



## Summary Assessment

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### **Fourth session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology**

Bangkok  
14-16 October 2014

#### **I. Introduction**

The 4th session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 14-16 October 2014.

A questionnaire assessing the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee session was distributed to delegates of ESCAP members and associate members. The total number of submitted individual questionnaires was 18. The overall response rate is therefore 21% (N=18/85). The present assessment was prepared on the basis of these questionnaire responses.

In line with the secretariat's efforts to reduce the use of paper and move towards paper smart meetings, an online version of the questionnaire was offered alongside the traditional paper version.

The main purpose of this assessment is to support the secretariat's ongoing efforts to improve its servicing of Committee sessions.

#### **II. Attendance**

The Committee session was attended by 37% (N=23/62) of ESCAP members and associate members, with a total number of 85 participants. The Committee session was also attended by 29 participants from other entities.

The majority of delegations were headed by officials from the respective Capital (74%, N=17/23) – one of which at ministerial level (5%) – whereas the remaining 26% (N=6/23) were represented through their embassies in Bangkok.

In 2008, the Committee saw the attendance of 27% of the members and associate members, a number that increased to 34% in 2010, and to 40% in 2012.

Comments on what could have been done to encourage greater engagement from your delegation at this meeting (verbatim):

- There should be advance presentation for learning before meeting.
- To break into smaller group on critical issues to bring better understanding and synergies.
- Uploading of all meeting documents and presentations to ESCAP website.
- Engagement and involvement of bigger Pacific island economy like Papua New Guinea would create interest amongst the smaller island nations and therefore add value to the committee's work.

### III. Methodology

For each statement below, an index between 100 and 0 is given, whereby, at a value of 100 all respondents strongly agree with the statement, and, at a value of 0, all respondents strongly disagree. The formula<sup>1</sup> we have used is based on the same principles as the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Index<sup>2</sup> (HDI). This allows the calculation of a unit-free index between 0 and 1 from all received responses for each statement. This enables indices to be added together as well as compared among each other.

### IV. Relevance of the session

Respondents felt that the session was relevant to the needs of the region. As presented with the aggregate ratings in Table 1, there was high agreement among respondents that the agenda items reflected the development trends and issues of the Asian and Pacific region (86). Respondents also agreed that the agenda items addressed the needs and priorities of their respective countries (79).

**Table 1**

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
The agenda items reflected the development trends/issues of the Asian and Pacific region.	86
The agenda items addressed the needs and priorities of my country/territory.	79

Comments on how to improve the relevance of the Committee session to the needs and priorities of the Asia and Pacific region included (verbatim):

- Due to technology deployment differences among member countries, there should be grouped countries in which need to be more concentrated.

<sup>1</sup> Index = actual value of all aggregated responses - minimum value of all aggregated responses / maximum value of all aggregated responses - minimum value of all aggregated responses

<sup>2</sup> More can be found at [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr\\_2013\\_en\\_technotes.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr_2013_en_technotes.pdf)

- Through more interactive session where participants can raise more questions. Need to demonstrate the wonder of ICT in easy administration, engagement government.
- Maybe working more closely with ITU as well as APT. Sharing the outcome and work of each group to reduce repeated work and improve efficiency.
- Take issues with Pacific island states and Timor-Leste. Cost of ICT access in this part of the world are amongst the highest.

## V. Effectiveness of the session

Overall, as can be seen from Table 2, respondents found the session to have been very effective in highlighting regional development trends and issues, and in identifying priority areas and emerging issues in the region (83), in promoting a collaborative approach to addressing the development challenges at the regional and subregional levels (82), and in promoting dialogue on regional and subregional approaches (78). Furthermore, the session documents were found to be of high quality, concise, and stating the issues clearly (82).

The respondents also found the session relatively effective in addressing gender-related issues in the field of ICT, but somewhat less so (66).

**Table 2**

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
The Committee session effectively highlighted regional development trends and issues.	83
The Committee session effectively identified priority areas and emerging issues in the region.	83
The Committee session effectively promoted dialogue on regional and subregional approaches.	78
The Committee session effectively addressed gender-related issues in the field of ICT, as applicable.	66
The Committee session effectively promoted a collaborative approach to addressing the development challenges at the regional and subregional levels.	82
The session documents were of high quality, concise, and clearly state the issues.	82

Comments on how to improve the Committee session's effectiveness in achieving its mandate included (verbatim):

- More could be done for Timor-Leste and Pacific Island States.

## VI. Efficiency of the organizational aspects of the session

The efficiency of the organizational aspects of the Committee session was rated positively, as shown in Table 3. In particular, respondents felt that the organization of work prior and in between Committee sessions enabled the session to proceed efficiently (85). Respondents also indicated that the secretariat's servicing of the session was efficient (83), and that the communications from the secretariat to the member States on the preparations for the meeting were effective (83).

The adequacy of the time available for discussion during the meetings was also rated very positively, but slightly less so (72).

**Table 3**

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
The time available for discussion during the meeting was adequate.	72
The servicing by the secretariat was efficient and effective.	83
The communications from the secretariat to the member States on the preparations for the meeting were effective.	83
The organization of work prior and in between Committee sessions enabled the session to proceed efficiently.	85

Comments on how to improve the efficiency of the organizational and servicing aspects of the Committee session included (verbatim):

- It is already high standard and acceptable.
- Meal

## VII. Highlights of the Committee session and aspects that could have been enhanced

According to respondents, the most successful aspect of the Committee session included (verbatim):

- AS-IS concept, cross sectoral
- Harnessing cross-sectoral infrastructure synergies
- Everyone agreeing that synergy between the uses of other approaches such as transport, energy infrastructures to deliver ICT goods and services.
- The joint session with transport is interesting as it parted new avenues. To me something new. The outcome will enable new planning.
- Encouragement from Chair and participation of members
- Fruitful and useful information, decision

There were also some suggestions on aspects that could have been enhanced (verbatim):

- Interventions should be limited to 2 minutes
- The panel discussion could have been enhanced. ESCAP should organize adhoc discussion among participants on experience sharing.
- Need more information and communication with delegates
- Presentation for every presenter should be on the web for download prior meeting

## **VIII. Conclusion**

Overall, in conclusion, responding delegates felt that the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology was highly successful.

To summarize the main trends highlighted above, the session was seen as highly relevant to the needs of the region, and effective at promoting dialogue and collaboration. The efficiency of the session received high ratings, in particular the organization of work prior and in between Committee sessions. As a particular highlight of the session, respondents noted its cross-sectoral nature.