adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society, Geneva Phase, Geneva, 10-12 December 2003, para. 1 (A/C.2/59/3, annex).

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 64/186, in which the Assembly recognized that well-developed information and communications network infrastructures, such as information superhighways, act as one of the main technological enablers of the digital opportunities and encouraged interested Member States to participate in the development of regional connectivity solutions,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/194, in which the international community, including Member States, international organizations, the private sector and civil society, was invited to support efforts to improve global telecommunications connectivity, with a focus on countries with inadequate access to the international information and communications technologies backbone, by way of participation in such initiatives as the Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway project,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 67/195 in which the Assembly noted the progress that had been made by United Nations entities in cooperation with national Governments, regional commissions and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of the action lines contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,[3]

Reaffirming the declaration by Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that it is essential to work towards improved access to information and communications technology, especially broadband networks and services, and bridge the digital divide[4] to facilitate the flow of information between Governments and the public,

Expressing concern that less than 7 per cent of the region's population from developing countries has access to broadband Internet that is high-speed, reliable and affordable,[5]

Recognizing the importance of public-private partnerships in the development, deployment and operation of information and communications technology infrastructure, as well as the

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[3] Ibid., and the Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda (see A/60/687).

[4] See General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, para. 44.

[5] International Telecommunication Union, *Measuring the Information Society 2012* (Geneva, International Telecommunication Union, 2012). Available online from www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/mis2012.aspx.

associated services and content, for the achievement of reliable, affordable and universal access to and use of information and communications technology,

Recognizing also that, given the vast landmass and diversity of the Asian and Pacific region, land-based and sea-based fibre-optic cable networks both play a critical role in developing a seamless regional information space, as various configurations and models of information and communications technology infrastructure deployment are viable,

Recognizing further that a higher level of connectivity among Member States due to a well-established infrastructure can be used effectively for environmental protection and disaster risk management and response, thereby protecting precious lives and the environment while contributing to the improvement of economic growth and living standards,

Noting that current and near-future technological innovations in information and communications technology, including cloud computing, mobile platforms, sensor-based computing and big data, hold immense potential for sustainable development,

Expressing appreciation for the human capacity-building programmes of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, particularly its flagship programmes, entitled the "Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders" and "Turning Today's Youth into Tomorrow's Leaders",[6]

Welcoming the new partnership between the International Telecommunication Union and the secretariat in developing the first regional map on land-based information and communications technology infrastructure,[7]

Recognizing subregional efforts, such as the Mactan Cebu Declaration "Connected ASEAN: Enabling Aspirations", which was adopted on 16 November 2012 by the Ministers Responsible for Telecommunications and Information Technology of the

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[6]   See E/ESCAP/69/3, paras. 102 and 103.

[7]   See E/ESCAP/69/9, para. 4. See also E/ESCAP/69/3, para. 99.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations at their 12th meeting, held in Mactan, Cebu, Philippines,[8]

Expressing appreciation for the ongoing efforts of Governments to promote information and communications technology as a key enabler of social and economic development in the Asian and Pacific region,

1.   *Encourages* all members and associate members:

(a)   To continuously promote regional cooperation to address the digital divide, and to formulate and implement coherent information and communications technology policies that promote social and economic development and build knowledge-networked societies throughout the Asian and Pacific region;

(b)   To collaborate with international and regional organizations, the private sector and civil society to conduct further in-depth analysis of the challenges and opportunities associated with achieving a seamless regional information and communications space, with particular attention paid to gaps in backbone infrastructure networks;

(c)   To further develop a regional connectivity environment by strengthening partnerships with other organizations and policy think tanks at the international, regional and subregional levels;

(d)   To support the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, particularly in setting statistical standards for information and communications technology indicators that are timely, relevant and accurate;

(e)   To inform the Executive Secretary of the steps taken to implement the present resolution;

2.   *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a)   To explore ways to strengthen the role and capacity of