

[illegible]

A. Background

Globalization and transition to a market economy in the Central Asia have led to significant change of the role of government. The evolving role of newly established private and civil society sectors in decision making and development process shapes a new role of the government that relies less on state intervention and more on market forces brought about by deregulation, decentralization, liberalization and privatization. Resulting from this is intersectoral governance (ISG) that is increasingly encouraging the inter-organizational networks of state and non-state sectors jointly involving in public policy processes in the above mentioned countries.

The purpose of the intersectoral governance arrangements is to mainstream non-state actors; inputs into the formulation, implementation and monitoring of public programs like ICT programmes. In this meeting the major framework for intersectoral governance is analyzed from the viewpoint of two aspects: institutional and technological. While the former reflect generally interaction of three major sectors/actors: state, market and civil society, the latter seek to decompose public policy- and decision-making process into three broad stages, namely (i) exposure of the problem, (ii) working out of the program and (iii) implementation of the program, that the non-state sector is supposed to engage in.

It is necessary to note that the mechanism of ISG for ICT Programme Implementation in these countries is still in the process of formation. The level of development of ISG is predicated by varying quality of many factors including market oriented reforms and exposure to global economy. It is noted that efforts to enhance political, economic and social governance may be strengthened through incorporation and operationalization of the concept of ISG. A number of actions are deemed important to that effect. Among them are reconceptualizing ISG, improvement of the legal and regulatory framework, strengthening and capacity building of CSOs/NGOs, etc.

The meeting's participants will discuss interrelations, roles and functions of government and non-governmental actors (the private sector, NGOs, CSOs, academia, etc.) in process of formulation and implementation of ICT strategies and programmes for development to achieve internationally agreed development goals in conditions of transition to a market economy. Thus, the Meeting will provide a platform for cross-sectoral policy and partnership dialogue on ICT4D issues with engagement and collaboration of all stakeholders representing relevant sectors (governmental and non-governmental) from countries with economies in transition of Central Asia.

B. Objectives of the workshop

The principal objective of the workshop is to provide an opportunity for senior officials to review and exchange experiences in preparation and implementation of national ICT programmes within the framework of national development strategies, to share knowledge on enhancing intersectoral

governance for the above programmes through critical capacities development. The exchange of knowledge, information and experiences will contribute to the enhancement of the capacity of the participants to initiate, promote, and manage government systems to formulate and implant ICT programmes with special focus on capacity development in conditions of transition to market-oriented structures. The meeting will identify some of the elements of capacity building needs in the region and prepare recommendations on capacity building activities to enhance intersectoral governance for ICT policies in Central Asian region.

C. Target Groups

The target groups for the workshop include senior officials responsible for ICT programmes of countries in Central Asia.

D. Outputs and expected accomplishments

In addition to enhancing the knowledge and skills of senior officials, the workshop will produce the following outputs:

- a) Five country reports on capacity building needs in the ICT areas prepared by participants of Kazakhtan, Kyzgystan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan to be presented at the workshop;
- b) A paper focusing on the topic ; Intersectoral Governance for ICT programmes in Central Asian Countries; to be presented during the workshop;
- c) A UNDESA publication on ICT programmes in transition countries