

Excellencies

Distinguished Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

Industrial Revolution 4.0 technologies will play a critical role in addressing the development challenges of our nations across the Asia Pacific. Though there is much promise in these emerging technologies, we have to remain vigilant, especially in our region, to ensure equitable development and ensure digital inclusion.

In this regards, we would like report to the Committee on the work we are doing with ESCAP and UN DESA on building capacity of government officials towards policy experimentation and regulatory sandboxes as a key tool for introducing frontier technologies in this region. In this initiative, with Maldives, Bangladesh and Kazakhstan, we in Maldives are working to establish a sandbox for the introduction of Central Bank Digital Currency. To date, a national and international study on CBDCs has been completed and a national workshop on sandboxes for CBDCs has been conducted in the Maldives.

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We see much potential for AI, Robotics and IOTs in the climate change and environmental conservation. We are looking to explore the use of commercially available underwater drones, remote senses, artificial intelligence and emerging rural connectivity options like LEO constellations, to develop a cost effective toolset, which can be used by small island communities to monitor the health of their reefs, keep track of reef fish and underwater ecosystems, which are essential for livelihoods and environmental protection of these island communities.

Thank you.