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Statement of India
Agenda item 2(b): Subregional perspectives
24 April 2024, 09.00-12.00 hrs.

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Madam/Mr. Chair

In today's rapidly evolving world, digital technologies are not just tools but catalysts for sustainable development. They pave the way for inclusion, equitable access, increased productivity and efficiency, reduce costs, and enable the efficient delivery of public and private services. Digital innovations are already leaving a positive mark on efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals across Asia and the Pacific.

Madam/Mr. Chair

India stands at the forefront of this digital revolution, showcasing remarkable success in implementing digital products and services on a mass scale. India's robust policy framework for digital innovations, lays emphasis on maximizing governance through digital means. Particularly noteworthy is India's adept utilization of digital innovations and infrastructure during the challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic.

One exemplary initiative is the "Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile", the JAM Trinity, which has provided access to direct benefit transfers to over 500 million people in India. Leveraging public digital infrastructure, digital identification tools, and financial technologies, this initiative promotes financial inclusion and reduces leakage in social security payments.

The Aadhaar digital identity platform has revolutionized the delivery of social welfare programs in India by accurately targeting

recipients and minimizing diversion of funds. Additionally, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has empowered citizens from all walks of life, bringing marginalized individuals into the formal economy.

The adoption of e-filing system by the Income Tax Department, coupled with the integration of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, has streamlined tax collections and improved efficiency. Besides, the cognitive digital technologies are bridging gaps in healthcare access, especially in rural areas, through telemedicine and remote patient monitoring.

Digital innovation is also driving economic growth and fostering entrepreneurship by creating new opportunities for innovation, job creation, and economic diversification. By nurturing a vibrant ecosystem of startups and digital enterprises, India is harnessing the power of technology to fuel economic development and drive progress towards the SDGs.

Madam/Mr. Chair

Digital literacy initiatives can help bridge the digital divide by ensuring that individuals from all backgrounds have the knowledge and skills necessary to participate fully in the digital world. However, it is crucial to ensure that digital platforms are user-centric and accompanied by comprehensive digital literacy initiatives to minimize the risks associated with their use. Initiatives like Digital India, with its focus on digital literacy, are pivotal in promoting safe and secure digital practices among the masses.

India believes, collaboration among all subregions of Asia-Pacific is essential to make digital innovations accessible and

affordable. The successful replication and scaling up of digital innovations can be facilitated through cross-border cooperation, with organizations like APCTT playing a pivotal role.

As we look to the future, it is essential to continue harnessing the power of digital technologies to build a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable society. This requires continued investment in digital infrastructure, capacity building, and innovation ecosystems, as well as policies and regulatory frameworks that foster innovation while safeguarding the rights and interests of all citizens.

By working collaboratively across sectors and stakeholders, we can unlock the full potential of digital technologies to drive progress towards the SDGs and create a better world for future generations. Let us continue to embrace innovation and harness the power of digital technologies to build a brighter and more sustainable future for all.

Thank you, Chair.