

ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2018

“Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in Asia and the Pacific”

28-30 March 2018 | UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE CENTRE . BANGKOK, THAILAND

Background

ESCAP resolution 72/6 ‘Committing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific’ requests the Executive Secretary to “strengthen support to member States in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda in an integrated approach, inter alia, with analytical products, technical services and capacity-building initiatives through knowledge-sharing products and platforms, and to enhance data and statistical capacities”; to “promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and provide annual updates and recommendations to member States, including through the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development”; and to “continue to provide capacity-building opportunities to member States, leveraging existing expertise and its intergovernmental forum to contribute to the strengthening of their capacity, including through support for mainstreaming financing for development issues in areas such as domestic resource mobilization, as well as through support for their efforts in developing integrated approaches, models and tools in enhancing their regional cooperation on the Sustainable Development Goals with a special emphasis on the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States”.

In addition, Member States, in the fourth session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) adopted “The form and function of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development” E/ESCAP/FSD (4)/INF/7 which specifies that the APFSD “is an annual, inclusive intergovernmental forum. It supports preparations for the High-level Political Forum for sustainable development in the context of both the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly”.

“The form and function of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development” E/ESCAP/FSD (4)/INF/7 adds that the APFSD “may consider sub regional perspectives on the themes addressed by the Forum. Preparatory meetings of stakeholders may be convened, within existing resources”.

In response to this, ESCAP has held a series of 5 preparatory meetings for the 5th Session of the APFSD in ESCAP sub-regions. During the 2 days meetings, the Environment and Development Division (EDD) of ESCAP, in cooperation with the East and North East Asia (ENEA) sub regional office, the South and South West Asia (SSWA) sub regional office, the North and Central Asia (SONCA) sub regional office and the Pacific (EPO) sub regional office, has facilitated dialogue among experts, public servants, researchers and other stakeholders on the theme of the 5th APFSD “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”.

These preparatory meetings were a unique opportunity to bring together stakeholders from government, academia, the international community, civil society and the private sector: (1) for knowledge sharing and awareness raising on the key challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; (2) the opportunity to complement the sub-regional agenda and provide sub regional inputs and perspectives for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for the Road Map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (3) the opportunity to provide reflections and sub-regional inputs on the theme of the 2018 APFSD and HLPF Transformation towards

sustainable and resilient societies (4) the opportunity to pilot innovative approaches and trainings to stakeholders engagement and follow up and review.

The sub-regional preparatory meetings involved civil society (including through the APRCEM and sub regional focal points) and the wider UN system.

Meeting Objectives

The main objective of the sub regional preparatory meetings was to ensure that sub regional perspectives regarding ESCAPS's work on supporting the follow up and review of the 2030 agenda in the Asia-Pacific are well reflected in all analytical and normative work of the Secretariat. To achieve this the sub regional preparatory meeting aimed to:

1. Enhance awareness and understanding of the key challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in North-East Asia through sharing of experiences and knowledge.
2. Discuss how the Regional Roadmap for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific can support national and subregional efforts¹
3. Provide reflections on theme of the HLPF and the APFSD for 2018 ²
4. Discuss multilateral and multistakeholder cooperation for strengthening subregional follow up and review, including on the cluster of goals for in-depth review in 2018.

Moreover, the sub-regional meeting provided an opportunity:

- To pilot an innovative approach and training to stakeholder engagement;
- To organize back to back opportunities for bilateral country support in preparation of the VNR

List of Meetings

- **North and Central Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**
Almaty, 27-28 September 2017
- **North-East Asian Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**
Beijing, 10-11 October 2017
- **South-East Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**
Bangkok, 18-19 October 2017
- **South and South-West Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**
Kathmandu, 1 - 2 November 2017
- **Pacific Workshop on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**
Apia, 1 – 2 November 2017

¹ The Roadmap identifies opportunities for regional cooperation on identified Means of Implementation, and thematic issues. The means of implementation include (a) Data and statistics, (b) Technology, (c) Finance, (d) Policy coherence, and (e) North-South, South-South, international and regional partnerships. The identified thematic issues are (a) Leaving no one behind, (b) Disaster risk reduction and resilience, (c) Climate change, (d) Management of natural resources, (e) Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda, and (f) Energy.

² ESCAP, ADB and UNDP, under an SDG partnership with, jointly prepare a regional report to support regional and global dialogue on the theme of the APFSD.

Main messages

The main messages of the sub-regional preparatory meetings can be extrapolated, in particular, by the discussions around the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the VNR preparations and by the discussions around the theme of the APFSD

I. SDG status in Asia and the Pacific

The Asia-Pacific region has made significant progress in one third of the Goal areas. In respect to Goal 1 (No poverty), between the periods 2000–2004 and 2010–2013, the proportion of the population living in poverty decreased from 29.7 to 10.3 per cent. For Goal 4 (Quality education), in 2014 primary net enrolment was more than 90 per cent, with the fastest observable progress in South and South-West Asia, where between 1999 and 2000 primary net enrolment increased from 75 to 90 per cent. As regards Goal 8 (Decent work and economic growth), Asia and the Pacific has outpaced the world as a whole in terms of economic productivity. In respect to Goal 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), between 2000 and 2015, manufacturing as a proportion of value added grew by 30 per cent in the Asia-Pacific region, compared with only 10 per cent for the world as a whole. For Goal 14 (Life below water), between 2000 and 2016, on average across the region the proportion of the total territorial waters under protection increased from approximately 8 to 31 per cent at the country level.

Progress has been slow or even stagnant since 2000 with respect to Goal 2 (Zero hunger), as reflected by the fact that, in 2015, of the world's 795 million undernourished people, nearly 500 million lived in the Asia-Pacific region. Regarding Goal 3 (Good health and well-being), in 2015, 86,000 women in the region died from pregnancy- and birth-related causes (28 per cent of the global total). As regards Goal 5 (Gender equality), in 2015, only approximately 18 per cent of seats in national parliaments in Asia-Pacific countries were held by women. Data on Goal 6 (Clean water and sanitation) are a worrying cause of concern as, for example, 59 per cent of people in South and South-West Asia are still exposed to poor sanitation. Assessment of progress on Goal 7 (Affordable and clean energy) shows that over 400 million people in the Asia-Pacific region still have no access to electricity. In respect to Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), between 2003 and 2014, the prison population in Asia and the Pacific grew from 3.2 million to 3.4 million.

For several Goals, the scenario has worsened over the past 15 years. This is true especially for the Goals that were not addressed by the Millennium Development Goals. Stronger efforts need to be pursued with respect to Sustainable Development Goal 10 (Reduced inequalities). Inequality has increased in seven countries, affecting 2.75 billion people, and decreased in 14 countries, affecting 1 billion people. Regarding Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), over the period 2008–2013, of the 24 Asia-Pacific countries that had data on the concentration of dangerous fine particulate matter, of 2.5 micrometres in diameter or less, only Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Maldives and New Zealand were under the level of 10 micrograms per cubic metre of air that is recommended by the World Health Organization. Data relating to Goal 12 (Responsible consumption and production) indicate unsustainability of current practices: between 2005 and 2015, the total material footprint more than doubled, from 27 billion to 46 billion tons. In respect to Goal 15 (Life on land), between 2000 to 2016, 48 out of 57 Asia-Pacific countries experienced a loss in biodiversity.

II. Sub regional perspectives on the theme of the APFSD

The theme of the 2018 APFSD is “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”. The Forum is meant to discuss resilience in the context of the 2030 Agenda as the ability of human systems

to withstand and recover from plausible hazards. Such hazards can include a wide spectrum of impacts of natural, economic and human-made crises, from droughts that endanger food security to financial instability and demographic shifts that amplify poverty. The region has several successful examples of demonstrating or strengthening resilience to risks related to economic, social and environmental dimensions that provide scope for mutual learning and exchanging of lessons within the region around the theme of resilience.

After studying the systemic role of resilience, and before giving recommendations we present the results of a qualitative consultation that was facilitated by ESCAP at the sub regional level to understand better how governments and other stakeholders are anticipating and dealing with risks. These findings are combined with the results of the analytical work to give specific recommendations.

Between 26 September 2017 and 2 November 2017, ESCAP facilitated multi-stakeholder sub-regional consultations in all 5 sub-regions on emerging risks faced, and how governments and other stakeholders are anticipating and dealing with risks. Over 250 participants representing the government, civil society, academia, business sectors and development agents attended the consultations.

Interesting dynamics and interactions emerged. The drivers that were selected by stakeholders for discussion and the exact nature of risk that were identified, though differed across sub-regions, carry many commonalities. This suggests that there is great scope for mutual learning within the region for promoting resilience. Secondly, irrespective of the megatrends chosen, stakeholders highlighted the inter-linked and reinforcing nature of the risks posed by various megatrends on these critical human systems.

A. Sub-regional drivers

North and Central Asia

During the consultation in North and Central Asia³, participants highlighted how the rural-urban transition megatrend has a remarkable impact on infrastructure and economic systems. The migration of young people to the major cities of the sub-region poses a heavy pressure on local housing and other infrastructures. Young people face unemployment or precarious or informal work conditions and cannot fully contribute to the cities' economies through taxation, which has a supplementary impact on the economic system. The rural-urban transition also creates heavy stress in rural areas, where declines in the agricultural sector's labour force negatively affects the development of agricultural and food value-chains across the sub-region.

Participants highlighted another risk emanating from the megatrend of rural-urban transitions. Young generations unable to secure decent jobs and assistance from social protection programmes can create social unrest or decide to join out-of-region conflicts. Unequal opportunities and marginalization were identified as key factors for the radicalization of young people in Central Asia. The issue of the participation of Central Asian combatants in war-affected areas, as well as their prospected repatriation creates huge risks to peace and security in those countries.

Economic integration is another mega-trend that can lead to particular risks. The strong economic interlinkages of countries North and Central Asia with Russia imply that when Russia suffers from economic sanctions, this has direct repercussions on other countries in the region due to supply chains dynamics.

³ "North and Central Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals" 27-28 September 2017, Almaty, Kazakhstan

North-East Asia

In North-East Asia⁴, megatrends such as demographic change, climate change, rural-urban transition and technology emerged as being at the center of the policy debate. Demographic change, especially aging and de-population, are causing an increasing strain to the sub-region's social systems (i.e. health care, social security) as many societies lack resources to take care and provide for the elderly. Rapid aging puts the financial system at risk through the secondary impact of pension systems. The viability of the pension systems in some countries of the sub-region is under question as the ratio of pensioners to working age population is fast declining.

Another megatrend identified was climate change and especially its role in accelerating desertification. The impact of climate change on various systems, especially on provisioning systems, is strongly visible in North-East Asia.

In addition to these megatrends, air pollution, discontent against globalization, increasing inequality and changing gender dynamics have strong implications across the socio-economic and environmental systems of the sub-region as less people benefit from economic progress and families bear the consequences of pollution and unequal distribution of wealth.

South-East Asia

In South-East Asia⁵, the consultation highlighted that demographic change, in terms of aging and increase in population is strictly connected to accelerating rural-urban transition, and that both impact financial, provisioning and social systems through the pressure on the job market and on housing posed by migrants and inefficient pension systems. Other megatrends impacting the sub-region are the increasing demand for resources and climate change with the latter main cause of the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, which creates vulnerabilities for economic systems. One example is the impact of the September 2011 flooding in the Mekong delta on the agricultural sector and socio-economic conditions of rural communities in Laos and Cambodia.

Increasing pollution, fuelled by the rapid increase in use of natural resources, is another threat in the sub-region. Mounting plastic wastes and recurrent episodes of cross-boundary haze from forest fires were of high concern. Haze and pollution pose risks to the economic system, causing economic damages and reduce economic productivity and affect the provisioning system; they also have negative health impacts.

Pacific

In the Pacific sub-region⁶ several megatrends were identified, as posing risks to the socio-economic and environmental systems: climate change, demographic changes, rural-urban transition, increasing demand for resources, technology change, regional economic cooperation and integration. The impact of climate change and natural disaster on various systems, especially on provisioning systems, is of high concern to the sub-region. Simultaneously, the lack of clear municipal plans to face urbanization is posing great stress on the sustainability of critical provisioning systems in the urban areas including the political, cultural and infrastructural systems. Demographic changes, especially

⁴ North-East Asian Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development Goals 10-11 October 2017, Beijing, China

⁵ "South-East Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, 18-19 October 2017, Bangkok, Thailand

⁶ Regional Meeting of Pacific SDG Coordinators and Agencies on Implementation of the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development, 1–2 November 2017, Apia, Samoa

aging and de-population, are causing increasing risks to social systems (health care system, social security systems) and the financial system (pension systems).

Regional economic cooperation and integration has led to increased availability of cheaper and unhealthy food options resulting in changes to dietary patterns and an alarming rise of non-communicable diseases in the region, with diabetes and obesity rates among the highest in the world⁷. This has posed a great burden on the health system, affected economic systems due to reduced human productivity and household financial stability and overall well-being of the population. An additional result of increasing cross-cultural flows is a threat to the Pacific culture, which defines the 'Pacific Identity'.

South and South-West Asia

Rural-urban transitions, demographic change, economic integration and increasing demand for resources affect South and South-West Asia⁸ in critical ways. The rural-urban transition in South and South West Asia affects basic provisioning systems (with new and increasing demand for public services usually not being met in urban areas), is having negative effects on the environment and on the society with the increase of poverty levels (this is usually referred to as "invisible poverty". Also, demographic changes are having an important effect on the financial and social systems in the sub region. Demographic groups such as youth and the elderly are increasingly excluded by the job market and vulnerable to economic shocks and put extra strains on the financial system in terms of public expenditure as not actively contributing to tax collection.

The impacts of climate change on food and social systems have the potential of destabilizing fragile subsistence conditions of many individuals, yet the situation of marginalized communities is not always considered by governments in planning phases or when responding to extreme climatic events or other disasters. Regional economic cooperation and integration as well as technological changes are perceived to cause both negative and positive impacts; technological change has positive effects on provisioning systems such as food and energy, but can also disrupt labour markets and cause job loss due to mechanization and digitalization of production. The sub-regional consultation sent a strong message that all these megatrends have a potent impact on social systems and the basic fabrics of society. In addition, participants emphasized that especially where different forms of inequalities intersect, they create disproportionate effects on vulnerable populations.

B. Vulnerabilities exist in all-sub regions

Within each sub-region, there are stark differences in the level of impact on the population. Drivers interweave with pre-existing social vulnerabilities in some countries (i.e. caste-based discrimination in South Asia), remoteness of rural communities or coastal communities (i.e. the displacement of many fishermen, and the reallocation of lands for tourism purposes, in South-East Asia after the 2005 tsunami).

Mostly affected groups by the negative impacts of the drivers include youth, elderly, indigenous population, urban migrant, unskilled workers, persons with disabilities, women, children, LGBT communities.

Across all five sub-regions, urban informal sector migrants, especially those living in slums, are heavily impacted at the economic, social and environmental level. Although the proportion of the overall population that resides in urban slums in Asia and the Pacific is smaller than it was two decades ago,

⁷ <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/88/7/10-010710/en/>

⁸ South and South-West Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, 1-2 November 2017, Kathmandu, Nepal

the absolute number continues to rise⁹. Slum dwellers are more exposed to vagaries of climate change as informal settlements tend to be in neighbourhoods more vulnerable to extreme weather events. Almost half a billion urban residents in Asia and the Pacific live in coastal areas, increasing vulnerability to storm surges and sea-level rises. It is estimated that up to 77 million urban residents in Asia and the Pacific could potentially fall back into poverty because of climate change impacts¹⁰.

Women are also vulnerable across all five sub-regions, to the impacts of demographic change and rising inequalities. In several societies, women are expected by existing social norms to be care-givers of households and, with increased aging, working-age women have to bear additional responsibility of taking care of the elderly. This reduces opportunities to engage in formal employment. Evidence shows that women in Asia are on average 70% less likely than men to be in the labor force, with the country-to-country percentage varying anywhere from 3% to 80%¹¹. Evidence also shows that in every sub-region, women are more likely than men to be in vulnerable employment. In South Asia, for instance, 81 per cent of women are in vulnerable employment.¹²

The young and elderly are other population groups at high risk across the entire region. Although youth unemployment rates in Asia and the Pacific are amongst the lowest in the world, young people in the labour force are 3.8 times more likely to be unemployed than their adult counterparts.¹³ Unskilled youth is finding it extremely difficult to obtain gainful employment and to meaningfully contribute to the society in an increasingly competitive job market, risking marginalization and exclusion as they age. Poverty rates among older people tend to be higher than in other age groups.¹⁴

Because of intersections and overlaps, some vulnerable groups are most exposed to complex risks. For example, an elderly woman who is also an unskilled urban migrant would be particularly vulnerable to challenges created by megatrends such as climate change, pollution and technological changes. It is therefore important to strengthen the resilience of communities and groups of people that face increasing complex risk profiles.

C. Examples of resilience capacities required

The sub-regional consultations emphasized that traditional knowledge, education and knowhow can be a source of building adaptive and absorptive capacities. Building adaptive capacities, for instance, includes diversification of crops and livestock to adapt to the effects of climate change, faster adaptation and scaling up of new technologies to fight pollution.

Examples of anticipatory capacities that have been established to address natural and other types of disasters, include vulnerability assessments, early warning systems, “exclusion mapping” and inclusion monitoring tools, assessment of earthquake damages, creation of specialized task forces, disaster risk reduction preparedness and response plans and sub-regional cooperation across countries to support the most marginalized communities. Successful examples include an early warning system established by Pacific countries to anticipate risks posed by climate change, the creation of strong interdisciplinary research networks and establishment of data sets crucial to strengthening planning capacities of countries.

⁹ ESCAP, ADB, UNDP, *Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing Asia-Pacific*. 2017: Bangkok.

¹⁰ World Bank (2016). *Urban development*. Available from worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/overview#1

¹¹ ADB, *Women in the workforce: An unmet potential in Asia and the Pacific* (Manila 2015), Available from www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/158480/women-workforce-unmet-potential.pdf

¹² ESCAP, ADB, UNDP, *Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing Asia-Pacific*. 2017: Bangkok: United Nations.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

The consultation in North and Central Asia emphasized the need to build anticipatory capacity because of the high dependency of these economies on oil. The anticipatory capacities required included a focus on innovation, development of renewable sources of energy and economic diversification. Policy examples to cope with financial shock included building forex reserve stocks, and capital controls.

Different actions were identified during the various consultations to build transformative capacities. These included, in North-East Asia, promotion of lifestyle changes at the individual level, and institutional reforms including strengthening of education systems to be able to more effectively harness technologies and development of new forms of insurance systems suitable to meet the changing nature of risks. Building transformative capacities was recognized as strategic in dealing with demographic changes. Even though Japan recognized its 'aging phenomenon' as early as the 1970s, the society lacked transformation capacities to induce systemic changes that could adequately address the challenges of aging. In the Pacific, facilitating behavioural change through promotion and advertising campaigns was identified as key in building transformative capacities to deal with non-communicable disease. The South-East Asia consultation highlighted opportunities through the development of national vision documents for economic transformation, new systems and mechanisms to deal with climate change, awareness campaigns, improved cross-border collaboration between countries to control issues such as haze.

A key message emerging from all sub-regional consultations was that to limit the negative impacts of complex risks, and to mitigate these risks, multi-sectoral coordination and fundamental transformations are required in different human systems. This requires the building full continuum of resilience capacities, with an emphasis on transformation capacity.

Annex I

“Sub regional preparatory meeting for the 5th Session of the APFSD”

North and Central Asia

Almaty, Kazakhstan

Wednesday, 27 September 2017	
08.00-09.00	Registration
09.00-09.20	Opening Session Welcome Remarks , Mr. Hirohito Toda, Head, ESCAP Sub regional Office for North and Central Asia Opening Remarks , Mr. Norimasa Shimomura, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan
09.20-10.20	Session1: Global to regional and sub regional context of follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda The session’s aim is to enhance awareness and understanding of the key challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region by sharing the results of regional and sub-regional level discussions. The Session will provide inputs to discussions on the road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.
09.20-09.35	Global to regional and sub-regional context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs: a road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific , Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, Sustainable Development Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
09.35-09.50	Implementation of the SDGs at the sub regional level: the EAEU focus , Ms. Larissa Plachinda, Deputy Head of Coordination Section, Macroeconomic Policy Department, Eurasian Economic Commission
09.50-10.05	Asian Development Bank support to implementing SDGs , Mr. Giovanni Capannelli, Country Director, Kazakhstan Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank
10.05-10.20	Q&A
10.20-10.40	Coffee break
10.40-12.00	Session2: National progress, achievements and challenges with respect to the 2030 Agenda The session will help reflect on how the regional and sub-regional processes can support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level. To strengthen the capacity of countries in the sub region considering making presentations at the HLPF 2018, the session will feature presentations from countries who have recently participated in the Voluntary National Reviews at the HLPF.

10:40-10:50	Voluntary National Reviews and main messages from the 2017 reporting countries from Asia and the Pacific , Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, Sustainable Development Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
10:50-12:00	Voluntary National Reviews Roundtable Moderator: Mr. Evgeny German, Associate Professor, Department of World Economy, Plekhanov Russian University of Economics Panellists: Mr. Mikheil Patashuri, Counsellor, Division of Multilateral and Regional Economic Cooperation, Dept. of International Economic Relations, MFA, Georgia Mr. Huseyn Huseynov, Head of Secretariat, National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development of Azerbaijan Ms. Nilufar Nazirova, Head of International Relations, Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan Mr. Arman Hovhannisyan, Head, UN desk, International Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Armenia Ms. Bakhyt Yessekina, Founder, Green Academy of Kazakhstan Q&A
12:00-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-15:00	Country presentations National experiences Mr. Andrei Moskvina, Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation Ms. Altynay Dyussekkova, Advisor to the Mayor of Almaty City, Kazakhstan Ms. Tsendlkhagva Bat-Ulzii, Officer in charge of Social Development and Welfare, Policy and Planning Department, Mongolia Mr. Azizkhon Khankhodjaev, Senior Fellow, Regional Center for Development Studies, Uzbekistan
15:00-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-16:00	Session 3: Monitoring and measuring progress: Statistical data for Follow up and review
15:30-15:45	SDG indicators and data , Statistics Division, ESCAP
15:45-16:15	Discussion
16:15-16:30	SDGs Help Desk services for follow up and review , Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, Sustainable Development Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
18:00-20:00	Reception Dinner
Thursday, 28 September 2017	

09:00-12:30	<p>Session 4: North and Central Asian Perspectives on the 2018 HLPF theme</p> <p>The session's aim is to gather inputs to the 2018 ESCAP-ADB-UNDP thematic report and the ESCAP Commission Theme Study in the form of priorities, good practices and initiatives (sub regional thematic profiles)</p>
09:00-10:00	<p>Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Larissa Plachinda, Deputy Head of Coordination Section, Macroeconomic Policy Department, Eurasian Economic Commission</p> <p>Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies – framing sub regional perspectives and responses, Ms. Hitomi Rankine, Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division; Ms. Therese Bjork, Social Development Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Panellists</p> <p>Dr. Nailya Nurlanova, Deputy Director, Professor, Institute of Economics, Ministry of Education and Science, Kazakhstan</p> <p>Dr. Maigul Nugmanova, Head Head of International Office, Kazakh Ablai Khan University of International Relations and World Languages</p>
10:00-10:45	<p>Working groups</p> <p><i>Part 1 – Exploring risk and the development context</i></p>
10:45-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:45	<p>Working groups</p> <p><i>Part 2 – Identifying responses to promote resilience</i></p> <p>a. Social protection and resilience Sub regional cooperation for resilience</p>
12:45-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-16:00	<p>Session 5: North and Central Asian Perspectives on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration</p> <p>The session will aim to provide participants with an overview of the process of developing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and how North and Central Asian countries can participate in this process in line with their priorities, and stimulate a discussion to develop a list of key issues and priorities for North and Central Asia which can be presented to the ESCAP regional preparatory meeting for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.</p>
14:30-14:45	Setting the scene, Mr. Paul Tacon, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ESCAP
14:45-16:00	Discussion
16:00-16:30	Coffee break

16:30-17:00	Session 6: Wrap up: Strengthening cooperation in North and Central Asia towards achieving the 2030 Agenda
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List of participants

ARMENIA

Mr. Arman Hovhannisyan, Head, UN desk, International Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government House #2, Vazgen Sargsyan 3, Yerevan 0010, Republic of Armenia [Tel: +374(0)60 620 503; Email: ar.hovhannisyan@mfa.am]

Ms. Lilya Afrikyan, Coordinator of the Inter-Agency Task Force of the SDG's, Foreign Relation Department, Yerevan, Armenia [Email: ilia.afrikyan@gov.am]

AZERBAIJAN

Mr. Huseyn Huseynov, Head of Department for Sustainable Development, Secretary of National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 84, U. Hajibekov Street, Baku (Government House), Azerbaijan [Tel: (+99412) 310 28 00 (ext. 2048); Fax: (+99412) 492 58 95; Email: huseyn.huseynov@economy.gov.az]

Mr. Guliyev Eldaniz Anar, Deputy Chief of the State Labour Inspection Service under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, Salatin Asgarova Str., 85, Baku, AZ 1009, Azerbaijan [Tel: +99412 594 19 54; Fax: +99412 541 98 01; Email: farid.garayev@mlspp.gov.az]

Mr. Emin Mammadov, Chief, Division of UN and Global Economic Organizations, Department of Economic Cooperation and Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Shikhali Gurbanov 50, AZ1009, Baku, Azerbaijan [Tel: +99412 596 90 76; Fax: +99412 492 68 25; Email: e_mammadov@mfa.gov.az, mamedemin@hotmail.com]

Mr. Kamran Nizami Abbasov, Senior Labour Inspector/ Senior Consultant, Department of Contral Over Electronic Labour Contract of the State Labour Inspection Service, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, Salatin Asgarova street 50, AZ1009, Baku, Azerbaijan [Tel: +99450 495 72 52; Fax: +99412 541 98 01; Email: farid.garayev@mlspp.gov.az]

GEORGIA

Ms. Ketik Chokuri, Chief Specialist of Sustainable Development and EU Integration Poilcy Division, Ministry of Environment and natural Resources Protection, 6 G. Gulua Street, 0114, Tbilisi, Georgia [Tel: (+995 32) 2 72 72 43; Fax: (+995 32) 2 72 72 23; Email: k.chokuri@moe.gov.ge; ketichokuri@gmail.com]

Mr. Mikheil Patashuri, Counselor, Division of Multilateral and Regional Economic Cooperation, Department of International Economic Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 4 Shio Chitadze Street, Tbilisi, 0118, Georgia [Tel: (+995 32) 294 50 00 ext. 1908; Fax: (+995 32) 294 50 01; Email: mpatashuri@mfa.gov.ge]

KAZAKHSTAN

Ms. Zhanna Gazizulina, Third Secretary, Department of Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Astana, Kazakhstan [Tel: +77172720046; Email: zh.gazizulina@net-c.com]

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. Andrei Moskvina, Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Smolenskaya-Sennaya Sq., 32-34, Moscow 119200, Russian Federation [Tel: 8-499-244-3064; Fax: 8-499-244-2401; Email: amoskvina@mid.ru; sayf-84@mail.ru]

Ms. Tatiana Alexseevna Zvereva, Leading Expert, Ministry of Economic Development, 18/1 Ovchinnikovskaya nab., Moscow 115324, Russian Federation [Tel: +7 495 651 76 23; Fax: +7 495 651 7691; Email: ZverevaTA@economy.gov.ru]

TAJIKISTAN

Ms. Nilufar Nazirova, International Relation Department, Committee for Environmental Protection under Government Republic of Tajikistan, 5/1 Shamsi Str., Dushanbe, Tajikistan [Tel: +992-37-2362571 or +992938887004; Fax: +992-37-2362571; Email: nilufar-nazirova@mail.ru]

Mr. Yusufzoda Fakhriddin, Head of Social Protection Department, Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population (MoHSPP), Dushanbe, Tajikistan [Email: shamsulloev.m@mail.ru]

INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS AND ACADEMIA

Mr. Rafis Abazov, Executive Director of Model UN New Silk Way Program and United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) program, Visiting professor at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, 71, al-Farabi Avenue, 050038 Almaty, Kazakhstan [Tel: +7 727 377 35 59; Mobile: +7 702 148 86 99; E-mail: ra2044@columbia.edu]

Mr. Norimasa Shimomura, UN Resident Coordinator / UNDP Resident Representative in Kazakhstan, 14, Mambetov str., Astana, 010000, Kazakhstan [Tel: Tel.: 7 7172 696 550; Fax: 7 7172 696 540; Email: norimasa.shimomura@one.un.org]

Ms. Tsendlkhagva Bat-Ulzii, Policy and Planning Department, Governor's Office of the Capital City Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia [Tel: +976-11-320975; Mobile: +976-88043312; Email: azumaa11011@gmail.com]

Mr. Çinar Mehmet Aldemir, Retire Ambassador; Consultant, Center for Eurasian Studies, Suleyman Nazif Sok. 12/B No. 3, Guzeltepe, Çankaya, Ankara, Turkey [Tel: +90 312 480 50 23; Fax: +90 312 438 50 26; Email: honalp@avim.org.tr; cinaldemir@gmail.com]

Mr. Evgeny Ivanovich German, Associate Professor of the Department of World Economy, Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, Stremyanny Lane 36, Moscow 117997, Russian Federation [Tel: +7 (499) 237-85-17, +7 (495) 958-26-20; Email: gberman.eugene@mail.ru]

Dr. Khojamahmad Umarov, Professor, Faculty of Financial-Economic, Tajik National University, 20 Ainy street, Dushanbe, Tajikistan [Tel: +992 372 227 9203; Email: umarov2000@mail.ru]

Ms. Larissa Plachinda, Deputy Head of Coordination Section, Macroeconomic Policy Department, Eurasian Economic Commission, 2, Letnikovskaya Str., Bldg. 2, Moscow 115114, Russian Federation [Tel: +7(495) 6692400, ext. 4655; Email: plachinda@eecommission.org]

Dr. Artak Poghosyan, CFO and Projects Management Team Leader, World Bank: TPQI & LEIDP Projects Coordinator, World Bank: LEIDP Project Grant Manager, Development Foundation of Armenia, 5 Mher Mkrtchyan Str, 0010 Yerevan, Armenia [Tel: +374 (11) 597 707; Mobile: +374(91)478378; E-mail: a.poghosyan@dfa.am]

Mr. Azizkhon Khankhodjaev, Senior Fellow, Regional Center for Development Studies, 12-73 Center-4, Tashkent, Uzbekistan 100017 [Tel: +99871 2337215; Fax: +99871 2334778 Email: Azizkhan.khankhodjaev@gmail.com]

Ms. Natalia Brekashvili, Academic Lecturer, Caucasus School of Business, Caucasus University, 10 Politkovskaya Str., Tbilisi 0186, Georgia [Tel: +995 (32) 237 77 77 ext. 121; Fax: +995 (32) 231 32 26; Email: Natalia.breka@gmail.com]

Mr. Jalil Buzrukov, Director, Tajikistan Branch of Scientific Information Center of Interstate Commission of Sustainable Development International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, Aini str. 14, Dushanbe 734025 Republic of Tajikistan [Tel: +992 919 22 70 70; Fax: +992 37 222 24 13; Email: djalibuzrukov@rambler.ru]

Mr. Salohiddin Shamsovich Rajabov, Head Specialist, Secretary of Interstate Commission of Water Coordination, Shamsi street 5/1, Dushanbe, Tajikistan [Tel: +992 37 236 51 56; Fax: +992 37 236 51 56; Email: saloh.rajabov_87@mail.ru]

Ms. Zulfiya Suleimenova, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Japan [Email: belgisiz.zhan@gmail.com]

Mr. Bolat Tatibekov Suleyman Demirel University, Almaty, Kazakhstan [Email: tatibekov@gmail.com]

Mr. Vlastimil Samek, Representative of the United Nations Information Office, United Nations Office, 67 Tole Bi street, 050000 Almaty, Kazakhstan [Email: kazakhstan@unic.org, vlastimil.samek@unic.org]

Ms. Gulnaz Imammyzova, Multi-Country office for Central Asia (UNWomen), Kazakhstan [Email: gulnaz.imamniyazova@unwomen.org]

Mr. Zameddine Tarflava, Tajikistan

LOCAL EXPERTS AND ACADEMIA

Ms. Leila Fedorovna Delovarova, PhD in International Relations, Acting Associated Professor, Chair of International Relations and World Economy, al-Farabi Kazakh National University, International Relations Department, Karasai Batyr Str., 050000 Almaty, Kazakhstan [Tel: 8(7272) 43 83 03, 8(7272) 43 83 13; Email: leila9delo@gmail.com, delovarova@mail.ru]

Mr. Galym Burkitbayevich Omarov, Assistant – Professor of Economics and Business Department, International Information Technology University, 34 “A”/8 “A”, Manas Str., 050040 Almaty, Kazakhstan [Tel: +7(727) 2448370, ext. 2014; Email: g.omarov@iitu.kz]

Ms. Nailya Kapenovna Nurlanova, Deputy Director, Institute of Economics, Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kurmangazy Str., 29, Almaty 050010, Kazakhstan [Tel: +7 727 261 02 62; Fax: +7 727 272 78 29; Email: n.k.nurlanova@gmail.com]

Dr. Vitaliy Salnikov, Dean of Faculty of Geography and Environmental Sciences, al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Office 234, MEB 6, al-Farabi ave., 71, Almaty, Kazakhstan [Tel: +7 727 3773447; Fax: +7 727 3773447; Email: Vitali.Salnikov@kaznu.kz]

Ms. Meruert Mautkhanovna Makhmutova, Director, Public Policy Research Center, Kazybek bi 65, office 420, 050000, Almaty, Kazakhstan [Tel: + 77017146750; Email: meruertmakhmutova@hotmail.com]

Mr. Giovanni Capannelli, Country Director, Kazakhstan Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank, 12, Samal Microdistrict, Astana Tower BC, 20th Floor, Astana, Kazakhstan [Tel: +7 7172 709 707; Fax: +7 7172 328 343; Email: gcapannelli@adb.org]

Ms. Elmira Dautova, Senior Operations Assistant, Kazakhstan Resident Mission (Almaty Office), Asian Development Bank [Tel: +7 727 312 3100 to 3103 (ext. 524); Email: eautova@adb.org]

Ms. Satova Raushan Kulmagambetovna, Expert, Green Academy, Scientific Educational Center, Kozhamkulova str. 269/154, apartment 70, 050008 Almaty, Kazakhstan [Tel: 8(727)377 52 90; Email: satovar@mail.ru]

Mr. Dejan Keserovic, Coordinator for Central Asia / Chief of Mission in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, International Organization for Migration, 14 Mambetov str., Astana 010000, Kazakhstan [Tel: +77172696553; Email: dkeserovic@iom.int]

Ms. Maigul Nugmanova, Head of International Office, Kazakh Ablai Khan University
of International Relations and World Languages, Almaty, Kazakhstan [Tel: +77013592544; Email: maigulnugmanova@yahoo.com]

Ms. Noskova Mariya, Centre “Cooperation for Sustainable Development, Kazakhstan [Email: csd.assem@gmail.com]

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN KAZAKHSTAN

Mr. Symbat Zhumagalievna Amantayeva, Head of the Central Asian Youth Environmental Network, Human Health Institute, Abay, Avenue 47, office 706, Astana, Kazakhstan [Email: simbat_kz96@mail.ru]

Ms. Bakyt Kamalbekovna Yessekina, Director, Scientific Resesarch and Education Center, Green Academy, 20 Dostyk St., 010000 Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan [Tel: +7 (7172) 277293; Fax: +7 (7172) 277235; Email: byessekina@green-academy.kz, info@green-academy.kz]

Ms. Assem Bodauova, Project Manager, Center “Cooperation for Sustainable Development” [Tel: +7 727 255 85 75; Fax: +7 727 255 85 75; Email: csd.asem@gmail.com, carawan.network@gmail.com]

ORGANIZERS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)

Mr. Hirohito Toda	Head, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia (SONCA), Almaty, Kazakhstan
Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov	Senior Officer, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia (SONCA)
Ms. Elvira Mynbayeva	Programme Officer, ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia (SONCA)
Mr. Riccardo Mesiano	Sustainable Development Officer, Environment and Development Policy Section, Environment and Development Division
Ms. Hitomi Rankine	Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Policy Section, Environment and Development Division
Ms. Therese Bjork	Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division
Mr. Predrag Savic	Associate Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division

Annex II

“Sub regional preparatory meeting for the 5th Session of the APFSD” East and North-East Asia Sub Region Beijing, China

Tuesday, 10 October 2017	
08.30-09.30	Registration
09.30-10.00	Opening Session Opening Remarks by Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna, Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office Welcoming Remarks by Mr. Xufeng ZHU, Executive director Institute for SDGs, Tsinghua University Welcoming Remarks by Mr. Nicholas Rosellini, UNDP Resident Representative
10.00-10.30	Coffee break, photo session
10.30-12.30	Global to regional and sub regional context of follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and National progress, achievements and challenges Moderator: Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, ESCAP: reporting of APFSD and HLPF, 2017 and dissemination of key policy messages; and Asia Pacific Roadmap on implementing the 2030 Agenda and stocktaking of sub regional cross-cutting and emerging issues • Mr. Ming Li, UNDP China Follow-up and review (FUR) at the national level: Country presentations on Voluntary National Review (China and the ROK in 2016, and Japan in 2017); coordination mechanisms; and key challenges to the implementation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China, Dajian Zhu, Institute of Governance for Sustainability, Tongji University • DPRK, Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Japan, Masaki Inaba, SDGs Japan • Mongolia, Onon Khanoi, National Development Agency • Republic of Korea, Hyun Kyung Kim, Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Russian Federation, Arsen Bogatyrev, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
12.30-13.30	Lunch
13.30-14.45	Monitoring and measuring progress: Statistical data for FUR Moderator: Yanhong Zhang , ESCAP Presentations:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yanhong Zhang, ESCAP • Youngshil Park, Statistics Korea • Yalalt Ganbat, National Statistics Office of Mongolia Won Kwak , Central Bureau of Statistics, DPR Korea
14:45-16:00	Perspectives on 2018 HLPF theme, “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies” Moderator: Lan Xue , Institute for SDGs, Tsinghua University <u>Plenary session</u> Presentation: Arun Jacob and Therese Bjork , ESCAP Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tungalag Ulambayar, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mongolia • Seonghoon Lee, Asia Development Alliance • Dajian Zhu, Institute of Governance for Sustainability, Tongji University • Jianyu ZHANG, Environmental Defense Fund Beijing Office
16:00- 16:15	Coffee break
16:15- 17:15	Perspectives on 2018 HLPF theme <u>Group Discussion</u> Part 1 – exploring risk and the development context (16:15 - 16:45) Part 2 – identifying responses to promote resilience (16:45 - 17:15)
17:15-18:00	<u>Plenary discussion</u>
18:00-20:00	Welcoming reception
Wednesday, 11 October 2017	
09:00-10:30	High Level Roundtable on Implementing the SDGs in East and North-East Asia Moderator: Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna , ESCAP Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oyun Sanjaasuren, Former Minister of Environment, Mongolia • Mori Hideyuki, President, Institute for Global Environment Strategies, Japan • Jiahua Pan, Director, Institute for Urban and Environmental Studies, CASS • Soogil Young, Chair, SDSN Korea
10:30-10:45	Coffee break
10:45-12:00	SDG 6 Clean Water & Sanitation & SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities Moderator: Mr. Xufeng ZHU , Institute for SDGs, Tsinghua University Presentations & Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryuta Maekawa, ADRA Japan • Kyoung Hyo Yoon, Korea SDGs Network • Shu Zhu, ICLEI East Asia Secretariat
12:00-13:00	Lunch break
13:00-15:00	SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy & SDG 12 Responsible Consumption Moderator: Riccardo Mesiano , ESCAP Presentations & Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liu Zhiqiang, China Electricity Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lu Hong, Energy Foundation China • Masaki Inaba, SDGs Japan • Xufeng Zhu, Tsinghua University
15:00-16:30	SDG 15 Life on Land Moderator: Sangmin Nam , ESCAP Presentations & Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyunju Lee, Forest Policy Division, Korea Forest Service • Tungalag Ulambayar, Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia • Yan Zhang, Director, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) China
16:30-17:30	Wrap up: Strengthening cooperation in North-East Asia towards achieving the 2030 Agenda
17:30	Closing session

List of participants

CHINA

Lan Xue, Director/ Dean, Professor, Institute for SDGs, Tsinghua University/ School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University, Email: xuelan@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn

Xufeng Zhu, Executive Director/ Associate Dean, Professor, Tsinghua University/ School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University, Email: zhuxufeng@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn

Zhiqiang Liu, Deputy Director, China Electricity Council, Email: liuzhiqiang@cec.org.cn

Yunning Li, China Electricity Council, Email: liyunning@cec.org.cn

Dajian Zhu, Professor & Director, Institute of Governance for Sustainability, Tongji University

Jiahua Pan, Director, Institute for Urban and Environmental Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Email: jiahuapan@163.com

Lu Hong, Program Director for Renewable Energy, Energy Foundation China, Email: luhong@efchina.org

Li Yang, Senior Analyst, Innovative Green Development Program, Email: yangli@igdp.cn

Yan Zhang, Director, International Union for Conservation of Nature, China Office, Email: Yan.ZHANG@iucn.org

Hongbo Ji, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation China Office, Email: Hongbo.ji@asiafoundation.org

Jianyu Zhang, Chief Representative, Environmental Defense Fund Beijing Office

DPRK

Se Pyong So, Senior Officer, Focal point for SDGs, Division of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Email: dong.chol.ri@undp.org

Kwang Hyok Kim, Desk Officer for SDGs, Division of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Email: dong.chol.ri@undp.org

Won Kwak, Director, Department of Methodology, Central Bureau of Statistics, Email: dong.chol.ri@undp.org

JAPAN

Hideyuki Mori, President, Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES), Email: h-mori@iges.or.jp

Nobue Amanuma, Research Manager, Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES), Email: amanuma@iges.or.jp

Ryuta Maekawa, Program Manager (Nepal and Zimbabwe program), ADRA Japan, Email: ryuta.maekawa@adrajpn.org

Masaki Inaba, Executive Director, Japan Civil Society Network on SDGs, Email: inaba@sdgs-japan.net

MONGOLIA

Oyun Sanjaasuren, Chair, Global Water Partnership, Email: oyun.sanjaasuren@gwp.org

Khosbayar Mangil, Policy Research and Development Department, Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Email: khosbayarmangil@gmail.com, esco@mongolchamber.mn

Onon Khanoi, Officer, Development policy and planning division, National Development Agency, Email: onon.kh@nda.gov.mn

Munbat Lkhagvaa, Director, Registration, Information and Promotion Division, National Development Agency, Email: munbat.l@nda.gov.mn

Tungalag Ulambayar, Advisor to Minister of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Email: u.tungalag.met@gmail.com

Yalalt Ganbat, Statistician, National Accounts and Research Department, National Statistics Office, Email: yalalt@nso.mn

Diana Isabel Fernandez, Deputy Country Representative, The Asia Foundation Mongolia, Email: diana.fernandez@asiafoundation.org

Urantsooj Gombosuren, Chair, Centre for Human Rights and Development, Email: gurantsooj@rocketmail.com

Oyuntuya Gotov, Consumer Foundation, Email: consfound@yahoo.com

Bolortungalag Lkhagvajav, Head, Step by step to Development NGO, Mongolia, Email: ssdevelop@gmail.com

Semjidmaa Choijil, Executive Director, Psychological Responsiveness, Email: semjidmaa_choijil@yahoo.com

REPUBLIC of KOREA

Soogil Young, Chair, SDSN Korea, Email: sgy@sunykorea.ac.kr

Hyun Kyung Kim, Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Email: hkkim@mofa.go.kr

Jong-Hwan Lim, Director, Division of climate change and forest, National Institute of Forest Science, Korea Forest Service, Email: limjh@korea.kr

Hyunju Lee, Deputy Director, Forest Policy Division, Korea Forest Service, Email: hyunjulee2@gmail.com

Youngshil Park, Deputy Director, Statistical Research Institute, Statistics Korea, Email: youngshil@korea.kr

Kyounghyo Denise Yoon, Secretary General, Korea SDG Network, Email: sdgnetkorea@gmail.com

Seog Dong Ko, Executive office chief, Korea Union of Tenants, Email: johnko@hanmail.net

Kyuseok Jeong, Director of Policy Department, Green Korea United, Email: nest@greenkorea.org

Sung Ho Lee, Manager, Global affairs & Relations, Child Fund Korea, Email: sungho@childfund.or.kr
cfk.sungho@gmail.com

Seonghoon Lee, Co-convener, Asia Development Alliance, Email: Alee7080@gmail.com

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Talyat Aliev, Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Energy, Email: alievtz@minenergo.gov.ru

Arsen Bogatyrev, Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Email: ambogatyrev@mid.ru

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS and OTHER ENTITIES

Tuguldur Baajikhuu, Director, Greater Tumen Initiative Secretariat, Email: Tuguldur.baajikhuu@undp.org

Daehyun Kang, Programme Advisor, Greater Tumen Initiative Secretariat, Email: Kang.daehyun@undp.org

Rim Choe, Senior Programme Officer, Greater Tumen Initiative Secretariat, Email: rim.choe@undp.org

Shu Zhu, Regional Director, ICLEI East Asia Secretariat (EAS), Email: shu.zhu@iclei.org

Magnus Brod, Programme Director, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Email: magnus.brod@giz.de

Peipei WEei, Programme Assistant, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Email: wei.peipei@connecting-asia.org

ORGANIZERS

Kilaparti Ramakrishna, Director, East and North-East Asia Office, UN ESCAP, Email: ramakrishna@un.org

Sangmin Nam, Deputy director, East and North-East Asia Office, UN ESCAP, Email: nams@un.org

Riccardo Mesiano, Sustainable Development Officer, Environment and Development Division, UN ESCAP, Email: mesiano@un.org

Arun Jacob, Environmental Affairs Officer Environment and Development Division, UN ESCAP, Email: jacoba@un.org

Yanhong Zhang, Chief, Population and Social Statistics Section, Statistics Division, UN ESCAP, Email: zhangy@un.org

Therese Bjork, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, UN ESCAP, Email: bjork@un.org

Yutong Li, Head, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, UN ESCAP, Email: li78@un.org

Yi Zheng, Head of Office, Institute for Sustainable Development Institute, Tsinghua University, Email: zheng-yi@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn

Lijuan Ding, Administrative Assistant, Institute for Sustainable Development Institute, Tsinghua University, Email: legalite@sina.com

Jaehwa Lee, Intern Institute for Sustainable Development Institute, Tsinghua University, Email: jh_lee928@naver.com

Nicholas Rosellini, UNDP Resident Representative, UNDP China

Ming Li, Programme Manager on SDGs, UNDP China, Email: ming.li@undp.org

Annex III

“Sub regional preparatory meeting for the 5th Session of the APFSD”

South East Asia Sub Region

Bangkok, Thailand

Wednesday, 18 October 2017	
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:15	Opening Session Opening Remarks , Mr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director of the Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
09:15-10:30	Session1: Global to regional and sub-regional context of follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda <p>The session’s aim is to enhance awareness and understanding of the key challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region by sharing the results of regional and sub-regional level discussions. The Session will provide inputs to discussions on the road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.</p>
09:15-09:30	Global to regional and sub-regional context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs: a road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific , Ms. Katinka Weinberger, Chief EDPS, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
09:30-09:45	ASEAN support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda , Mr. Son Ngoc Nguyen, Assistant Director and Head ASCC Monitoring Division, ASEAN Secretariat
09:45-10:00	UNDP
10:00-10:15	Smita Nakhooda, Senior Policy and Planning Specialist, Asian Development Bank, ADB
10:15-10:30	Q&A
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:00	Session2: National and sub-regional progress, achievements and challenges with respect to the 2030 Agenda <p>The session will help reflect on how the regional and sub-regional processes can support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level.</p>
11:00-11:10	Voluntary National Reviews and main messages from the 2017 reporting countries from Asia and the Pacific , Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, Sustainable Development Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP

11:10-12:30	<p>Voluntary National Reviews</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director of the Environment and Development Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>Mr. Edgardo II Santos Aranjuez, Chief Economic Development Specialist, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippines</p> <p>Mr. Hari Prabowo, Deputy Director for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia</p> <p>Mr. Pichit Boonsud, Director, Division of Development Affairs, Department of International Organizations, Thailand</p> <p>Ms. Shirah Nair, Assistant Director, Climate Change Office, International Organizations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore</p> <p>Mr. Anouparb Vongnorkeo, Director-General, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, LAO PDR</p> <p>Q&A</p>
12:30-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:15	<p>Panel discussion on the Regional Road Map for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Katinka Weinberger, Chief EDPS, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Pagnathun Theng, Director General of Planning, Ministry of Planning, Cambodia</p> <p>Ms. Brigida Brites Soares, Office of Prime Minister, and Acting chief for UPMA, Timor-Leste</p> <p>Mr. Mohammed Safwan Rosidy, Principal Assistant Director, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia</p>
15:15-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-16:30	<p>Session 3: South-East Asian Perspectives on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration</p> <p>The session will aim to provide participants with an overview of the process of developing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and how South East Asian countries can participate in this process in line with their priorities, and stimulate a discussion to develop a list of key issues and priorities for South East Asia which can be presented to the ESCAP regional preparatory meeting for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.</p>

15:30-15:45	Setting the scene , Mr. Paul Tacon, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ESCAP
15:45-16:30	Discussion
Thursday, 19 October 2017	
09:00-12:00	<p>Session 4: South-East Asian perspectives on the 2018 HLPF theme: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies</p> <p>The session's aim is to develop sub-regional perspectives on the theme of the 2018 High-level Political forum for Sustainable Development. It will identify trends and risks faced by the sub-region, discuss the impacts on sustainable development and the most vulnerable, discuss social protection and other measures needed to strengthen resilience, and highlight opportunities for sub-regional responses to strengthen resilience.</p>
09:00-09:15	Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies – framing sub-regional perspectives and responses
09:15-12:00	Working groups
12:00-13:30	Lunch
13:30-16:00	<p>Session 5: SDG Roundtables</p> <p>Initial discussions on SDG Roundtables to be held during the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) 2018. The purpose of this session is to have an initial and exploratory discussion for the preparation of roundtables focusing on SDGs 6,7,11,12 and 15, which will be the cluster of goals reviewed in-depth during the 5th session of the APFSD on 28-30 March 2018.</p>
13:30-13:45	Roundtables on cluster of SDGs – experiences from the 4th session of the APFSD and proposal for 5th session of the APFSD , Solene Le Doze, Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
13:45-14:00	Data availability for the follow-up and review of the SDGs , Statistic Division, ESCAP
14:00-14:50	<p>Group discussion: Review and Follow up of SDGs 6,7,11,12 and 15</p> <p>Group discussion for each SDG aiming at identifying existing follow-up and review processes and data gaps</p>
14:50-15:10	Introduction to tools to assess SDG integration , Ms. Aneta Nikolova, Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
15:10-16:00	Facilitated discussion on in depth review of the cluster of goals at the sub-regional and regional level : filling potential data gaps; preliminary survey; identification of UN Partners for coparticipant identification; format; outcome.
16:00-16:30	Session 6: The way forward

List of participants

CAMBODIA

H.E. Dr. Ribaun Korm, Deputy Secretary General, National Committee for ESCAP, Friendship Building, Room 426, Russian Federation Blvd, Phnom Penh [Tel/Fax: 855 23 220834; Mobile: 855 12 275557; Email: kormribaun@nc-escap.gov.kh]

H.E. Mr. Pagnathun Theng, Delegate of the Royal Government of Cambodia in charge of Director General of Planning, Ministry of Planning, #386, Monivong Boulevard, Phnom Penh [Tel/Fax: (855) 21 23 3783; Mobile: (855) 12 899 313; Email: pagnathun@gmail.com]

INDONESIA

Mr. Hari Prabowo, Deputy Director for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for Development, Economic and Environmental Affairs, Ex-BP7 Building, 6th Floor, Jl. Taman Pejambon No. 6, Jakarta Pusat 10110 [Tel: +62-21-3441508 ext. 5540; +62-21-3848626; Fax: +62-21-3857315; Mobile: +62-8111997211; Email: hari.prabowo@yahoo.com, hari.prabowo@kemlu.go.id]

Mr. Sentot Bangun Wdoyono, Director of Statistical Analysis and Development, BPS-Statistics Indonesia, Jl. Dr. Sutomo No. 6-8, Jakarta 10710 [Tel/Fax: +62-21-3841424; Mobile: +62-81311195199; Email: sentot@bps.go.id, sentobw@yahoo.com.sg]

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Mr. Anouparb Vongnorkeo, Director-General, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vientiane [Tel: +85621 453586; Fax: +85621 414025; Mobile: +85620 55508025; Email: anouparb@gmail.com]

Ms. Sisomsouk Phiphacphommachanh, Officer of UN Economic and Social Affairs Division, Department of International Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vientiane [Tel: +85621 453586; Fax: +85621 414025; Mobile: +85620 77774174; Email: mimi.sisomsouk@gmail.com]

Mr. Sengfa Soukhathivong, Officer of UN Economic and Social Affairs Division, Department of International Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vientiane [Tel: +85621 453586; Fax: +85621 414025; Mobile: +85620 55202555; Email: Sengfa.ls@gmail.com]

Ms. Sipaphaphone Chounramany, Technical Officer, Planning Department, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Vientiane [Tel: 856-21 216756; Mobile: 856-20 22229979; Email: aloo3_tty@hotmail.com]

MALAYSIA

Mr. Ahmad Salwadi Salleh, Principal Assistant Director, Infrastructure and Utilities Section, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department, Level 5, Block B6, Parcel B, Federal Government Administrative Centre, 62502 Putrajaya [Tel: +603-88725527; Fax: +603-88883616; Mobile: +6019 3885049; Email: salwadi.salleh@epu.gov.my]

Mr. Safwan Rosidy Mohammed, Principal Assistant Director, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department, Parcel B. Block B5. Level -1, Precint 1, Federal Government Administrative Centre 62502, Putrajaya [Tel: +603-8872 3234; Fax: +603-8888 4323; Mobile: +60123342377; Email: safwanrosidy@gmail.com, rosidy@epu.gov.my]

MYANMAR

Ms. Saint Saint Swe, Deputy Director, Central Statistical Organization, Office (32), Nay Phi Taw [Tel/Fax: 95 67 406351; Mobile: 95 9 977283711; Email: saintsaintswe@gmail.com]

PHILIPPINES

Ms. Bernadette Buning Balamban, Chief Statistical Specialist, Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), 16/F Eton Centris Three, EDSA Corner Quezon Avenue, Quezon City [Tel/Fax: +632 376 1991; Mobile: (63) 917 539-7772; Email: B.Balamban@psa.gov.ph, dettebalamban@gmail.com]

Mr. Edgardo II Santos Aranjuez, Chief Economic Development Specialist, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), 12 NEDA Building, St. Escrivá Drive, Ortigas Center Pasig City, Metro Manila 1600 [Tel: +632 631-3758; Fax: +632 631 5435; Mobile: +63-9178383840; Email: esaranjuez@neda.gov.ph, esaranjuez@gmail.com]

Mr. Tomasito Jr. Pobeda Javate, Supervising Economic Development Specialist, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), 12 NEDA Building, St. Escrivá Drive, Ortigas Center Pasig City, Metro Manila 1600 [Tel/Fax: +632 631-5435; Mobile: +63-9178944923; Email: tpjavate@neda.gov.ph]

SINGAPORE

Ms. Shirah Nair, Assistant Director, Climate Change Office, International Organizations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tanglin, Singapore 248163 [Tel: +65 6379 8531; Fax: +65 6479 5310; Mobile: +65 9295 6168; Email: shirah_nair@mfa.gov.sg]

THAILAND

Mr. Pichit Boonsud, Director, Division of Development Affairs, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 443 Sri Ayudhya Road, Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400 [Tel: 662-203-5000 ext. 12170; Fax: 662-643-5080; Mobile: 6697-991-6995; Email: pichitb@mfa.go.th]

Mr. Kittivudh Pinyowit, Development Affairs Division, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 443 Sri Ayudhya Road, Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400 [Tel: 66(0)2 203 5000 ext. 12104; Fax: 66(0)2 643 5080; Mobile: 66(0)89 794 0314; Email: kittivudhp@mfa.go.th]

Ms. Kanwana Hemkamon, Counselor, Division of Development Affairs, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 443 Sri Ayudhya Road, Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400 [Tel: 662-203-5000 ext. 12118; Fax: 662-643-5080; Mobile: 6681-826-6302; Email: kanwana@gmail.com]

Mr. Chatchai Intatha, Environmental Official, Senior Professional Level, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, 60/1 Piboonwattana 7, Rama 6 Road, Bangkok [Tel: +66(0)2-265 6500 ext. 66767; Fax: +66(0)2-265 6606; Mobile: +668912 70311; Email: chintatha@gmail.com]

Mr. Pitak Dounghprom, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Ayudhaya Road, Bangkok [Email: SNDWR2558@hotmail.com]

Mr. Chanawat Arrunrata, Policy and Planning Analyst, Professional Level, Bureau of International Cooperation, Department of Water Resources, 180/3 Rama VI Road, Soi 34, Samsaen Nai, Phayathai, Bangkok 10400 [Tel: 66(0)2 271 6000; Email: nu_nida@yahoo.com]

Ms. Tippawan Sethapun, Director of International Cooperation Division, Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), 61 Paholyothin Rd. Lard Yao, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900 [Tel: 662 561 0777 ext. 1231; Fax: 662 940 7134; Mobile: 6681 902 0754; Email: tsethapun@gmail.com]

Mr. Sueksit Phanthong, Plan and Policy Analyst, Professional Level, Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), 61 Paholyothin Rd. Lard Yao, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900 [Tel: 662 561 0777 ext. 1222; Fax: 662 561 4831; Mobile: 6681 651 6533; Email: sueksit@gmail.com]

Mr. Panya Sooksomkit, Forestry Technical Officer, Practitioner Level, Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), 61 Paholyothin Rd. Lard Yao, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900 [Tel: 662 561 0777 ext. 1227; Fax: 662 940 7134; Mobile: 6681 909 9215; Email: pya_58@hotmail.com]

Ms. Sukumaporn Jongpukdee, Director of Policy and Planning Department, National Housing Authority, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, 905 Nawamin Road, Klongchan, Bangkok, Bangkok 10240 [Email: sukumaporn@gmail.com]

Ms. Khanitta Kolaka, Policy and Planning Analyst, National Housing Authority, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, 905 Nawamin Road, Klongchan, Bangkok, Bangkok 10240 [Email: khanitta67@gmail.com]

Ms. Tanareerat Choorith, Foreign Relations Officer, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, 1034 Krungkasem Road, Pomprap, Bangkok [Tel: 66(0)202 9095; Fax: 66(0)2 202 9098; Mobile: 6696 459 1698; Email: Wip.choorith@gmail.com]

Ms. Pattaranat Wuttiwai, Trade Officer, Ministry of Commerce, 563 Nonthaburi 1 Rd., Amphur Muang, Nonthaburi 11000 [Tel: 66(0)2 507 5856; Mobile: 6681 489 3583; Email: pattaranat.w@gmail.com]

Ms. Budsara Sangaroon, Statistician, National Statistical Office, Government Complex, Building B, Laksri, Bangkok 10210 [Tel: (66) 02-142-1373; Fax: (66) 02-143-8130; Email: y.budsara@gmail.com]

Ms. Yaowapa Maneechai, Statistician, National Statistical Office, Government Complex, Building B, Laksri, Bangkok 10210 [Tel: 66(0)2-141-7417; Email: y_chaisri@yahoo.com]

Mr. Somyod Tangmeelarp, Vice Chairman, The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI), Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Zone 'C', 4th Floor, 60 New Rachadapisek Road, Klongtoey, Bangkok 10110 [Tel: +66(0)2 345 1000; Fax: +66(0)2 345 1296-9; Email: yodtang@gmail.com]

TIMOR-LESTE

Ms. Elisa da Silva, Counselor and Deputy Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to UNESCAP, Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, 1550 Thanapoom Tower, 7th Floor, New Petchburi Road, Makassan, Ratthewi, Bangkok 10400, Thailand [Tel: 66(0)2 654 7501; Fax: 66(0)2 654 7504; Email: elisa.embtl.can@gmail.com, counsellorbkk17@gmail.com]

Mr. Cesar Melito Dos Santos Matines, Chief of Statistics International Cooperaton and SDGs Focal Point, General Directorate of Statistics (GDS), Dili [Mobile: +670 7723 0206; Email: cmmelito@mof.gov.tl]

Ms. Brigida Brites Soares, Coordinator of UPMA, Cabinet of Prime Minister, Rua. Avenida Marginal, Edficio No. 1, Palacio Governo, Dili [Tel: +670-3337286; Mobile: +670-78186688; Email: bbsoares@gpm.gov.tl]

VIET NAM

Ms. Nga Vo, Official, Department of Science, Education, Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Planning and Investment, 6B Hoang Dieu, Ba Dinh, Hanoi [Tel: 84-08044839; Fax: 8424-37473602; Mobile: 84-945075782; Email: vo.bang.nga@gmail.com]

UNITED NATIONS BODIES AND AGENCIES

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Mr. Bishwa Nath Tiwari, Programme Specialist, Bangkok Regional Hub, United Nations Development Programme, 3rd Floor United Nations Service Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand [Tel.: +66 (0)2 304 9100 ext. 5285; Email: Bishwa.tiwari@undp.org]

Ms. Hannie Meesters, SDG Policy Specialist, United Nations Development Programme, Regional Hub in Bangkok [Email: hannie.meesters@undp.org]

Mr. Seung Hee Kim, Environmental Advisor, UNDP, Bangkok, Thailand [Tel: +66(0)2 304 9100 ext. 5381; Mobile: +66(0)63 434 8946; Email: seung.hee.kim@undp.org]

Mr. Jaco Cilliers, Chief Regional Policy and Programme for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Development Programme, Regional Hub in Bangkok [Email: jaco.cilliers@undp.org]

Ms. Yin Min Htike, National Officer, United Nations Development Programme, 49 Boyaryunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon, Myanmar [Tel: +95 1 542910~19, Ext: 3328; Mobile: +95 9 9789 94 361; Email: yin.min.htike@undp.org]

United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)

Mr. Jonathan Gilman, Regional Development Coordinator, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand [Tel: 66(02) 288 1528; Email: jonathan.gilman@un.org]

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

(UN Women)

Ms. Janneke van der Graaff – Kukler, Strategic Planning and Coordination Specialist, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), United Nations Building, Bangkok, Thailand [Tel: +66 2 288 2584; E-mail: janneke.kukler@unwomen.org]

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Mr. Tam Hoang, Partners Advisor, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Bangkok, Thailand [Tel: (+66) 2 288 2397; Mobile: +66 622 817 329; Email: info@tamhoang.com]

Mr. Bruno Dercon, Human Settlements Officer- Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UN-Habitat ROAP, Bangkok, Thailand [Email: Bruno.Dercon@unhabitat.org]

Mr. Lars Stordal, UN-Habitat Secretariat [Email: lars.stordal@unhabitat.org]

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Mr. Bianca Cravenna, Programme Officer, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Bangkok, Thailand [Email: B.CRAVENNA@unido.org]

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Mr. Yang Youlin, Coordinator, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, UNCCD Regional Office, Bangkok, Thailand [Email: youlin.unescap@un.org]

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Ms. Smita L. Nakhooda, Senior Results Management Specialist, Strategy, Policy and Review Department, Asian Development Bank, Headquarters: 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Metro Manila, Philippines [Email: snakhooda@adb.org]

ASEAN Secretariat

Mr. Ferdinal Moreno Fernando, Assistant Director and Head of Health Division, ASEAN Secretariat, 70A, Sisingamangaraja, Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta 12110, Indonesia [Tel: +6221-7243372; Fax: +6221-7398234; Email: ferdinal.fernando@asean.org]

Mr. Son Ngoc Nguyen, Assistant Director and Head ASCC Monitoring Division, ASEAN Secretariat, 70A, Sisingamangaraja, Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta 12110, Indonesia [Tel: +6221-7243372; Fax: +6221-7398234; Mobile: +6282213622047; Email: ngoc.nguyen@asean.org]

Embassy of Sweden

Ms. Anne-Charlotte Malm, Counsellor/Head of Development Cooperation Section, Embassy of Sweden, Bangkok, Thailand [Tel: +66 (0) 2263 7249; Fax: +66 (0) 2263 7255; Mobile: +66 (0) 92271 1755; Email: Anne-charlotte.malm@gov.se]

Mr. Louise Herrman, Embassy of Sweden, Bangkok, Thailand [Email: louise.herrmann@sida.se]

PRIVATE SECTORS/RESEARCH INSTITUTES/ACADEMICS AND FOUNDATIONS

Ms. Cannelle Gueguen-Teil, Research Associate: Human Rights and Climate Change, Stockholm Environment Institute, 15th Floor, Witthayakit Building, 254 Chulalongkorn University, Chulalongkorn Soi 64, Phayathai Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand [Tel: +66(0)2 251 4415; Email: cannellegueguenteil@hotmail.fr]

Mr. Songpol Boonsawat, Founder/ Research and Development Director, Viro Group Inc. (California, USA)/ Viro Technology (California, USA), 156/9 Pradit Manoonthum 14 Yak 10 Sukhumvit 71 Prakanong Watatana, Bangkok 10110, Thailand [Mobile: +66958964278 (Thailand); +61490551416 (Australia); +16267806199 (USA); Email: song@virotechnology.com, songpol.boonsawat@griffithuni.edu.au]

Mr. Soon Chia Kim, CEO, VIRO Group, Inc dba VIRO Technology, 388 E. Valley Blvd., Suite 219, Alhambra CA 91801, USA [Tel: +1-626-360 1388; Fax: +1-626-360 1399; Mobile: +1-626-520 6199; Email: soon@virotechnology.com]

Mr. Seong Kim Chia, VIRO Group, Inc dba VIRO Technology, 388 E. Valley Blvd., Suite 219, Alhambra CA 91801, USA [Email: viro@virotechnology.com]

Ms. Wanun Permpibul, Director, Climate Watch Thailand, CAN Thailand, 96/93 Bodin Raksa 2 Village, Kuu-Bonn 27, Tha Raeng, Bangkok, Bangkok 10220, Thailand [Tel/Fax: +66 2 945 0143; Mobile: +66 81 723 9866; Email: wanun.permpibul@climatewatch-thailand.org]

Mr. Boonthan Tansuthepverawongse, Board Member, Asian Cultural Forum on Development (ACFOD), 59/8 Rattana Thibet Road, Soi 38, Bangkrasor, Mueng district, Nonthaburi 11000, Thailand [Tel: 66(0)2 968 2294; Fax: 66(0)2 968 2294; Mobile: 6681 866 2136; Email: bverawongse@gmail.com]

Mr. Min Ye Paing Hein, Executive Director, Myanmar Development Institute, Office Number 1, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar [Mobile: 959250149081; Email: myhein@wisc.edu]

Ms. Joy Camille Angeles Baldo, Project Officer – Sustainability Management, ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability Southeast Asia, Units 3 to 6 Manila Observatory Building, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon city, 1108, Philippines [Tel: (632) 426-0851; Fax: (632) 426-0851; Mobile: +639778351593; Email: Joy.baldo@iclei.org]

Mr. Apichai Sunchindah, Development Specialist, Independent Expert, 36/40 Sukhumvit Soi 24, Bangkok 10110, Thailand [Mobile: +66898862932; Email: apichai_sun@yahoo.com, apichai@cbn.net.id]

Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria, Former Secretary General, PROHAM, Society for the Promotion of Human Rights, Malaysia [Tel: +6019 381 0914; Email: denisonproham@gmail.com]

Mr. Chris Oestereich, Director of Publications, School of Global Studies – Thammasat University, Rangsit Campus, 7th Floor, Piyachart 2, Khlong Nung, Khlong Luang District, Pathum Thani, 12120, Thailand [Tel: +66 95.957.3550; Email: chris@sgs.tu.ac.th]

Dr. Krawee Watanakunakorn, Legal and Business Consultant in Domestic and International Laws [Email: wkrawee@outlook.com]

Mr. Alay Phonvisay, Lecturer, Faculty of economics and business management, National University of Laos, PO.Box 7322, Dongdok Campus, Vientiane, Lao PDR [Tel: +85621720161; Fax: +85621720160; Mobile: +8562022238579; Email: phonvisay@gmail.com]

Ms. Alexandra Johns, Executive Director, Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA), Sathorn Thani 2, 95/92 North Sathorn Road, Bangkok, Thailand [Mobile: +66 855560021; Email: alexandra@asiapacificalliance.org]

Mr. Vijaya Vathananukij, Consultants of Technology Co., Ltd., Bangkok, Thailand [Email: cot@cot.co.th]

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Ms. Marlene Destreza Ramirez, Secretary General, AsiaDHRRRA, Rm 201 PhilDHRRRA Partnership Center, 59 C. Salvador St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City, 1108, Philippines [Tel: +632 4364706; Mobile: +63 9189289454; Email: asiadhrra@asiadhrra.org]

Mr. Gomer Butala Padong, Development Cooperation and Advocacy Director, Philippine Social Enterprise Network, 216 P&S Building, 717 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City 1112, Philippines [Tel: +63 2 726 8298; Mobile: +63 9175469660; Email: gomerpadong@gmail.com]

Mr. Rudolf Bastian Tampubolon, Representative, GCAP Youth SENCAP, Jl. Raya Tengah No. 15 (006/009) Kampung Tengah Kramat Jati Jakarta Timur, Indonesia [Tel: +62-21-2295 8168; Mobile: +62-811-999 6373; Email: bastiangerard2003@gmail.com]

Ms. Sotheary El, Head of Program, Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC), 9-11 Street 476, Toul Tompoung 1, Chamkamorn, Phnom Penh, Cambodia [Tel/Fax: 855 (23) 216 009; Mobile: (855) 97 5478910; Email: sotheary.el@ccc-cambodia.org]

Ms. Marjorie Pamintuan, Asia Pacific Research Network, Quezon City, Philippines [Email: mpamintuan@aprnet.org]

ORGANIZERS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)

Mr. Stefanos Fotiou	Director, Environment and Development Division (EDD)
Ms. Katinka Weinberger	Chief, Environment and Development Policy Section, EDD
Ms. Hitomi Rankine	Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Policy Section, EDD
Mr. Riccardo Mesiano	Sustainable Development Officer, Environment and Development Policy Section, EDD

Ms. Aneta Nikolova	Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Policy Section, EDD
Ms. Solene Le Doze	Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Policy Section, EDD
Mr. Arun Jacob	Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Policy Section, EDD
Ms. Caridad Canales	Associate Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Policy Section, EDD
Ms. Cai Cai	Chief, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Section, Social Development Division (SDD)
Mr. Paul Tacon	Social Affairs Officer, Sustainable Demographic Transitions Section, SDD
Mr. Arman Bidarbakht Nia	Statistician, Population and Social Statistics Section (PSS), Statistic Division

Annex IV

“Sub regional preparatory meeting for the 5th Session of the APFSD” South and South-West Asia Sub Region Katmandu, Nepal

Wednesday, 1 November 2017	
08.00-09.00	Registration
09.00-09.30	Opening Session Welcome Remarks – Mr. Michael Williamson, Head of Office, a.i, ESCAP South and South-West Asia office Opening Remarks – Ms. Stine Heiselberg, Head of the Resident Coordinator’s Office (on behalf of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Nepal) Inaugural Address – Dr. Prabhu Budathoki, Hon. Member, National Planning Commission, Nepal
09.30-10.30	Session 1: Global to regional and sub regional context of follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda The session’s aim is to enhance awareness and understanding of the key challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region by sharing the results of regional and sub regional level discussions. The Session will provide inputs to discussions on the Regional Road Map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. Global to regional and sub regional context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs , Hitomi Rankine, Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP Remarks – Ms. Stine Heiselberg, Head of the Resident Coordinator’s Office
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
11.00-12.45	Session 2: National progress, achievements and challenges with respect to the 2030 Agenda The session will help reflect on how the regional and sub regional processes can support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level. To strengthen the capacity of countries in the sub region considering making presentations at the HLPF 2018, the session will feature presentations from countries who have recently participated in the Voluntary National Reviews at the HLPF and from those planning to report in 2018. Voluntary National Reviews – Experiences from Asia and the Pacific - Ms. Caridad Canales Davila, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP

	<p>Moderator: Ms. Caridad Canales Davila, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Mr. Sundar Narayan Mishra, Consultant, Sustainable Development Goals, NITI Aayog, India</p> <p>Mr. Md. Tarikul Alam, Deputy Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division, Bangladesh</p> <p>Dr. Dilli Raj Khanal, former member of the National Planning Commission, Nepal</p> <p>Ms. Aishath Aniya, Senior Statistical Officer, National Bureau of Statistics, Maldives</p> <p>Mr. Pema Bazar, Senior Planning Officer, Gross National Happiness Commission, Bhutan</p> <p>Mr. Uchita de Zoysa, Sustainable Development Advisor, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, Sri Lanka</p>
12:45-14:15	Lunch break
14:15-15:15	<p>Session 3: Regional Road Map for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>The Regional Roadmap for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific: facilitating cooperation at the regional level, Michael Williamson, Head of Office a.i., South and South-West Asia Office, ESCAP</p> <p>The Regional Roadmap for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific: thematic focus on disaster risk reduction and resilience, Sanjay Srivastava, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Q&A</p>
15:15-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-16:30	<p>Session 4: Stakeholder engagement – strengthening the implementation of the 2030 Agenda</p> <p>Creating a seat at the table: Effective stakeholder engagement for the 2030 Agenda, Hitomi Rankine, Environmental Affairs Officer, ESCAP</p> <p>Q&A session</p>
Thursday 2 November 2017	
09:00-12:00	<p>Session 5: South and South-West Asia perspectives on the 2018 HLPF theme: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies</p> <p>The session's aim is to develop sub regional perspectives on the theme of the 2018 High-level Political forum for Sustainable Development. It will identify trends and risks faced by the sub region, discuss the impacts on sustainable development and the most vulnerable, discuss social protection and other measures needed to strengthen resilience, and highlight opportunities for sub regional responses to strengthen resilience.</p>

	<p>Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in South and South West Asia, Hitomi Rankine, Environmental Affairs Officer, ESCAP</p> <p>Moderator: Professor Lawrence Surendra, Founder, Chairman, the Sustainability Platform Panel discussion</p> <p>Working groups</p> <p>Part 1 – Exploring risk and the development context</p>
10:30-10:45	Coffee break
10:45-12:00	<p>Working groups – continued</p> <p>Part 1 – Exploring risk and the development context - continued</p> <p>Part 2 – Identifying responses to promote resilience</p>
12:00-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-16:30	<p>Session 6: Expert panel discussion on SDG 17: Strengthening cooperation in South Asia towards achieving the 2030 Agenda</p> <p>The session's aim is to explore the operationalization of the SDGs, focusing on the means of implementation identified under SDG 17 – which include finance, technology, trade, capacity building, data and partnerships for development. The development of mechanisms for regional coordination and cooperation will be essential to support the translation of the strategic vision of inclusive and sustainable development into concrete actions at the national level. The session will place emphasis on the potential role of regional/sub regional bodies and the United Nations Development System.</p>
13:30-15:00	<p>Moderator: Mr. Bijay Thapa, UNFPA Nepal Assistant Representative</p> <p>Presentations and panel discussion:</p> <p>Part 1. Setting the scene and good practices in contextualizing/localizing the SDGs. The session will develop a shared understanding of the outlook for the achievement of the goals in the sub region and examples of contextualization/localization at national and subnational levels to enhance policy coordination and coherence (links to SDG targets 17.13, 17.14, 17.15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Policy Priorities and Implementation Challenges for Achieving the SDGs in South Asia – Mr. Michael Williamson, Head, a.i, ESCAP SSWA • The case of Bhutan – Mr. Pema Bazar, Senior Planning Officer, GNH Commission • The case of India – Mr. Maurya, Director, Social Statistics Division, MOSPI (TBC) • Assam's experience in implementing the SDGs – Mr. Shiladitya Chatterjee, Adviser, the Sustainable Development Goals Centre, state government of Assam, India • The case of Nepal – Mr. Posh Raj Pandey, Executive Chairman, SAWTEE • The case of Pakistan - Mr. Zafar ul Hassan, Chief Poverty & MDGs Section (TBC)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National-level implications of SDG implementation: The case of Sri Lanka – Ms. Ganga Tilakaratne, Research Fellow, IPS <p>Discussion</p>
15:00-15:15	Coffee break
15:15-16:30	<p>Session 6: Expert panel discussion on SDG 17 (Continued)</p> <p>Part 2. Fostering a multi-stakeholder partnership and enhancing regional cooperation in support of the 2030 Agenda in South Asia. The session will emphasize the role of regional/sub regional institutions and mechanisms to boost/revitalize regional cooperation in support of national implementation efforts that leave no one behind, as well as the importance of inclusive and effective multi-stakeholder partnership (and means to develop/strengthen it in the sub region to catalyse progress) (links to SDG targets 17.16 and 17.17)</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Dilli Raj Khanal, Founder Chairman Institute for Policy Research and Development (IPRAD)</p> <p>Presentations and panel discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAARC Development Goals • Regional cooperation and the SDGs in South Asia – Md. Nasir Uddin, Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka • Regional cooperation in achieving the SDGs in South Asia – Mr. Shiladitya Chatterjee, Adviser, The Sustainable Development Goals Centre, state government of Assam, India. • Perspective from CSN countries – Afghanistan (TBC) • The role of CSOs – Prof. Pam Rajput, Vice-President, Mahila Dakshata Samiti/Women 2030, India • Knowledge partnership through science-policy interface for the SDGs – Professor. Lawrence Surendra, Founder, Chairman, the Sustainability Platform <p>The role of the private sector – Ms. Rita Bhandary, Vice Chairperson, SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council and President, Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal</p>
16:30-17:00	Wrap up and closing session

List of participants

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. Ahmad Riaz Sediqi, Director of Non-Government Organization, Ministry of Economy, Kabul, Afghanistan. E-mail: riaz.sediqi@gmail.com; director@ngo.gov.af

Mr. Ajmal Karimi, Programme Manager, Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), Afghanistan. E-mail: karimi27@gmail.com; karimi27@yahoo.com;

Mr. Mohammad Sediq Hassani, Director of Policy and Planning, Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority, Afghanistan. E-mail: msq.hassani@gmail.com;

BANGLADESH

Mr. Md. Tarikul Alam, Deputy Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division, E-27/A Agargaon, Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh. Tel: +885-5007085; Fax: +885-8181323; E-mail: md.tarikula@yahoo.com; tarikulalam67@gmail.com

Mr. Johirul Islam, Assistant Chief, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Tel: +88-02- 9145470; Mob: +88 01712363132; E-mail: ac-asia2@erd.gov.bd; jjirana2001@yahoo.com

Mr Md Nasir Uddin, Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh. Email: nasir@cpd.org.bd

Mr. Md. Duke Ivn Amin, JAGO NARI, Bangladesh. E-mail: duke_amin@yahoo.com

Mr. Md. Pervez Uddin Siddique, Chairman, Films 4 Peace Foundation, Bangladesh. E-mail: p.siddiqui@film4peace.org

Mr. Zakir Hossain, Chief Executive, Nagorik Uddyog, Bangladesh. E-mail: zhossain@agni.com

BHUTAN

Mr. Pema Bazar, Senior Planning Officer, Gross National Happiness Commission, Royal Government of Bhutan, Tashichhodzong, Thimphu, Bhutan. Tel: +975-2-325192; Fax: +975-2-322928; Email: pbazar@gnhc.gov.bt

INDIA

Mr. Rakesh Kumar Maurya, Director, Social Statistics Division, Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, New Delhi. Mobile: + 91 9871420019; Email: rakesh.maurya@gov.in

Dr. Shiladitya Chatterjee, Advisor at Government of Assam, Sustainable Development Goals Centre, Assam. Tel: +91-9830970611; E-mail: shilochatterjee@gmail.com

Mr. Sundar Narayan Mishra, Consultant, Sustainable Development Goals, NITI Aayog, Government of India, New Delhi. E-mail: sundar.mishra@nic.in

Dr. Pam Rajput, Convenor WOMEN 2030, Former Chair GOI HLC on Status of Women, New Delhi. E-mail: rajputpam@gmail.com

Mr. Nisargkumar Rameshchandra Dave, Consultant, SAARC Disaster Management Center. E-mail: con.saarc@gmail.com

Mr. Sumedh Patil, Junior Consultant, SAARC Disaster Management Center. E-mail: dm.patilsp@gmail.com

Mr. Lawrence Surendra, Visiting Professor, Department of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. E-mail: lawrence.surendra@gmail.com

Ms. Beena Johnson, National Campaign on Dalit Human Right. E-mail: beena@ncdhr.org.in

Ms. Mohamad Faruk, Rapid Response. E-mail: ceo@rapidresponse.org.in

Dr. Arvind Kumar, India Water Foundation, New Delhi. E-mail: drarvind@indiawaterfoundation.org

Mr. Paul Divakar, Asia Dalit Rights Forum. E-mail: pauldivakar@asiadalitrightsforum.org

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC of IRAN

Mr. Seyed Amir Fateh Vahdati, Deputy of Sustainable Development & Environment Economy Office, Iran Department of Environment. E-mail: fateh2236@gmail.com

Mr. Hossein Karami, Expert, Planning and Spatial, Planning and Budget Organization, Baharestan Sq., Safialishah St., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. Tel: +98-21-33274053; Fax: +98-21-33912676; E-mail: karami.GIS@gmail.com

MALDIVES

Ms. Aishath Aniya, Senior Statistical Officer, National Bureau of Statistics, Dharul Eman Building, Majeedhee Magu, Male, Maldives. Tel: +960-3008461; +960-3327351; E-mail: aishath.aniya@stats.gov.mv

NEPAL (local)

Dr. Prabhu Budathoki, Hon'ble Member, National Planning Commission, Nepal.

Dr. Dilli Raj Khanal, Founder Chairman Institute for Policy Research and Development (IPRAD) Former Member of Parliament, Nepal. E-mail: drkhanal10@gmail.com

Mr. Gopal Tiwari, Secretary-General, Nepal Economic Association (NEA), Kathmandu, Nepal. Tel: (Mobile): 9841333226; E-mail: kajutiwari@gmail.com

Ms. Laxmi K., Ministry of Commerce, Nepal. E-mail: laxmikshahi@gmail.com

Mr. Bhola Prasad, National Forum for Advocacy. E-mail: nafannepal8@gmail.com

Mr. Daya Sagar, NGO Federation of Nepal. E-mail: dayasagar@ngofederation.org

Dr. Dil Raj Khanal, Federation of Community Forestry Users (FECOFUN). E-mail: dilcommon@gmail.com

Mr. Noor Jung, National Action and Coordinating Group, Nepal. E-mail: noorjungnapn@gmail.com

Ms. Pratima, National Indigenous Disabled Women Association, Nepal. E-mail: mailmepratima508@gmail.com

Mr. Raju Bikram, NGO Federation of Nepalese Indigenous Nationalities. E-mail: rajubikram.chamling@gmail.com

Mr. Rup Sunar, Professional Development and Research Center, Nepal. E-mail: rupsunar@gmail.com

Mr. Tahal Bahadur, Lawyers' Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples. E-mail: thamitahal@gmail.com

PAKISTAN

Mr. Zafar ul Hassan, Chief Poverty & MDGs Section, Ministry of Planning Development and Reforms, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan. Tel: 051 9201999, Fax: 051 9201777; E-mail: zafarulhsn@gmail.com

Mr. Syed Shah Nasir Khisro, Integrated Regional Support Programme, Pakistan. E-mail: director@irsp.org.pk

Ms. Sarah Zaman, Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre, Pakistan. E-mail: sarah.zaman@outlook.com (presentation via skype)

SRI LANKA

Mr. Uchita de Zoysa, Sustainable Development Advisor, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka. 9th Floor, Stage I, "Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla, Sri Lanka. Tel: +94 112879118; Fax: +94 112885492; Mobile: +94777372206; Email: sd.advisor.srilanka@outlook.com

Dr. Sithmparapillalai Amalanathan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management, Sri Lanka. E-mail: secretarymdm2015@gmail.com

Mr. J.P.N. Mallawaarachchi, Statistician, Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka. Tel: +94 112 147 021; E-Mail: nishantha.mallawaarachchi@gmail.com

Dr. Ganga Tilakaratna, Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) Sri Lanka. E-mail: ganga@ips.lk

Mr. Thilak Majuwana Gamage Kariyawasam, Sri Lanka Nature Group. E-mail: tkariya32@yahoo.com

Mr. Wijetunge Deshapriya Sam Warnakula Arachchiralalage, Sri Lanka United Nations Friendship Organisation. E-mail: sunfomobile@yahoo.com

SAARC Secretariat

Mr. M.H.M.N. Bandara, Director (ESC), SAARC Secretariat

Mr. Mahender Prakash Baisla, Desk Officer (IPA), SAARC Secretariat, Tridevi Marg - P.O Box 4222 Kathmandu, Nepal. Tel: +977-1-422179; Fax: +977-1-4227033; E-mail: ipa@saarc-sec.org

UNDP

Ms. Stine Heiselberg, Head of Office, UN Resident Coordinator's Office, Kathmandu, Nepal. E-mail: stine.heiselberg@one.un.org

Mr. Dharma Swarnakar, Program Analyst, United Nations Development Programme. E-mail: dharma.swarnakar@undp.org

United Nations Population Fund

Mr. Bijay Thapa, Assistant Representative, UNFPA, Kathmandu, Nepal. Tel: +977 1 5523637; Fax: +977 1 5523985; E-mail: bthapa@unfpa.org

JOINT SECRETARIAT

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)

Mr. Michael Williamson	Head, ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office, New Delhi
Ms. Hitomi Rankine	Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP, Bangkok
Ms. Wanphen Sreshthaputra	Social Affairs Officer, ESCAP-SSWA, New Delhi
Ms. Ivana Brnovic	Associate Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP-SSWA, New Delhi
Ms. Caridad Canales Davila	Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP, Bangkok

Annex V

“Sub regional preparatory meeting for the 5th Session of the APFSD”
Pacific Sub Region
Apia, Samoa

Wednesday, 1 November 2017	
08.00-08.30	Registration
08.30-09.00	I. Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming Remarks by Samoa (Chair of the Forum) and UNRC in Samoa (on behalf of UN in the Pacific) • Opening Remarks by the Vice Chair - PIFS/SDG Taskforce Secretariat <p>Introduction to the meeting agenda, objectives etc. by Iosefa Maiava (ESCAP)</p>
09.00-12.00	II. Achievements, strategies and challenges with respect to the 2030 Agenda and the Pacific coordination mechanisms
09.00-10.00	<p>(a) Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development (PRSD)</p> <p>The PRSD and link to national, sub-regional and regional initiatives in support of SDG achievement in the Pacific:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice Chair and SDG Taskforce Secretariat: the Pacific Roadmap and Implementation Plan. • Plenary discussion <p>Moderator: Peseta Noumea Simi (TBC)</p> <p>Implementation plans for the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development; for supporting the implementation of 2030 Agenda and sustainable development in the Pacific. Comprehensive follow-up and review supported by rigorous evidence is critical for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development across the national, regional, and global level.</p> <p>Session outcome: Views of participants will be summarized to feed into SDG Taskforce meeting, APFSD preparations and Session III.</p>
10.00-10.30	Morning tea
10.30-12.30	<p>(b) Country experiences on the SDGs based on the priority areas of the Roadmap.</p> <p>Panel discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samoa • Vanuatu • RMI • Solomon Islands

	<p>Moderator: Derek Brien</p> <p>Countries to be given guiding questions with a focus on national experience and lessons from national voluntary reviews (NVRs), SDG localization, gender and data required to monitor and report progress.</p> <p>Session outcome: Discussion will be summarized to feed into SDG Taskforce meeting, APFSD preparations and Session III.</p>
12:30-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-15:30	<p>III. Sub regional and regional support for SDG implementation in the Pacific</p> <p>Implementation of the Pacific Sustainable Development Roadmap: What support do countries need?</p> <p>Areas from the PRSD:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leadership and coordination 2. Advocacy and communication 3. Regional monitoring and indicators 4. Integrated reporting 5. Supporting the means of implementation <p>Facilitators: Garry Wiseman and Charmina Saili</p> <p>Group work followed by plenary discussion and agreement on key actions</p> <p>Session outcome: Key actions in support of national implementation will be documents for the SDG Taskforce meeting to inform the finalization of an action plan.</p>
15:30-16:00	Afternoon Tea
16:00-17:00	<p>IV. Harmonizing follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, SAMOA Pathway from the global to regional (FPR) and sub-regional levels.</p> <p>The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights in about 18 paragraphs the importance of a systematic follow-up and review process, its roles, objectives, and guiding principles. In addition, the 2030 Agenda recognizes the importance of “cooperation between regional and sub-regional commissions and organizations” while the SAMOA Pathway requests specific inputs from regional commissions for its own monitoring and reporting. Topics include the reporting requirements of the HLPF (the theme and SDGs selected for in-depth review); Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) and related Asia-Pacific reports; Pacific SDG Report Pacific; and National Reporting. A key question will be how to reconcile the HLPF theme and SDGs selected for in-depth review with Pacific priorities and reporting processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by ESCAP on global and regional reporting mechanisms • Presentation by Pacific SDGTF on the Pacific’s approach to the integrated follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda, SAMOA Pathway, FPR and other global / regional frameworks • Data challenges by SPC

	<p>Moderator: Cristelle Pratt</p> <p>Session outcome: Recommended approaches to aligning reporting requirements to reduce the burden and maximize value addition to countries approaches will be summarized and documented for the APFSD and SDG Taskforce.</p>
<p>Thursday, 2 November 2017</p>	
09:00-12:00	<p>V. Pacific Perspectives on the 2018 HLPF theme</p> <p>The session will benefit from initial thinking on the development of a regional report on the theme, and develop sub-regional perspectives, with a view to informing sub-regional and national preparations and responses, as well as global preparations. Topics include I) national and Pacific perspectives on the 2018 HLPF theme “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”. II) perspectives on the 2018 Pacific Sustainable Development Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by ESCAP • Presentation by Pacific SDGTF on proposed approach, outline of the 2018 Pacific Sustainable Development Report • Group work and plenary feedback. <p>Moderator: Iosefa Maiava</p> <p>Session outcome: Discussion will be summarized and documented as input into the APFSD and theme for the 2018 Sustainable Development Report.</p>
12:00-13:00	Lunch break
13:00-15:00	<p>VI. Pacific Perspectives on Measuring and Reducing Inequalities</p> <p>Noting that inequalities are increasing and understanding that, climate change and other shocks may have disproportionate impact on the most marginalized groups, ESCAP member States have selected the theme of Inequality in the era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as the thematic study of the 74th Commission Session in 2018. The main objective of this session on inequality will be to: 1) obtain feedback on preliminary research results and discuss local experience from the perspective of the Pacific countries; and 2) to highlight the priorities of Pacific countries in measuring and reducing inequalities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by ESCAP • Presentation by SPC and PIFS on economic inequality and the indicators on inequality in the list of Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators • Plenary discussion <p>Moderator: UNDP</p>
15:00-15:30	Afternoon tea
15:30-16:30	<p>VII. Pacific Perspectives on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration</p> <p>Given the threats posed by climate change and extreme weather events, this session will discuss Pacific perspectives on international migration to ensure that they are reflected in the negotiations for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular</p>

	<p>Migration, launched in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.¹⁵ These discussions will feed into discussions at the Asia-Pacific level during the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, due to be held in Bangkok from 6-7 November 2017, and the global stocktaking meeting, due to be held in Mexico in December 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Iosefa Maiava • Country perspective
16:30-17:00	<p>VIII Final reflections on way forward and closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iosefa Maiava and Cristelle Pratt

List of participants

AUSTRALIA

Mr. David Lowe, First Secretary, Australian High Commission, Email: David.lowe@dfat.gov.au

FIJI

Mr Isoa Talemaibua, Principal Economic Planning Officer – Budget & Planning, Ministry of Economy, Email: italemaibua@economy.gov.fj

Mr Kemueli Naiqama, Deputy Government Statistician, Fiji Bureau of Statistics, Email: knaigama@statsfiji.gov.fj

FRENCH POLYNESIA

Mr Engel Raygadas, International Affairs Senior Advisor, Permanent Secretariat for International, European & Pacific Affairs, Email: Engel.raygadas@presidence.pf

KIRIBATI

Ms Rokoua Teunroko, Senior Economist, National Economic Planning Office, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Email: rteunroko@mfep.gov.ki

Ms Mareta Kaiteie, Senior Sector Economist, National Economic Planning Office, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Email: mkaiteie@mfep.gov.ki

Mr David Teaabo, SIS & Pacific Regionalism Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Immigration, Email: dopp@mfa.gov.ki

¹⁵ A/RES/71/1

NAURU

Mr John B. Limen, Director of Planning, Planning & Aid Division, Ministry of Finance, Email: John.limen@naurugov.nr

NEW CALEDONIA

Mr Jimmy Naouna, Email: Jimmy.naouna@gouv.nc

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Ms Rose Raka-Koyama, Acting Team Leader (Administration), National Planning & Monitoring, Email: Rose_koyama@planning.gov.pg miabzexa@gmail.com

SAMOA

Ms Peseta Noumea Simi, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Email: Noumea@mfat.gov.ws

Ms Lita Lui, Assistant CEO, Aid Coordination & Debt Management Division, Ministry of Finance, Email: Lita.lui@mof.gov.ws

Sefuiva R Muagututia, Government Statistician, Samoa Bureau of Statistics, Email: Reupena.muagututia@sbs.gov.ws

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Mr Allan Christian Daonga, Under Secretary, Strategic Planning & Programme Quality Group, Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination, Email: adaonga@mdpac.gov.sb

TUVALU

HE Mr Temate Melitiana, High Commissioner of Tuvalu to Fiji, Tuvalu High Commission – Suva, Email: tmelitiana@yahoo.com

VANUATU

Mr Roan Lester, Senior Policy Analyst, Economic Sector, Department of Planning – Policy Sector, Email: [rl Ester@vanuatu.gov.vu](mailto:rl Lester@vanuatu.gov.vu)

Mr Simil Johnson, Government Statistician, National Statistics Office, Email: sjohnson@vanuatu.gov.vu

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

Ms Kristyn Lobendahn, PIPSO, Email kristynl@pipso.org.fj

Ms Roina Vavatau, President – SUNGO, Email: Roina2929@gmail.com

Ms Rosa Maulolo, Manager – SUNGO, Email: ceo@sungo.ws

Mr Usufono Fepuleai, Director, Youth with a Mission (YWAM) – Samoa, Email: Ywamsamoa@gmail.com
, Bienstotec.co@gmail.com

Miss Christine Tuioti, Technical Officer, Samoa Conservation Society, Email: conservesamoa@gmail.com

Mr Chris Mene, Consultant –, International Association for Public Participation, Email chris@mene.nz

Ms Vani Catanisiga, PIANGO, Email: vani@piango.org

REGIONAL / INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC

Miss Lagipoiva Jackson, Oceans & Climate Change Manager, Conservation International Pacific, Email: cjackson@conservation.org

PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTIONS (PASAI)

Faamatuainu Dennis Margraff , Acting Controller and Auditor General, Audit Office - Samoa , Email: Faamatuainu.margraff@audit.gov.ws

Oceanbaby Penitito, Audit Manager, Email: Ocean.penitito@audit.gov.ws

SPC

Ms Patricia Sachs-Cornish, Chief Adviser – DG Office, Email: patriciasc@spc.int

Ms Kim Robertson, Adviser – Gender Statistics, Email: kimr@spc.int

Ms Alison Culpin, Demographer / Social Statistician, Email: alisonc@spc.int

SPREP

Ms Tagaloa Cooper, Climate Change Institutional Strengthening Adviser (CCISA), Email: tagaloac@sprep.org

Mr Joep Davetanivalu, Planning & Capacity Development Adviser (PCDA), Email: joped@sprep.org

Mr Paul Anderson, INFORM Project Manager, Email: Paula@sprep.org

USP

Dr Cresantia Koya – Vakauta, Associate Dean, Research & Internationalisation, Faculty of Arts, Law and Education, University of the South Pacific (USP), Email: cresantia.koyavakauta@usp.ac.fj

UNITED NATIONS

Ms Lizbeth Cullity, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Samoa, Email: Lizbeth.cullity@one.un.org

Ms Desna Solofa, UN Coordination Specialist, UN Resident Coordination Office, Email: Desna.solofa@one.un.org

Ms Cherelle Fruean, Programme Analyst, SDGs Localisation Project, UNDP Samoa, Email: Cherelle.fruean@undp.org

Mr Patrick Tuimalealiifano, Deputy Team Leader, Inclusive Growth Team, UNDP Pacific Office, Email: Patrick.tuimaleafano@undp.org

Mr Greg Keeble, Statistics Adviser, UNESCO Samoa, Email: g.keeble@unesco.org

Mr Sefanaia Nawadra, Head – UNEP Pacific Office, Samoa

Ms Bronwyn Burfitt, UNEP Project Development Consultant, Email: Bronwyn.burfitt@gmail.com

Dr Tiffany Straza, UNEP Oceans Consultant, Email: tstraza@gmail.com

Mr Tomasi Peni, National Coordinator, International Labour Organisation (ILO) – Samoa, Email: Peni@ilo.org

SDG TASKFORCE

Mr Derek Brien, SDGTF Member, Email: drb@pacificpolicy.org

Mr Garry Wiseman, SDGTF Adviser / Consultant, Email: Gwise51@gmail.com

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT (PIFS)

Ms Cristelle Pratt, Deputy Secretary General, Email: cristellep@forumsec.org

Mr Joel Nilon, Pacific Regionalism Adviser, Email: joeln@forumsec.org

Ms Seema Naidu, Gender Officer, Email: seeman@forumsec.org

Ms Charmina Saili, Regional Planning Adviser, Email: charminas@forumsec.org

Ms Portia Dugu, Forum Compact Research Officer, Email: portiad@fourmsec.org

Ms Sylvia Waqabaca, Research Officer, Email: sylviaw@forumsec.org

ESCAP

Mr Iosefa Maiava, Head, ESCAP Pacific Office, Email: maiavai@un.org

Mr Riccardo Mesiano, Sustainable Development Officer, Environment and Development Division, Email: mesiano@un.org

Ms Katinka Weinberger, Environment and Development Division, Email: weinbergerk@un.org

Ms Ermina Sokou, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, Email: sokou@un.org

Ms Anna Naupa, Economic Affairs Officer - ESCAP Pacific Office, Email: anna.naupa@un.org

Mr Christopher Ryan, Statistician - ESCAP Pacific Office, Email: ryanc@un.org

Ms Patricia Momoivalu, ESCAP Pacific Office, Email: momoivalu@un.org

