

Regional Expert Consultation on Scoping the SDG Help Desk

Venue: United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Meeting Room H, Bangkok, Thailand

Date: 16-17 October 2017

Time: 09:00 – 17:00

Background

ESCAP has been tasked to establish a Sustainable Development Goals Help Desk (SDG Help Desk) to support policy makers from member States in the Asia-Pacific region with tools, methodologies and opportunities for sharing best practices on developing effective strategies, policies and institutional mechanisms for implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the SDGs. The SDG Help Desk is designed to serve as the primary modality for coordinating ESCAP's support to member States in specific priority areas such as integration of the SDGs in national planning, stakeholder engagement, effective follow-up and review, and building partnerships for SDG implementation.

Scope of the Regional Consultation

The objective of the Regional Consultation is to define needs of member states for knowledge products related to implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and to build a shared understanding on how best to address these needs through the SDG Help Desk and related knowledge products. ESCAP and member States will define the range and scope of knowledge products, courses and tools to be developed and identify opportunities for on-line and on-site training, peer-learning and partnership. For one and a half days participants of the Regional Expert Consultation will:

- be provided with an overview of existing tools and knowledge platforms of the United Nations system, including ESCAP knowledge, capacity building and e-learning resources;
- become acquainted with on-line knowledge hubs and repositories;
- learn about tools that assist with searching and information retrieval, and collaborative writing;
- identify opportunities to join regional communities of practice and networks for peer-to-peer learning;
- discuss the importance and opportunities of developing multi-stakeholder partnerships for SDG implementation;
- further assessing needs and challenges in SDG implementation and sharing good practice examples of multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Targeted participants

While the knowledge products and the service lines of the SDG Help Desk will be available for all member States in the Asia-Pacific region (and beyond), the primary target group will be the ESCAP SDG Focal Points and the regional VNR Focal Points. In several circumstances member States have reported insufficient knowledge of tools and methodologies for integrated implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, along lack of access to methodologies and tools for evidence based policy

making. For this reason, the Regional Consultation will engage primarily the SDG and VNR focal points, responsible for the overall coordination of the information flow on SDGs and follow-up and review activities in their respective countries, as well as representatives of the civil society, think-tanks and international organizations.

Additional information

Your participation in the Regional Expert Consultation will provide important feedback and guidance to the ESCAP SDG Help Desk development team and is crucial to improving our support services to best match member State needs.

In preparation for the Regional Expert Consultation all participants are encouraged to their invaluable inputs to the following online surveys:

- **The SDG Help Desk Needs Assessment** to be accessed through the following link: <http://www.surveymoz.com/s3/3757496/SDG-Help-Desk-Needs-Assessment>; and
- **The Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships Needs Assessment** using the following link: <https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/2mBUqz>

The information provided through these two surveys will assist us in preparing the sessions of the Regional Consultation and will guide the development of important knowledge products, including Guidelines for SDG Partnerships. We therefore greatly value your views and inputs by 6 October 2017.

Contacts

For further information on the SDG Help Desk and the Regional Consultation, please contact us at: escap-sdghelpdesk@un.org.