Asia Pacific Information Superhighway Action Plan (2022-2026)

21 October 2021

Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division

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

"Our Common Agenda" 12 Commitments: UN SG

5. Place women and girls at the centre

- Repeal of gender-discriminatory laws
- Promote gender parity, including through quotas and **special measures**
- Facilitate women's economic inclusion, including investment in the care economy and support for women entrepreneurs
- Include voices of **younger women**
- Eradication of violence against women and girls, including through an emergency response plan

6. Build trust

- **Global code of conduct that promotes integrity in public information**
- Improve people's experiences with **public institutions and basic services**
- Inclusive **national listening and "envisioning the future" exercises**
- Action to tackle **corruption** in line with the United Nations Convention against Corruption
- Reformed **international tax system**
- **Joint structure on financial integrity and tackling illicit financial flows**

7. Improve digital cooperation

- **Global Digital Compact** to:
  - **Connect all people to the Internet**, including all schools
  - Avoid Internet fragmentation
  - Protect data
  - Apply human rights online
  - Introduce accountability criteria for discrimination and misleading content
  - Promote regulation of artificial intelligence
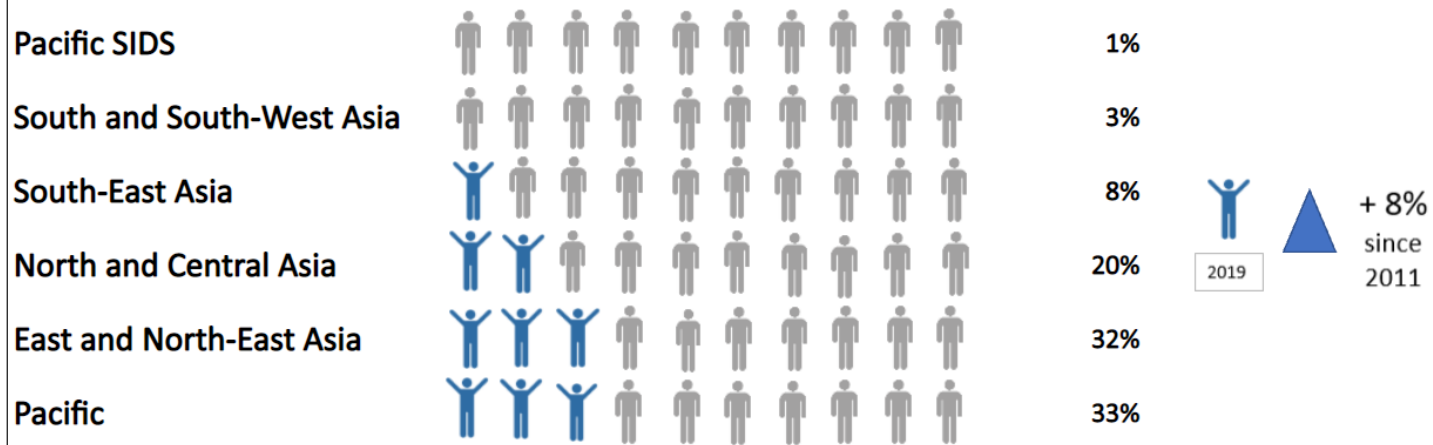 - Digital commons as a global public good
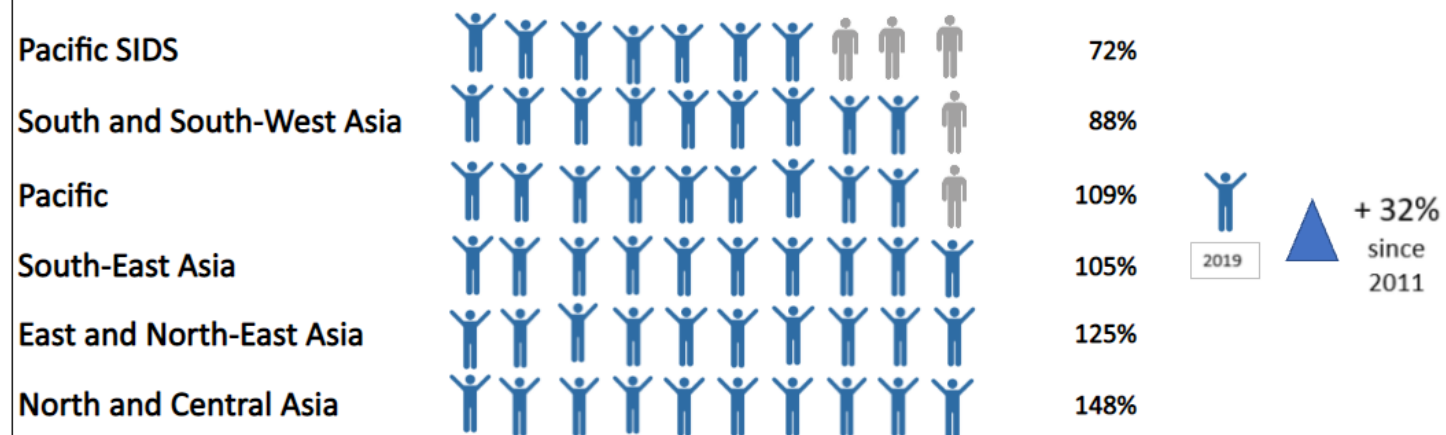
8. Upgrade the United Nations

- **High-level Advisory Board** led by former Heads of State and Government on improved governance of global public goods
- System-wide policy that **puts people at the centre**, taking into account age, gender and diversity
- More listening, participation and consultation (including digitally), building on the seventy-fifth anniversary declaration and Our Common Agenda
- **Gender parity** within the United Nations system by 2028
- Re-establish the Secretary-General's **Scientific Advisory Board**
- **"Quintet of change"** for United Nations 2.0, including innovation, data, strategic foresight, results orientation and behavioural science

Digital Divides

Fixed broadband subscriptions by ESCAP subregions (weighted by population)

Pacific SIDS	1%
South and South-West Asia	3%
South-East Asia	8%
North and Central Asia	20%
East and North-East Asia	32%
Pacific	33%

+ 8% since 2011 (2019)

Mobile broadband subscriptions by ESCAP subregions (weighted by population)

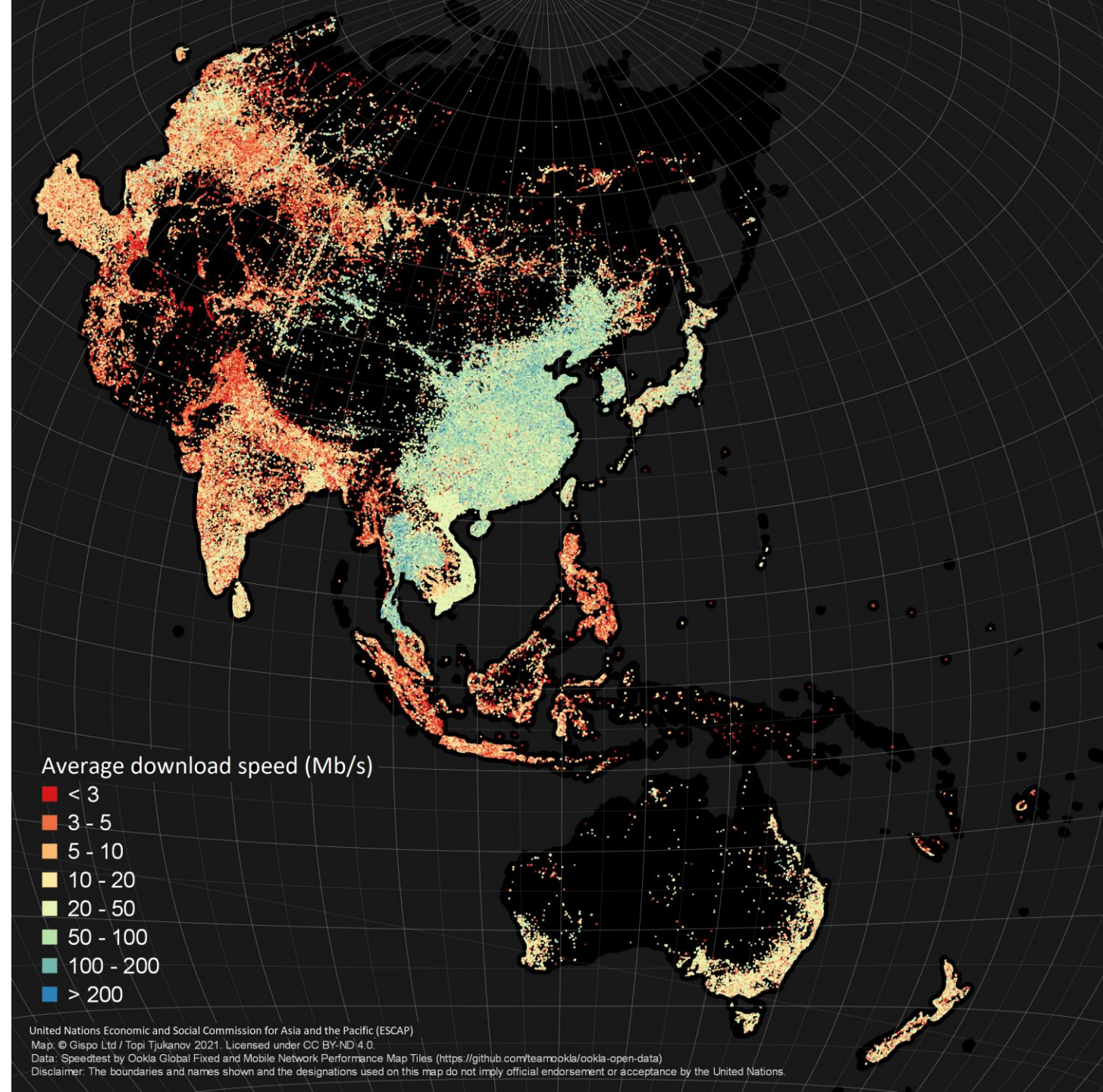|	
Pacific SIDS	72%
South and South-West Asia	88%
Pacific	109%
South-East Asia	105%
East and North-East Asia	125%
North and Central Asia	148%

+ 32% since 2011 (2019)

Access to broadband internet is limited in developing countries, especially in Pacific Islands, as well as South and South-West Asia.
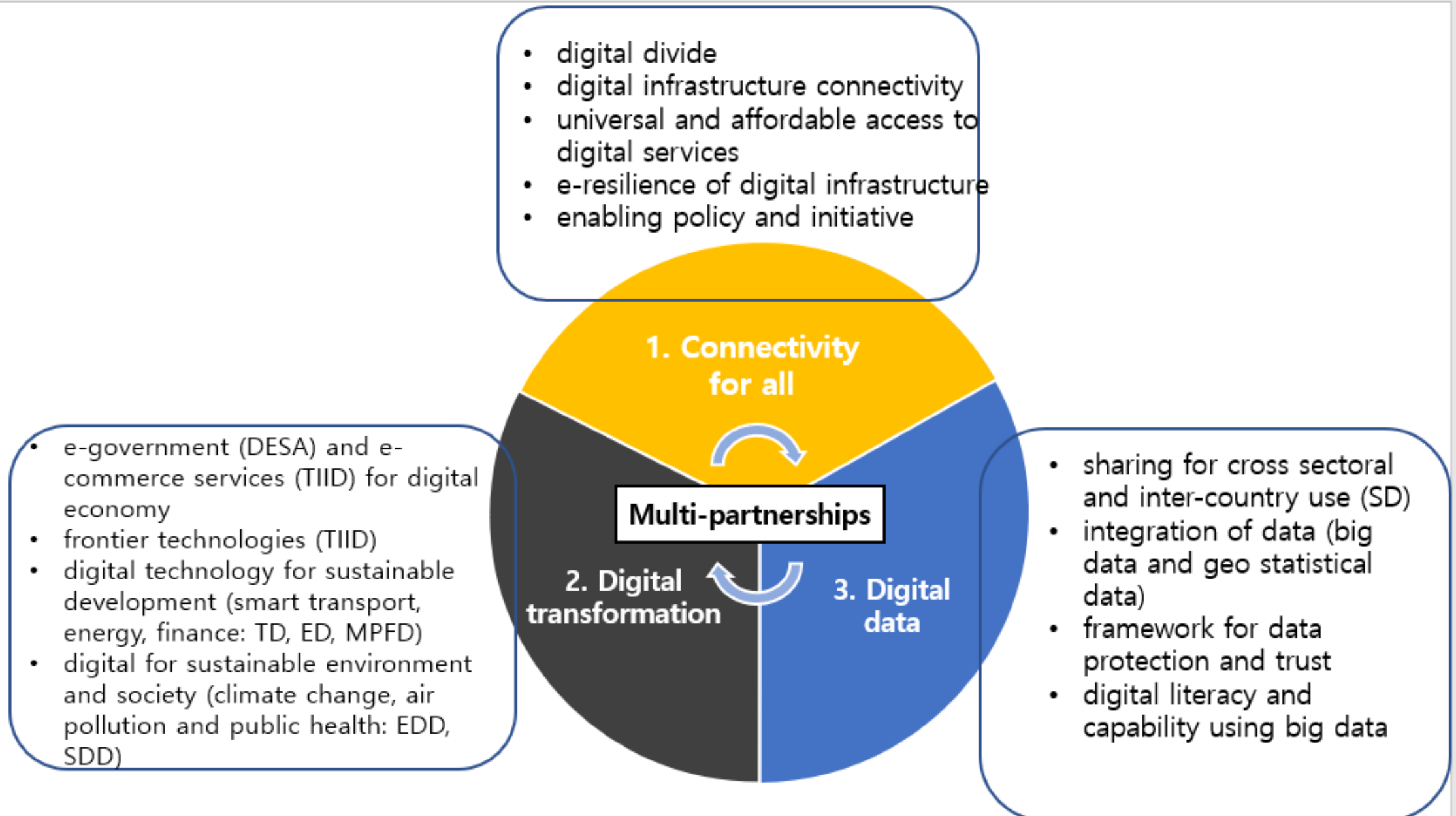
Broadband Speed Divide

Urban-rural divide

(higher average download speed in urban areas compared to rural areas).

Average download speed (Mb/s)
- < 3
- 3 - 5
- 5 - 10
- 10 - 20
- 20 - 50
- 50 - 100
- 100 - 200
- > 200

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Map. © Gispo Ltd / Topi Tjukanov 2021. Licensed under CC BY-ND 4.0.
Data: Speedtest by Ookla Global Fixed and Mobile Network Performance Map Tiles (https://github.com/teamookla/ookla-open-data)
Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

AP-IS Action Plan (2022-2026)

- digital divide
- digital infrastructure connectivity
- universal and affordable access to digital services
- e-resilience of digital infrastructure
- enabling policy and initiative

1. Connectivity for all

Multi-partnerships

2. Digital transformation

3. Digital data

- e-government (DESA) and e-commerce services (TIID) for digital economy
- frontier technologies (TIID)
- digital technology for sustainable development (smart transport, energy, finance: TD, ED, MPFD)
- digital for sustainable environment and society (climate change, air pollution and public health: EDD, SDD)

- sharing for cross sectoral and inter-country use (SD)
- integration of data (big data and geo statistical data)
- framework for data protection and trust
- digital literacy and capability using big data

ICT Key Events

- **5th Session of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) Steering Committee** to be held on 25 November 2021.

- **4th Session of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation (CICTSTI)** to be held in August 2022.

- **UN Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Cooperation**, to be held in December 2022, in Seoul, the Republic of Korea.

Key Projects

1. **Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration**: co-deployment of infrastructures (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia), simulator for integrated infrastructure corridors, and e-resilience monitoring dashboard

2. **Regulatory sandboxes for innovation**: Bangladesh, Kazakhstan and Maldives

3. **Bridging urban-rural divides** starting in 2022: Bangladesh, People's Democratic Republic of Laos and Thailand

4. Korea funded project: **Internet exchange points** in CLVT and the Pacific region

5. China funded project: **supporting the AP-IS Action Plan 2022-2026**

Thank you very much

IDD