



Inauguration Meeting of the SPECA Project Working Group on ICT for Development

*Baku, Azerbaijan
5-6 December 2005*

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Overview and objectives of the meeting

At the International Conference on Strengthening Sub-regional Economic Cooperation in Central Asia and the Future Role of SPECA, held in Astana, Kazakhstan, from 25 to 27 May 2005, the participants underlined the high potential of SPECA as an important mechanism to support the integration of its member States into the world economy and achieving the Millennium Development Goals through economic and environmental cooperation. The participants of the Conference welcomed the initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General to strengthen the Programme, as well as reform proposals jointly elaborated by UNECE and UNESCAP aimed at achieving the goals of SPECA.

This inauguration meeting of the SPECA Project Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies for Development (SPECA Project Working Group on ICT for Development) is a follow-up of the Astana Conference at which the SPECA Project Working Group on ICT for Development was established. It is also designed as one of the preparatory meetings of the United Nations Development Account Project on ICT policy-making as well as other activities listed in the SPECA Work Plan for 2005-2007 on ICT for Development, which UNECE and UNESCAP are jointly supporting.

At the end of the meeting, the Project Working Group is expected to agree on Terms of Reference of the SPECA Project Working Group and the Work Programmeplan of the Group for 2006.

1. Opening session

• Opening addresses

Opening of the meeting by the Minister/Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic. Statements by the representatives of the SPECA member States and representatives of UNECE and UNESCAP.

• Election of officers

Co-Chairpersons will be elected

2. ICT for Economic and Social Development – ICT Policy and Regulatory Framework

The session will provide overview on the issues of ICT for economic and social development, ICT policy and regulatory framework.

- Keynote presentations highlighting subject issues
- Country presentations on ICT policy issues based on the country reports submitted to the meeting organizers. Representatives of the SPECA member countries are requested to make a short presentations on their country, including the following topics: ICT infrastructure; regulatory framework; national ICT plans (short-term and long-term); strategies on e-government; and enabling policies in support of e- business.
- Discussions

3. Efficient use of ICT for business, international trade and other purposes

The session will provide overview on the efficient use of ICT for business, international trade and other purposes with policy implications.

- Keynote presentations highlighting subject issues
- Presentation by the the SPECA Business Council
- Presentation by the Network of Academic and Research Institutions
- Discussions

3. Towards enhanced sub-regional cooperation

The session aims to define clear role of the SPECA Project Working Group on ICT for Development and its work programme for 2006, and to discuss creation of a network of SPECA ICT policy-makers.

- Terms of Reference of the SPECA Project Working Group on ICT for Development

Based on the outcome of the relevant discussions under the previous agenda items and inputs of the participants in the session, the Terms of Reference of the SPECA Project Working Group on ICT for Development will be finalized for submission to respective Governments for approval.

- The Work Programme of the SPECA Project Working Group on ICT for Development for 2006

The representatives will be invited to make proposals for inclusion in the 2006 Work Programme of the SPECA Project Working Group on ICT for Development. The representatives of the UNECE and UNESCAP secretariats will inform on the status of the project proposals submitted to the Astana Conference.

The representatives of countries are encouraged to submit the capacity-building proposals based on concrete needs of the country to UNECE and UNESCAP for the preparation of joint capacity-building seminar on ICT policy-making scheduled in Almaty, Kazakhstan in May/June 2006.

The representatives of bilateral and multilateral agencies and organizations will be encouraged to express their views on possible ways of improving the international cooperation in the provision of technical assistance in the area of ICT for development to the Central Asian countries with due

attention to a possible role of the SPECA PWG on ICT for Development to coordinate, review and/or promote individual projects.

- Network of SPECA policy-makers

In order to facilitate follow-up activities in the area of ICT policy-making, it has been suggested to create a network of SPECA policy-makers. The representatives are invited to discuss on their proposals and concrete modality on the creation of the network.

5. Date and venue for the next Working Group session

The date and venue of the next session of the Group will be decided on.

6. Other matters

The Group may wish to consider any other matter that may be brought to its attention.

7. Closing session