Concept note:
G-77 Meeting of Experts on ICT and Sustainable Development for South-South Cooperation
1-2 March 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

Background:

The High-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society was held in New York on 15-16 December 2015. At the said meeting, countries reaffirmed their commitment to create a global information society which is inclusive and people-centred, as well as to utilise Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as an essential tool for achieving economic and social development.

The potential of ICT's contribution to sustainable development is reflected in a number of paragraphs of the meeting's outcome document, such as operational paragraph 5 which says;

> *"We recognize that increased connectivity, innovation, and access played a critical role in enabling progress on the Millennium Development Goals, and we call for close alignment between the World Summit on the Information Society process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, **highlighting the cross-cutting contribution of information and communications technology to the Sustainable Development Goals and poverty eradication, and noting that access to information and communication technologies has also become a development indicator and aspiration in and of itself."*;*

or operational paragraph 12 which says;

> *"We commit to harnessing the **potential of information and communications technologies to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and other internationally agreed development goals, noting that **they can accelerate progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.** We accordingly call on all Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders to integrate information and communications technologies into their approaches to implementing the Goals, and request United Nations entities facilitating the World Summit on the Information Society action lines to review their reporting and work plans to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda."*

On 25 September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the milestone document called "Transforming our world; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". The said document consists of 17 goals, also known as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and 169 targets which all countries aim to achieve by 2030.

As Chair of the Group of 77 in 2016, Thailand considers ICT as an important area where the group can build partnerships in South-South cooperation framework to promote collective interests and welfare and to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries. In this regard, Thailand will convene the G-77 Meeting of Experts on ICT and Sustainable Development for South-South Cooperation to provide information, share experiences and best practices, review overlooked opportunity in using ICT for development as well as identify ways and means for promoting the application of ICT to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a view to provide concrete recommendations for further consideration.

Objectives:

- To provide information, share experiences and best practices on application of ICT as a tool for economic and social development.
- To promote ICT knowledge as a catalyst for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Participants:

ICT experts and representatives from G-77 member countries, relevant UN agencies and other agencies such as the Internet Cooperation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

Expected outcome:

A Chair's Summary on how ICT can contribute towards an achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and on potential areas of collaboration will be proposed to G-77 Chairperson for further consideration.

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