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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Fifth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Bangkok, 28–30 March 2018

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the Fifth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the Forum:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Regional perspectives on the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. Strengthening the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific region.
4. Other matters.
5. Review and adoption of the draft report of the Forum.
6. Closing of the Forum.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the Forum

(a) Opening statements

The detailed programme for the opening of the session will be made available online at www.unescap.org/events/apfsd5/.

(b) Election of officers

The list of participants will be available online at www.unescap.org/events/apfsd5/.

The Forum will elect a chair and vice-chairs.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/RFSD/2018/L.1)

Annotation

The Forum will consider and adopt the agenda, subject to such changes as may be necessary.

2. Regional perspectives on the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Documentation

Regional and subregional perspectives on the transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies (ESCAP/RFSD/2018/1)

Assessment of progress in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17 at the regional level (ESCAP/RFSD/2018/INF/1)

Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goal data availability report (ESCAP/RFSD/2018/INF/2)

Annotation

The theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2018 is “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”. The discussions under agenda item 2 will aim to advance the regional dialogue on priorities for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and on its follow-up and review process at the regional, subregional and national levels by assessing progress as well as opportunities for peer learning related to the theme of the forum and by facilitating an in-depth review of the cluster of Goals to be discussed at the forum and their interlinkages, including with other Goals, and the means of implementation.

Resilience is an increasingly important attribute of the horizontally and vertically interlinked human systems that are critical to the functioning of Asia-Pacific societies. Document ESCAP/RFSD/2018/1 contains information to advance the regional dialogue on the readiness of the societies in the region to deal with increasingly complex risk profiles and the specific capacities needed not only to adapt but also to effect the transformations envisioned in the 2030 Agenda. It contains a review of the changing risk profiles in the subregions and further information on the conclusions contained in the background document for the Fourth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. Those conclusions emphasized that the most vulnerable in society may be most affected by risks related to megatrends and identified specific resilience capacities and approaches for different levels of society, which included but also went beyond the concept of disaster preparedness and management to address other types of risks to human systems and to apply analysis to resilience challenges at different levels of society.

Member States, major groups and other stakeholders and representatives of the international community will be invited to share their views and experiences and provide recommendations for regional action.

Document ESCAP/RFSD/2018/INF/1 provides information on progress on Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17, based on an assessment of available indicators and enriched by case studies. It also provides information on priorities for strengthening policy coherence in implementation efforts. Areas for

regional cooperation to address the transboundary dimensions of the Goals and their interlinkages, including the means of implementation, are highlighted.

Regional progress in the implementation of the cluster of Goals under review at the forthcoming high-level political forum on sustainable development and their interlinkages will be addressed. Member States, major groups and other stakeholders and representatives of the international community will be invited to share their views and experiences and provide recommendations for regional action.

For document ESCAP/RFSD/2018/INF/2, the availability of data on all proposed global Sustainable Development Goal indicators for Asia-Pacific countries were reviewed in order to identify data gaps for regional Goal monitoring. Data from the global Goal indicator database as well as from other data repositories maintained by custodian agencies were used.

Member States, major groups and other stakeholders and representatives of the international community will be invited to share their views on the results and to provide recommendations for regional action to improve Sustainable Development Goal data availability, including options for increasing political and financial support for statistical development.

3. Strengthening the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific region

Documentation

Synthesis report on the voluntary national reviews submitted by Asia-Pacific countries at the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017 (ESCAP/RFSD/2018/2)

Progress with regard to the road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/RFSD/2018/3)

Partnerships in Asia and the Pacific for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ESCAP/RFSD/2018/INF/3)

Annotation

Document ESCAP/RFSD/2018/2 contains a review of the information provided by the 17 member countries in the region (5 in 2016 and 12 in 2017) which volunteered to report at the high-level political forum on sustainable development as part of the voluntary national reviews. Despite the diversity among the countries, several common threads emerged from their reports with regard to the challenges and achievements of the review process, which point to important lessons for the countries that have volunteered to participate in the high-level political forum in 2018.

Asia-Pacific countries that participated in voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2016, 2017 and 2018 will be invited to highlight national perspectives on progress in the implementation of and achievements with regard to the 2030 Agenda. Member States, major groups and other stakeholders and representatives of the international community will be invited to exchange views on how the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development should be positioned to provide regional input to the deliberations of the high-level political forum.

Document ESCAP/RFSD/2018/3 contains information on the progress made with regard to the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda in

Asia and the Pacific,¹ which was endorsed by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-third session. The objective of the road map is to promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development through regional cooperation in a set of priority areas that support effective pursuit of sustainable development by member States, while providing ongoing and more efficient and coordinated support for member States and guaranteeing more effective knowledge-sharing among countries.

As indicated in the road map, reviews of progress with regard to the road map will take place annually at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

Member States, major groups and other stakeholders and representatives of the international community will be invited to share their perspectives on the progress made and to provide further guidance for the effective implementation of the regional road map.

Document ESCAP/RFSD/2018/INF/3 provides information on partnerships in Asia and the Pacific for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda contains a call for the revitalization of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. Multi-stakeholder partnerships are expected to play an increasingly important role in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Under Goal 17, effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships, are an area of focus.

Action is needed at all levels to mobilize and unlock the transformative power of multi-stakeholder partnerships to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the region. Member States, major groups, such as local authorities and the private sector, and other stakeholders and representatives of the international community will be invited to share their views and experiences, including on how to identify, build and sustain effective partnerships that support implementation of the Goals and on how to co-create knowledge to trigger a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific.

4. Other matters

Other matters raised by representatives and/or the secretariat will be considered under this agenda item.

5. Review and adoption of the draft report of the Forum

Documentation

Draft report (ESCAP/RFSD/2018/L.2)

Annotation

The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development will consider and adopt the draft report, which will reflect the key points of the discussions and the recommendations on follow-up actions for transmission to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in July 2018.

6. Closing of the Forum

Closing statements will be delivered.

¹ E/ESCAP/73/31, annex II.