ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was prepared under the overall direction and guidance of Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The report was coordinated by a core team under the direction of Aynul Hasan, Director of the Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division. The core team led by Hamza Ali Malik, included Shuvojit Banerjee, Sudip Ranjan Basu, Steve Loris Gui-Diby, Daniel Jeongdae Lee, Oliver Paddison, Kiatkanid Pongpanich and Vatcharin Sirimaneetham. Others who contributed from the Division were Clovis Freire, Alberto Isgut, Zheng Jian, Syed Nuruzzaman, Naylin Oo, Katinka Weinberger and Marin Yari.

ESCAP staff who contributed substantively include: Muhammad Hussain Malik (former Section Chief) of the Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division; Rae Kwon Chung (Director), Hitomi Rankine, Sean Ratka and Jun Tian of the Environment and Development Division; Shamika N. Sirimanne (Director) of the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division; Nanda Krairiksh (Director), Manuel Mejido, Jacqueline Paul and Vanessa Steinmayer of the Social Development Division; Anisuzzaman Chowdhury (Director) of the Statistics Division; Mia Mikic (Officer-in-Charge), Witada Anukoonwattaka, Adam H. Heal, Soo H. Kim, Rajan S. Ratna of the Trade and Investment Division; Yuwei Li (Director) of the Transport Division; Iosefa Maiava (Director) and Sanjesh Naidu of the ESCAP Pacific Office; Kilaparti Ramakrishna (Director) and Yejin Ha of the ESCAP Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia; Nikolay Pomoshchnikov (Director) of the ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia.

Valuable advice, comments and inputs were received from many staff of the United Nations who include Sukti Dasgupta and Phu Huynh of the International Labour Organization.

The following consultants provided inputs: Teguh Dartanto, Researcher, Institute for Economic and Social Research, Faculty of Economics, University of Indonesia, Jakarta; Sela Epeli, University of the South Pacific, Suva; Bakhodur Eshonov, Director, Center for Economic Research, Tashkent; Mohamad Ikhsan, Professor of Economics, University of Indonesia, Jakarta; Nanak Kakwani, Professor, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia; Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka, Colombo; Li Shi, Professor, Beijing Normal University, Beijing; Anawaite Matadradra, University of the South Pacific, Suva; Mustafa K. Mujeri, Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Dhaka; Vijay Naidu, Head, School of Government, Development and International Affairs, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of the South Pacific, Suva; Bishwambher Pyakuryal, Professor, Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu; Mahendra Dev Suryadevara, Director (Vice Chancellor), Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, India; and Vo Tri Thanh, Vice President, Central Institute for Economic Management, Hanoi.

The report benefited from extensive comments and suggestions from an eminent group of policymakers, scholars and development practitioners, acting as external peer reviewers, namely: Sergey Afontsev, Department Director, Institute for World Economy and International Relations, Russian Federation; Mohamed Ariff, Professor, INCEIF University, Malaysia; Swati Banerjee, Chair and Associate Professor, Centre for Livelihoods and Social Innovation, School of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India; Leonor Magtolis Briones, Lead Convener, Social Watch, Philippines; Togtokh Chuluun, Science Advisor, Ministry of Environment and Green Development, Mongolia; Virginia Dandan, United Nations Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity, Philippines; Rosemarie G. Edillon, Assistant Director-General, National Economic and Development Authority, Philippines; Eric Kemp-Benedict, Centre Director, Asia, Stockholm Environment Institute, Thailand; Eetu Kuneinen, Co-founder, 3D Printing Industry, Thailand; Ikuo Kuroiwa, Executive Senior Research Fellow, Bangkok Research Centre, Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), Thailand; Khotulyov Yevgeniy Leonidovich,

Director, Macroeconomic Policy Department, Office of the Eurasian Economic Commission, Russian Federation: Li Xuesong, Deputy Director, Institute of Quantitative and Technical Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China; Mark McGillivray, Research Professor of International Development, Alfred Deakin Research Institute, Deakin University, Australia; Nyingtob Pema Norbu, Economist, Macroeconomic Division, Gross National Happiness Commission, Bhutan; Lkhamsurengyn Nyamtseren, Board Member, Mongolian Development Institute, Mongolia: Simon Olsen, Senior Researcher, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Thailand; Benjamin Pereira, Assistant Governor, Central Bank of Samoa, Samoa; Jose A. Puppim de Oliveira, United Nations University (UNU-IAS), Japan; Celia M. Reyes, Senior Research Fellow, Philippine Institute for Development Studies, Philippines; Osborne Ogis Sanida, Senior Research Fellow and Program Leader, Economic Policy Research Program, National Research Institute, Papua New Guinea; Amphaphone Sayasenh, Researcher, International Economic Research Division, National Economic Research Institute, Lao People's Democratic Republic; Kris Schneider (Liu Min), Cofounder and Member of Advisory Board, ISA Industrial Ltd., (Holding), Austria; Anushree Sinha, Senior Fellow, National Council for Applied Economic Research, India: Abid Qaivum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan; Sun-Jin Yun, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Seoul National University, Republic of Korea; Larissa Zelenina, Macroeconomic Policy Department, Office of the Eurasian Economic Commission, Russian Federation; and Uchita de Zoysa, Chairman, Global Sustainability Solutions, Sri Lanka.

Achara Jantarasaengaram, Chawarin Klongdee and Pannipa Jangvithaya of the Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division, ESCAP, provided research assistance.

The manuscript was edited by Robert Ruz and John Loftus, Editorial Unit of ESCAP. The graphic design was created by Natthakhom Jira, Taned Khongsathitsathaphorn and Wissuda Jittrailert, and the layout and printing were provided by Advanced Printing Service Co., Ltd.

Sutinee Yeamkitpibul, supported by Anong Pattanathanes and Nopharat Rojanasupsakul of the Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division, proofread the manuscript and undertook all administrative processing necessary for the issuance and launch of the publication.

Katie Elles, Francesca Ross and Chavalit Boonthanom of the ESCAP Strategic Communications and Advocacy Section coordinated the launch and dissemination of the report.