

**STATEMENT BY  
H.E. RETNO L.P. MARSUDI  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
INDONESIA  
“LEVERAGING DIGITAL INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC”  
AT THE 80<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COMMISSION FOR ASIA PACIFIC  
BANGKOK, 22 APRIL 2024**

**Executive Secretary Alisjabana  
Distinguished Delegates,**

The Asia Pacific leads today's world in digital transformation.

Its transformation has been accelerated up to 10 years of advancement due to COVID.

Southeast Asia's internet economy alone is forecasted to reach 1 trillion dollars in 2030 by the World Economic Forum driven by a fast-growing base of digital consumers and applications

This positive development should have been our golden ticket towards championing global sustainable development.

But in paradox, a 2024 UN Report outlined a concerning trajectory for The Asia Pacific to achieve the SDGs projecting a staggering delay of 32 years until 2062.

The setback is a result of multiple crises happening all at once from the aftermath of COVID to destabilizing conflicts happening in different parts of the world.

Moreover, the current crisis in the Middle East brings grave concern as it further endangers the attainment of SDGs distancing our hope for a sustainable, resilient and inclusive world.

**Colleagues,**

Digital innovation is crucial to address this paradox.

To this end, Indonesia's Digital Vision for 2045 is focusing on digital development for governance, economy, and society to enhance public

services create new jobs and economic opportunities & increase productivity.

I would like to outline **THREE pathways** of cooperation under UN-ESCAP.

**FIRST, developing an integrated digital roadmap.**

The digital landscape of the region is highly fragmented.

Differences in national and regional readiness & regulatory capacities create hurdles to achieve regional digital innovation.

Developing an integrated digital roadmap will facilitate technological and policy exchanges harness country-specific potentials & harmonize existing regional initiatives such as in ASEAN & APEC.

**SECOND, promoting digital inclusivity to bridge the digital divide.**

It is one of Asia-Pacific's biggest homework.

There is a 6% gender gap in internet usage, 264 million fewer women than men are using mobile internet, vast difference in internet quality & wide gap in internet access for rural and remote communities.

We must take innovative measures to promote digital inclusivity by investing in women-led fin-tech and startups, enhancing digital infrastructure & widening access to digital literacy training.

**THIRD, ensuring transformative technologies for maintaining peace and prosperity.**

Emerging technologies such as AI paint a new picture in the relationship between technology and geopolitics.

Its usage will depend on our choice to let it be used as a force for good or for malicious intents in deepening the global rivalry.

Therefore, we must join hands to ensure regional governance prevent harm from its utilization, contribute to sustainable development & improve people's lives.

**Colleagues,**

Indonesia believes that digital transformation should be a force enabler for the global common good.

We must work together through UN-ESCAP to build a resilient and connected future for the Asia-Pacific.

I thank you.

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