

Speech to be made by the Head of the DPRK Delegation at the Eightieth
Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia
and the Pacific

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I'd like to extend congratulations to you on your election as the Chair of the current session and I hope that the session will achieve fruitful results under your able leadership.

At the same time, we are convinced that this session with the theme: "Leveraging digital innovation for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific" will be a significant momentum for promoting the socio-economic development sustainably and harmoniously in Asia and the Pacific region.

Our delegation appreciates that in recent years ESCAP has supported the efforts of the member states to achieve major targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that it has made considerable contributions to realizing mutual exchange and cooperation.

Mr. Chair,

The promotion of socio-economic development on the basis of digital, intelligent and IT has become one of the world trends today.

The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal(SDGs) will not come true if the developing countries which account for more than two-thirds of the world not actively join the trends of digitalization.

The SDGs, which aims to achieve everyone's equal and balanced development, with no one left behind, should be a practical help to the

development of humankind. In order for this, the ESCAP should pay attention to the following issues.

Firstly, we should further strengthen dissemination, sharing and cooperation in the field of information technology based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit.

Active promotion of technical cooperation for digital innovation and sharing the good successes and experiences among member states is an effective way to accelerate digital innovation worldwide.

We should not only strengthen cooperation but also adhere to the principle of respecting the legal and socio-economic system and cultural diversity of the counterparts. It is also necessary to completely eradicate such acts as imposing one's will on others or attaching political strings to cooperation.

Secondly, digital innovation and introduction should lead to practical benefit for the developing countries and its effectiveness should be found during the implementation of the SDGs.

At the moment, the efforts of the developing countries to achieve the SDGs are faced with challenges and obstacles and every country has different priorities. As such, digital innovation will prove the effectiveness only if it is carried out according to the circumstances and requirements of individual country.

Mr. Chair,

Now our people are vigorously opening up the new era of an overall national prosperity by holding fast to sci-tech development as a lifeline under the wise leadership of comrade **Kim Jong Un**, President of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The DPRK government has achieved considerable successes in digitalizing various fields of the socio-economy.

Digital integrated management system has been introduced in factories and enterprises, telemedicine system between urban and rural areas has been established, and satellite imaging and manuring and cultivating of crops using drones have been introduced in agriculture. Such active promotion of digitalization in various fields has contributed to the prosperity and development of the country.

The IT equipment supplied to schools free of charge by the state has been introduced into educational practice, significantly improving the level of IT and the quality of education. Educational multimedia programs have also been developed in our own way to help schoolchildren in their study.

The "National IT Successes Exhibition–2023" held in October last year served as an occasion to introduce and popularize valuable successes and experiences gained in recent years, to the whole country. The IT contests held on a regular basis with the attendance of university and scientific research institutes play an important role in speeding up the digitalization and IT of the national economy.

The DPRK government will further fulfill its responsibility and role in promoting digital innovations for the sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region and actively join the international cooperation.

Thank you.