# Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Regional Cooperation Framework

AP-IS Second Working Group Meeting

ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division
ESCAP

### What is the Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF)?

- Resolution 71/10: ESCAP countries called for creation of openended Working Group on Asia Pacific information superhighway to move forward with implementation
- Designed to help achieve the overarching goals of the AP-IS
   Master Plan
- Highlights the need for regional cooperation in 4 pillars: connectivity, traffic and network management, e-resilience and broadband for all



 To be Presented and endorsed at the second meeting of the AP-IS Working Group in Guangzhou China, from 29 to 30 August 2016

## What are the objectives of the RCF?

The overall objectives of the Regional Cooperation Framework Document are to help achieve the overarching goals of AP-IS Master Plan by:

- Fostering partnership and collaboration between the member countries and various organizations at the regional and sub-regional levels in order to improve regional seamless connectivity in Asia and the Pacific
- Identifying norms and principles in developing and implementing the AP-IS Master Plan
- Raising awareness on the importance of regional cooperation for regional connectivity and enhancing capacity of LLDC, LDC and SIDS economies
- Encouraging participation of the private sector in developing the cross-border broadband infrastructure
- Providing guidance on potential cooperation and financing modalities related to the development of ICT infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region
- Ensuring the achievement of regional and international development goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

## Which principles underpin the RCF?

- Promotion of open and non-discriminatory access to network infrastructure (in particular, passive infrastructure) as well as competition in order to enhance affordability and encourage innovations
- Recognition of the importance in creating synergies of national, sub-regional and regional ICT initiatives
- Encouragement of cross-sectoral collaboration such as codeployment of optical fibre cables along the Asian Highways and Railways
- Value Addition to the existing mechanisms and partnerships in the area of ICT for Development in general and ICT connectivity in particular

#### Formalities of RCF?

- The AP-IS Master Plan provides guidance towards strategic initiatives focusing on the four pillars: connectivity, traffic and network management, e-resilience and broadband for all. The implementation, coordination and monitoring of the AP-IS initiatives will be guided by an Advisory Group( or Coordination Group)
- Supported by the ESCAP Secretariat and respective Network corridors' focal points, the Advisory Group will oversee the implementation of activities, provide overall guidance and decide on the priorities and directions, while advising on partnerships, potential funding opportunities and emerging technologies
- The AP-IS Advisory Group reports the progress and challenges on ICT connectivity in respective Network Corridors to ESCAP's intergovernmental Committee on Information Communications, Technology, Science, Technology and Innovations (CICTSTI) through the ESCAP secretariat. The CICTSTI report, including recommendations, will be submitted to the subsequent ESCAP's Commission Session.

#### **Areas of Collaboration**

- Cross-border fibre optic deployment and integration of the regional backbone network including passive infrastructure as outlined in AP-IS Master Plan under Initiative 1
- Establishment of IXPs at national and sub-regional levels under Initiative 2
- Regional Economic and Social Studies under Initiative 3
- ICT infrastructure resilience in the Asia-Pacific region under Initiative 4
- ICT-related regulations and policy frameworks under Initiative 5
- Capacity Building under Initiative 6

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