4th Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Smart Sustainable Cities and E-government

5th July 2018, Thanh Hóa, Vietnam

"Outcome statement"

The forum:

1. **Acknowledging** the transformative potential of smart cities and E-government in revolutionizing the urban environment in the Asia-Pacific region. The combination of high-speed, resilient, low-latency, connected and distributed computing, machine and deep learning as well as big data analysis is enabling the transformation towards smarter and more sustainable cities.

2. **Recognizing** that rapid urbanization has created many critical challenges in Asia-Pacific region including infrastructure development, job creation, housing, public safety and law enforcement, health care, and climate change mitigation. This region is home to more than 2.1 billion urban residents, and by 2050 it is estimated that over two thirds of the population will live in cities. Countries in the Asia-Pacific region should develop and adopt innovative technologies (e.g. artificial intelligence, big data, IoT and 5G) and regulatory and policy frameworks that leverage the potential for smarter, more sustainable and more resilient cities and E-government.

3. **Reiterating** the need to implement international standards such as ITU Recommendations to ensure interoperability and interconnection of smart city applications, services and platforms, reduce costs through economies of scale and avoid getting locked into propriety standards. By establishing a common framework and terminology, different solution developers and entrepreneurs can enter a global market and operate within a common ecosystem while advancing the global sustainable development goals and agenda.

4. **Expressing** the participants' commitment to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, in particular to Sustainable Development Goal 11 'Sustainable Cities and Communities'; interest in joining the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) initiative as the global platform to advocate the use of ICTs to shape smart sustainable cities, applying, using and reporting the U4SSC KPIs for Smart Sustainable Cities to measure progress to a smarter and more sustainable city and a willingness to enter a multi-stakeholder dialogue to foster the potential of the digital ecosystem to promote sustainable development in the region.

The participants of the **4th Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Smart Sustainable Cities and E-government 2018,** based on the presentations given, recognised that the following important points for future consideration:

1. Raising awareness of the role of smart cities and E-government: Citizens should be made aware of the potential for transforming the city they live in. Once a common understanding on the functionality and nature of smart cities has been established, citizens would be more likely to develop a reciprocal attitude towards the related solutions. Therefore, awareness campaigns should be incorporated into city planning and national action plans.

2. **Reviewing public policies to prepare essential human resource for future smart cities**: Updating the education curriculum to focus skills-sets on smart cities under the umbrella of media and information technology literacy in preparation of the next generation of workers for adoption of related solutions. It is vital that students, workers, policymakers, and other relevant smart city stakeholders work together to evolve their respective roles in order to adapt to and reap the benefits of going smart.

3. **Promoting production and supply:** of Smart devices, software, applications and services and infrastructure as well as the adoption of technologies to develop smart cities according to local needs. These are common items with E-government that would enable optimized productivity in the daily life of local citizens.

4. **Encouraging public-private collaboration and partnership**: Enhance cooperation at international, regional, and national level, between organizations, research institutes, academics, local governments, small and medium enterprises, standardization bodies, for disseminating knowledge and best practices on smart cities and E-government. Collaboration, coordination and cooperation are essential to avoid duplication of effort, pool resources and contribute specific competencies to the common good.

5. **Considering how best practices and vital data can be shared, and milestones and objectives can be established**: An open dialogue should be an integral part of a smart city strategy in which different sectors and their respective development plans are connected and harmonized to determine exactly the objectives to be achieved. Municipalities and city multilaterals need a greater voice in global governance institutions to embrace sharing of best practices and developing technical cooperation, an area where organisations such the World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO) can contribute. Establish incremental goals and milestones to build momentum and ensure incremental progress can take place. Encourage to the extent possible successfully implemented pilot projects that will have the potential to be replicated and scalable across different cities including disaster risk management.

6. **Incorporating smart city solutions into public services**: Smart city solutions and applications have the potential to significantly improve the efficiency of public services. Software tools exist today that utilize voice commands to function and which are capable of reviewing and recording thousands of documents in a short period of time while detecting patterns that can help in deriving the optimal solutions to a wide-array of social problems. This is particularly useful in improving the work of public services that have a substantial amount of paperwork with extensive vital information that needs processing.

7. **Monitoring the Key Performance Indicators for Smart Cities:** It is important to be able to measure the performance of various smart sustainable city ventures and progress made. The United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC – a partnership of 18 UN organisations) has developed a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Smart Sustainable Cities which will be used as the basis of a Global Smart Sustainable Cities Index.

8. **Providing cybersecurity**: assurance of cybersecurity should be integrated in the top-level design of smart city plans and projects. ICT reference architecture plays a vital role to ensure the consistency of a smart city master plan.