



UN ESCAP Briefing Cooperation for Establishment of the Digital Solutions Center for Sustainable Development (DSC SD)

**Updated 30 Oct 2023
IDS, IDD, ESCAP**

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Launch at APDMC-DIT, Astana, Kazakhstan 2024



Home Regional Institutions

Regional Institutions

ESCAP has five regional institutions that support the substantive divisions of ESCAP in their goals. Each regional institute has a governing council. Governing councils are responsible for reviewing the institutes' administration and financial status; implementation of the programme of work; advising the institute directors on the formulation of the programme of work.



Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development
Incheon City, Korea



Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
New Delhi, India



Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran



Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization
Beijing, China



Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
Makuhari, Chiba Prefecture, Japan

DRAFT DOCUMENT FOR CONSULTATION

UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Subcommittee on Geodesy

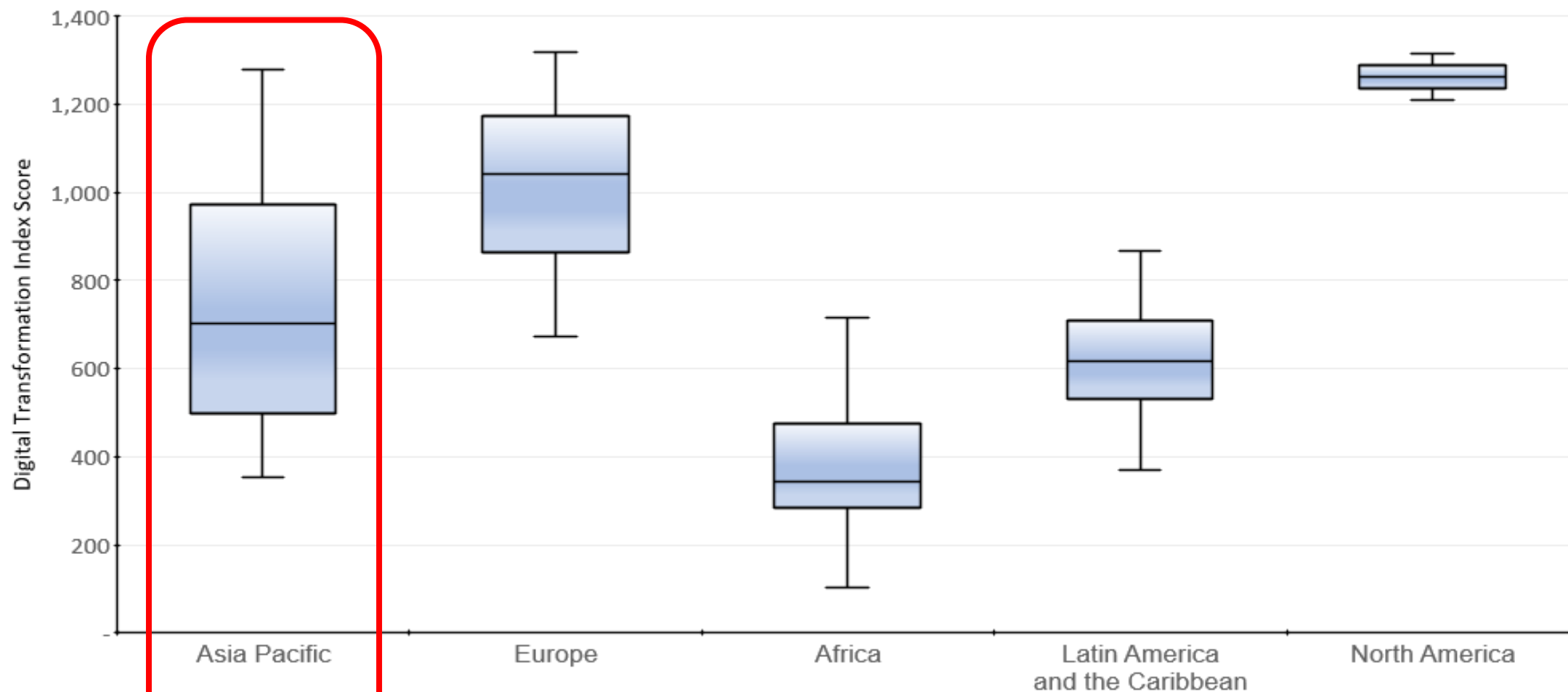
Version: 20 July 2020

Concept Paper on Establishing a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence

1 Background

The Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) is the foundation for evidence-based policies, decisions and program delivery. The GGRF underpins the collection and management of nationally integrated geospatial information and is used to monitor our dynamic Earth. It is relied upon for social, environmental and economic initiatives, Earth science, the measuring and

Digital Divide by Major Regions



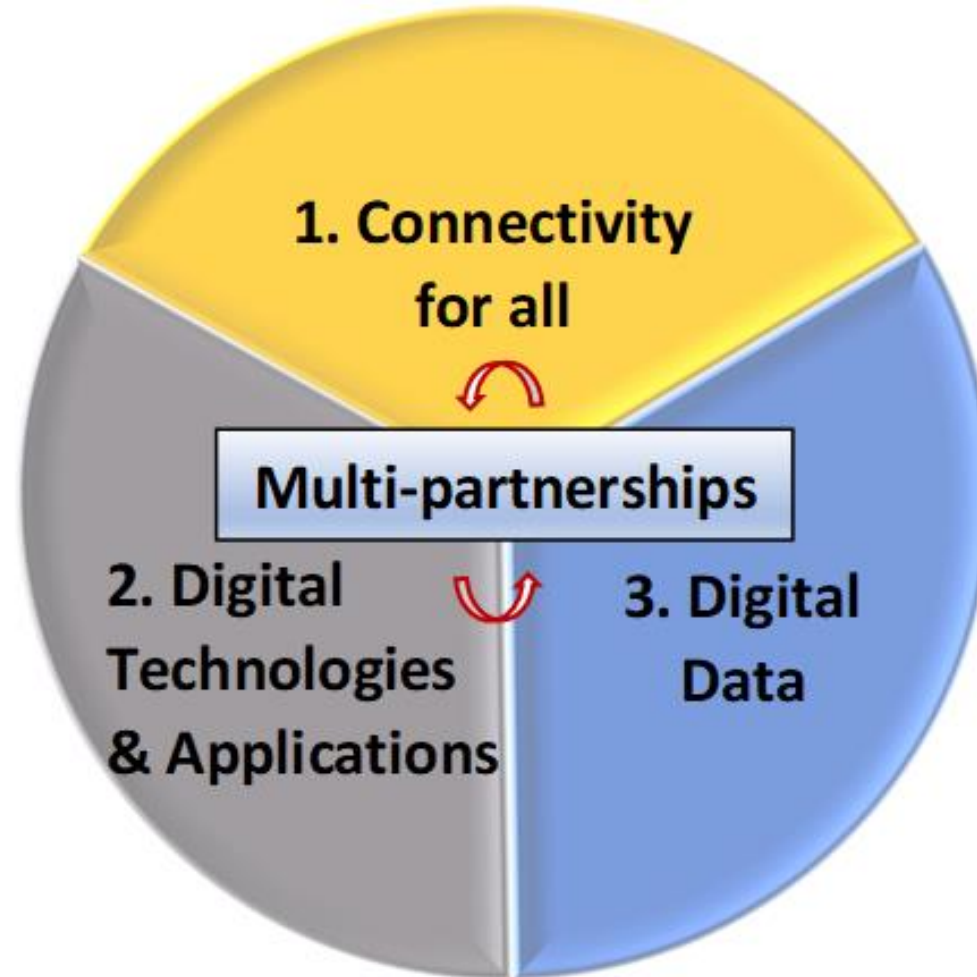
Source: Forthcoming, ESCAP (2022), Digital Transformation Index 2020

AP-IS Action Plan (2022-2026): Regional Blueprint

Objective: To bridge the digital divide and accelerate digital transformation by promoting connectivity, digital applications and data use.

MDDIAI serves as vice chair of WG 1

3 Pillars and 25 Actions



Roadmap for Digital Solutions Center for Sustainable Development



Mandate

- MoU between ESCAP and MDDIAI signed on 21 April 2021
- Kazakhstan: ensure a sustainable future after COVID-19 and overcome poverty (statement of Head of State on 6 August 2021)

Objective

Provide digital solutions to accelerate digital transformation towards building an inclusive digital society in Central Asia

Key Functions

1. **Accelerator:** Accelerate digital transformation towards an inclusive digital economy and society
2. **Coordinator:** digital related agendas and cooperation in **development sectors such as water, energy, agriculture, industry, transport and trade.**

Three-phase Development

Foundation Phase → Adaptation Phase → Acceleration Phase

1. Actions at Foundation Phase

- a. Develop shared strategy for CA
- b. Develop regulatory frameworks at national level
- c. Promote investment in digital connectivity infrastructure
- d. Enhance investment in R&D for digital technologies and applications.
- e. Strengthen IT education, literacy, and knowledge
- f. Foster critical IT mass and professional groups for active use of frontier technologies such as AI.

Three-phase Roles of DSC SD (Adaptation Phase)

2. Actions at Adaptation Phase

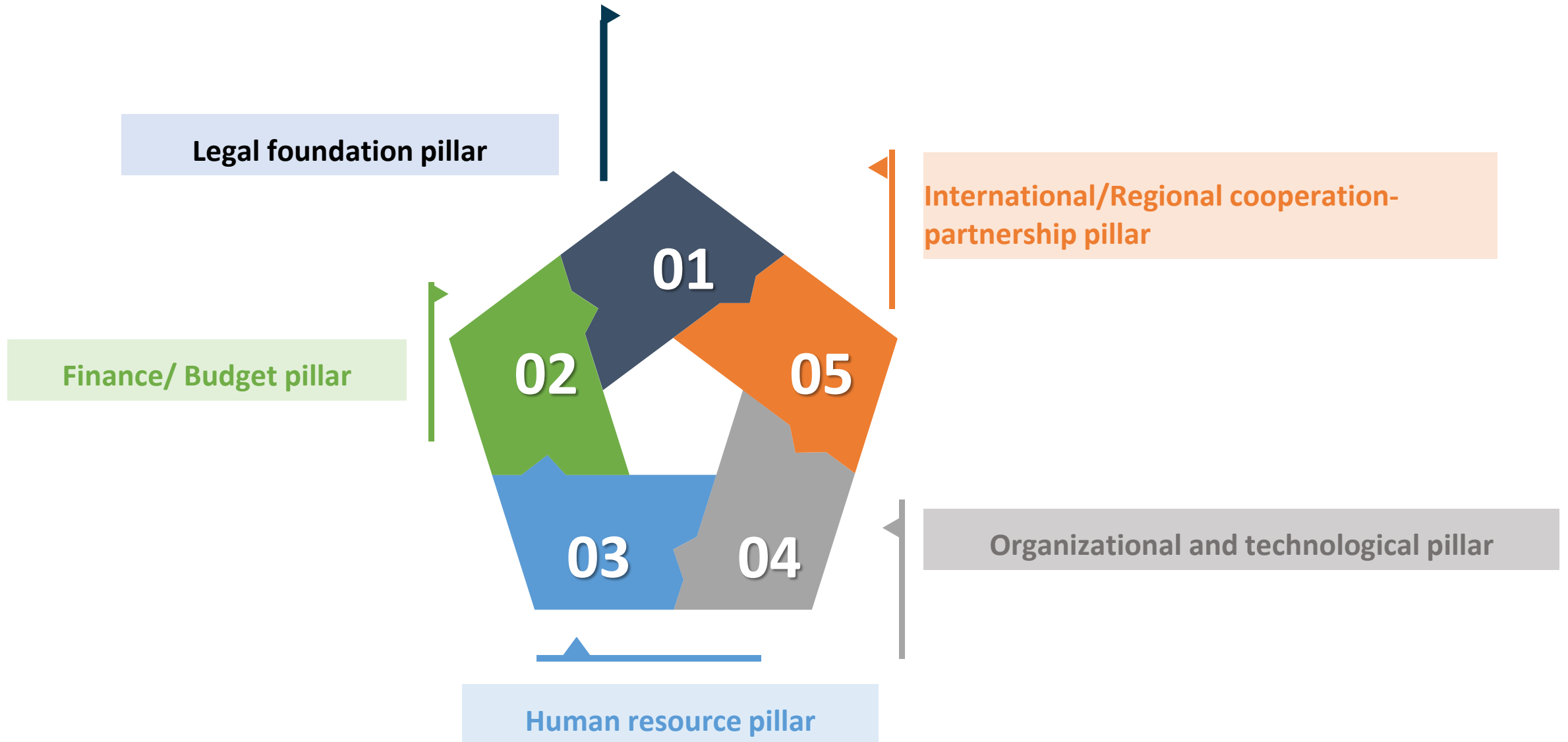
- Prepare new digital vision and strategy towards an inclusive digital society.
- Promote investment in next generation Internet and technologies.
- Develop high level digital technology applications in the development sector such as health, education, transport, finance, trade, disaster management, etc.
- Strengthen capacity for in-depth analysis and research
- Promote digital platform business and markets through sandbox regulatory approaches
- Support IT start ups and women entrepreneurs as well as digital platform.
- Foster IT skills of high-level officials to lead digital transformation.
- Promote digital education, literacy and skills for vulnerable groups.
- Strengthening privacy and protection of personal and critical data.

Three-phase Roles of DSC SD (Acceleration Phase)

3. Actions at Acceleration Phase

- Enhance research and investment in new emerging technology, in particular next generation Internet (6G and spatial Internet network), AI, IOT, metaverse.
- Support local digital content and creativity for fostering digital culture/ecosystem.
- Promote digital platform economy which includes digital currency, digital payment system, digital ID, digital SMEs platforms, distribution and delivery systems, build stable and reliable supply chains.
- Build and operate national level and cloud-based data centers.

Framework for Building DSC SD



Roadmap

1. Objective of the Center

- Provide digital solutions that accelerate the transformation towards an inclusive digital society in Central Asia

2. Key Functions of the Center

- a. Accelerator:** Accelerate transformation towards an inclusive digital economy and society
- b. Coordinator:** Coordinate digital related agendas across development sectors such as water, energy, agriculture, industry, transport and trade.

UN ESCAP working papers:

¹ Askar Tazhiyev (2021). Towards a Central Asia-as-a Platform Strategy and a Digital Solutions Centre for Sustainable Development. Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Working Paper Series, No. 08/2021. United Nations ESCAP, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, Bangkok. <https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/towards-central-asia-platform-strategy-and-digital-solutions-centre-sustainable-development>

² John Ure (2021) Digital Solutions Centre in Central Asia. Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Working Paper Series, No. 07/2021. United Nations ESCAP, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, 2021. Bangkok. <https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/digital-solutions-centre-central-asia>

³ Zhanar Sultanbekova (2021). Establishment of the Central Asian Digital Solution Center in Kazakhstan: Concept Note for Project Development. Working Paper Series, No. 09/2021. United Nations ESCAP, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, Bangkok.

⁴ Zorikto Gomboin and Aida Karazhanova (2021). E-resilience Monitoring Toolkit: Methodological Notes and Pilot Countries' Profiles. No. 26/2021. United Nations ESCAP, IDD, Bangkok. <https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/e-resilience-monitoring-toolkit-methodological-notes-and-pilot-countries-profiles> John Ure (2021).

⁵ Askar Tazhiyev (2022). Working Paper on Establishing the Digital Solutions Center for Sustainable Development: Options for Operational Modalities. ESCAP Working Paper Series, No. 39/2022. United Nations ESCAP, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, Bangkok. Available at: <https://www.unescap.org/kp/2022/digital-solutions-centre-sustainable-development-options-operational-modalities>.



Decisions and Recommendations

- SPECA WG on ITSD 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
- SPECA Economic Forum 2020-2021, 2022
- Extracts from:
 - Bishkek Declaration
 - Tashkent Statement
 - Almaty Declaration



Chronology of Progress

- **21 April 2021:** MoU between ESCAP and the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry (MDDIAI) of Kazakhstan
- **13 Sep 2021:** Ministerial request for development of a Roadmap sent to ES ESCAP
- **Dec 2021-March 2022:** Developed the draft roadmap with periodic consultations with MDDIAI, shared with SPECA WG on ITSD (2021-2022), and Kazakhstan MoFA submitted it to SPECA GC in Dec 2022
- **March 2022-June 2022:** MDDIAI and ESCAP hold consultations, informed ADB
- **September 2022 -May 2023:** ESCAP CS resolution 79/10 appreciated the initiative of Kazakhstan on DSC SD
- **June-September 2023:** ESCAP IDD proposal on awareness raising within HCA on APDMC- DIT
- **4th SPECA WG on ITSD:** requested MDDIAI submit concept note and operational modality of DSC SD to SPECA GC and APDMC-DIT

WG on ITSD of 2020

- [Report 30 July 2020](#),

Decisions of the First Session of the WG on ITSD

Para 3: The WG recommended to continue enhancing seamless digital connectivity and monitoring of e-resilience under the 2019-2022 Master Plan of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) initiative that should guide the next phase in 2022-2024. The WG requested ESCAP to develop a single information platform with automation and simulation modules on determining compatibility, economic efficiency, and identification of infrastructure projects that lend themselves to ICT deployment for smart corridors.

Para 4. The WG proposed to develop a framework for the post-pandemic recovery period, which may build upon the ESCAP toolkit on e-resilience from a pandemic management perspective and agreed to develop a common work plan for digital transformation in the SPECA countries and an associated e-resilience readiness dashboard for better crisis preparedness in future..

SPECA Economic Forum 2020: Bishkek Declaration

Item 3 Enhancing the effectiveness of seamless digital connectivity and assessing e-resilience readiness of digital networks, in particular::

- Developing and updating national strategies and action plans to realize the digital potential of the countries for sustainable economic transformation;
- As recommended by the ESCAP Committee on Information and Communications Technology and Science, Technology and Innovation at its third session, support the work of the drafting committee that will develop an action plan for advancing implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative in its second phase 2022-2026 and continue efforts to implement the 2019-2022 Master Plan;
- Accepting digitalization as a key factor for economic transformation and driver of sustainable development. In this regard, SPECA participating countries should scale-up the sharing of best practices and technical expertise within the programme of work of the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development to successfully implement the SPECA Innovation Strategy for Sustainable Development;
- Adopting digital technologies for sustainable transformation strategies to ensure no one is left behind in the efforts for recovery from the COVID-19 crisis;
- Developing and updating national strategies and action plans for digital transformation through multistakeholder consultations at the interface of the ICT, energy, trade and transport sectors, involving the private sector, civil society, academia and development partners. To this end, the SPECA participating countries should support ongoing research related to the identification of smart corridors and creation of a portal on cross-sectoral infrastructure projects;
- Taking into account the priority of multimodality, digitalization and interoperability, development of and participation in pilot projects to standardize digital multimodal transport data and document exchange, using international standards, and starting from key documents accompanying goods in various modes of transport in the region: road, rail, inland waterways, air and maritime transport in the Caspian Sea, as well as eTIR for transit. Explore ways of financing these activities through partnership arrangements.

WG on ITSD 2021

- Report of WG , 21 October 2021
- Decisions

Item 7

To ensure effective post-pandemic management, the WG proposed the establishment of a digital institutional framework and welcomed the initiative of Kazakhstan and ESCAP in setting up the **Digital Solutions Centre for Sustainable Development (DSC SD)**, which is aimed at creating foundations for an inclusive digital economy in SPECA countries. The WG appreciated the research undertaken by Kazakhstan and ESCAP experts on the subject and requested the secretariat to facilitate the delivery of a roadmap on setting up the DSC SD with an action plan to support digital transformation in the SPECA countries for sustainable development.

SPECA Economic Forum 2021 : Tashkent Statement (Item 10)

- Building on the support of UNECE and ESCAP to strengthening the institutional foundations of digital connectivity and transformation in the SPECA countries, work on the implementation of UNECE and ESCAP legal norms, standards, best practice recommendations, and other tools, for the digitalization of information exchange in international supply chains and multimodal transport chains.
- Take note of the offer of the Republic of Kazakhstan to create a SPECA Digital Solutions Centre for Sustainable Development (DSC SD) as an implementing tool to advance the digital transformation in the SPECA region.
- The Republic of Kazakhstan will present a concept note in this regard and present this proposal at the Digital Almaty Forum in February 2022.

SPECA WG on ITSD : 19-20 July, 2022, Almaty

- Item 12 The Working Group appreciated and supported the initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan and ESCAP in setting up the Digital Solutions Centre for Sustainable Development (DSC SD) for SPECA members States and Mongolia to promote digital integration in the subregion. This would also provide effective digital solutions in the transforming process towards an inclusive digital economy and society. In this regard, the Working Group welcomed the outcomes of the Survey and the research undertaken by Kazakhstan and ESCAP experts on options for the roadmap for setting up the Digital Solutions Center for Sustainable Development (DSC SD) for SPECA countries and the respective Action Plan. The participants stressed the importance of coordinating digital transformation (DT) measures and the DSC SD could play an appropriate role given the complementarity of many national programmes and projects. The Working Group recommended that the DSC SD could be critical in the organization of the DT process and the Center could function as a legally independent subregional organization in association with ESCAP, giving priority to the landlocked countries of Central Asia and Mongolia, and cooperating with UN organizations through Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Center and the relevant UN entities. The Working Group recognized the competence of the “Zerde” National Infocommunication” Holding JSC, as one of the leaders in digital transformation in Central Asia.
- Item 7: The Working Group noted the progress and proposed member states and ITLLDC to continue development of the ESCAPs online toolkits on Portal and Simulator for ICT co-deployment with Energy and Transport Infrastructure and proposed to continue monitoring e-resilience under the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) Action Plan for 2022-2026. Recognizing that as societies and economies undergo stages of digital transformation, e-resilience, a concept discovered during the COVID-19 pandemic, will be rapidly growing in importance.



UNECE



MINISTRY OF DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT,
INNOVATIONS AND AEROSPACE INDUSTRY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

Expert Group Meeting and Third Session of the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development

19 - 20 July 2022
Astana, Kazakhstan

Event Page QR



YouTube

- Eng:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FPDWUcGKys&t=9s>
- Rus:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSsCRIYmEY4&t=8s>

ESCAP CICTSTI, 1 Sept 2022

- Noting the initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan to establish the Digital Solutions Centre for Sustainable Development , which would further strengthen subregional cooperation in Central Asia and beyond, the provision of practical solutions for digital transformation and the deployment of e-services, the Committee was invited to support the initiative through the implementation of the Action Plan of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026

https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/D12b-Report-R_0.pdf



Asia-Pacific Digital Ministerial Conference

10 November 2022 (9:00 - 17:00 UTC +9)
Seoul, Republic of Korea



Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Forum

09 November 2022 (9:00 - 17:00 UTC +9)
Seoul, Republic of Korea



1st APMC on DT, Seoul, RoK

SPECA Economic 2022 : November 2022 ad hoc SPECA Governing Council: 9 December 2022

- When discussing the draft Almaty Declaration, the participants confirmed their approval of the text of the Declaration, except the delegation of Turkmenistan.
- As for item 12 of the draft Declaration, the representative of Turkmenistan noted that they had not received a Concept Note and relevant proposals on the initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan on establishing the Digital Solutions Centre for Sustainable Development.
- The representative of Kyrgyzstan confirmed the necessity of obtaining additional information on the proposed Digital Solutions Centre.
- The Chairperson informed participants that he would request the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan to provide more information on the Centre to the SPECA participating countries with the support of the UN secretariat

ESCAP/RES/79/10, 19 May 2023

- Recalling its resolution 78/1 of 27 May 2022, entitled “Bangkok Declaration Commemorating the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: a Common Agenda to Advance Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific”, in which members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific committed themselves to improving digital cooperation, expressed their intention to cooperate at all levels, including at the ministerial level, and recognized that the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative could be one of the useful regional platforms for the promotion of digital cooperation,
- Welcoming the endorsement of the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026, by the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation at its fourth session, held in Bangkok and online from 30 August to 1 September 2022,1
- Noting the Asia-Pacific Digital Ministerial Conference, organized by the Republic of Korea in collaboration with the secretariat of the Commission and held in Seoul on 10 November 2022,
- Noting 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.

ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific

UNECE

Online Expert Group Exchanges for Common Vision of the Digital Solutions Center for Sustainable Development, 1300-1500 hrs (Bangkok time), 11 October 2023 (on Invitation)

In Preparation for the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development (ITSD, Session 4, Day 2, 19 Oct)
18-19 October 2023

  **MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND INNOVATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

ESCAP
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for Asia and the Pacific

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 **MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND INNOVATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

INN week

**FOURTH SESSION OF THE SPECA WORKING GROUP
ON INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

 **DATE**
19 October, 2023

 **TIME**
14:00 - 16:30 (Tashkent time)

 **UZBEKISTAN**
7, UNIVERSITY STREET, ALMAZAR
DISTRICT, TASHKENT CITY

 **SCAN ME**

EGM on DSC SD (11 and 19 Oct 2023, hybrid)

SPECA WG on ITSD 2023 : 18-19 October, Tashkent (para 23)

- The WG noted with appreciation the initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan through the ESCAP resolution 79/10 to establish a “digital solutions centre for sustainable development” (DSCSD). The WG noted the concept of the DSCSD and requested the representative of Kazakhstan to submit the concept note and operational modalities for the centre to the 18th session of the SPECA Governing Council, hosted by Azerbaijan on 23 November 2023 in Baku, as well as at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference 2024 referred to in paragraph 20 above.



SPECA WG on ITSD, 18-19 October, 2023, Tashkent

- Event page link with all materials [Fourth Session of the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development | ESCAP \(unescap.org\)](#) and
- YouTube links [\(41\) 4th session of the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development - YouTube](#) and
- Ppt of QazInnovations [\(41\) 4th session of the SPECA Working Group on Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development – YouTube](#)

FOCAL POINTS

ESCAP Secretariat

Ms Tiziana Bonapace,
Director IDD

KAZAKHSTAN

- Kaz Embassy to Thailand:
Mr Vitaliy Alexandrov, Deputy Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to ESCAP
- MoFA: Mr Didar Temenov
- MDDIAI: Ms Ayazhan Mukanova

THANK YOU!
IDD / ESCAP

