

## 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".

In addition, Member States, in the third session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) highlighted how the 2030 Agenda provides an opportunity to shift away from "business as usual" and to more effectively address multi-sectoral challenges. More holistic approaches that integrate the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development were seen as indispensable to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

In response to this, ESCAP is holding a week dedicated to enhancing and deepening the understanding of the key challenges for effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals - **ESCAP SDG Week**. Over the course of five days, *ESCAP SDG Week* will facilitate dialogue among experts, public servants, researchers and other stakeholders on challenges involved in effective implementation of the sustainable development agenda and tools and support available, including through ESCAP, to strengthen peer learning and capacity development to take forward progress on the 2030 Agenda.

*ESCAP SDG Week* will make full use of already-planned Expert Group Meetings (EGMs) and events as described under the ESCAP's programme of work for 2016-2017 by putting them together under a comprehensive concept and integrated approach showcasing ESCAP's response to the new needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the requests of member states for ESCAP to support peer-learning and capacity development.

This platform will be a unique opportunity to bring together stakeholders from government, academia, the international community, civil society and the private sector and provide them with: (1) an enabling environment for knowledge sharing and engaging in technical level discussions on different aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and; (2) the opportunity to provide feedback on the support required from ESCAP and other development partners as they prepare to implement the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development at the national level.

The 5-day event will address key aspects of the 2030 Agenda that were highlighted and discussed in the third session of the APFSD. Given their relevance and the need to foster technical expertise to respond effectively to the challenges of implementation, the SDG Week will focus on:

- The 2030 Agenda follow up and review process
- Means of implementation
- Support to countries with special needs
- Support implementation at the local level and urban governance
- Integrated approaches for SDG planning – the case of SDG 6
- Trade, investment and technology
- Gender

- Youth and the 2030 Agenda
- International Investment Agreements (IIAs)
- Macroeconomic Policies and sustainable development in the region
- Agricultural trade for sustainable development

### Forum Objectives:

The Week will:

- Enhance awareness and understanding of the key challenges and opportunities for SDG implementation in the region through sharing of experiences and knowledge.
- Discuss various elements of tools and support available, including from ESCAP, for implementing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, with a view to strengthening them.
- Identify gaps and opportunities for strengthening support, including through partnerships, peer learning and capacity development.

### Target Participants

By invitation:

1. Institutions in ESCAP member States responsible for various aspects of implementing the SDG in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2. Local government organisations
3. Regional and sub-regional organizations that support SDG implementation
4. Think tanks and academia; and
5. Other stakeholders involved in SDG implementation at national, regional & global levels.

Interested participants will be able to register for open events through ESCAP website:

<http://www.unescap.org/events/escap-sdg-week>

### Opening and Closing Events:

**Opening Session and Panel:** This panel will be led by ESCAP's Executive Secretary and it will discuss SDG implementation opportunities, key challenges for the region; and the role of ESCAP within the 2030 Agenda.

**Closing Session and Panel: (pending information)**

### Thematic Sessions:

**Asia-Pacific Commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2016:** Under the framework of the United Nations Secretary-General's campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women, ESCAP, UN Women and the UN Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women will organize an Asia-Pacific commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 28 November 2016. The focus of the campaign this year is to emphasize the need for sustainable financing for efforts to end violence against women and girls towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, the regional commemoration will include an interactive discussion on the importance of gender-responsive budgeting, the value of costing studies as well as examples of innovative

measures from across the region in preventing and ending violence against women and girls. Representatives of the diplomatic community, UN agencies, regional inter-governmental organizations and civil society organizations will join the commemoration.

***Expert group meeting on Developing Partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals:*** Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development – recognizes partnerships as important vehicles for supporting the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries. The workshop will bring together partnerships, partnership experts, government officials, relevant United Nations entities, and local authorities in the specific region to examine successful partnership models. The workshops will look at various elements of a partnership, which might include, but not limited to, governance structures, leadership roles, consultation processes with communities and beneficiaries, management, monitoring, reporting, evaluation, learning, knowledge management, as well alignment with national strategies and the 2030 Agenda and the SDG.

***Expert group meeting on Integrated Approaches for SDG Planning – the case of SDG 6:*** With a focus on *SDG 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation*, this regional consultation will present various frameworks for integration of the water related targets using systems thinking and examples of national pilot applications, which will provide a platform for discussions on the interrelated nature of the SDG's and share experiences, and key lessons learned. The approaches discussed will provide a basis for strengthening national institutional frameworks for SDG implementation.

***Event on Trade and the Digital Economy in the 2030 Agenda:*** The Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), in collaboration with UNCTAD and UNESCAP, will be holding a meeting on Trade and the Digital Economy, which will focus on how the digitization of products and processes is impacting the trade-development relationship. For example, the digital economy and the digitization of trade processing has tremendous implications for commercial exchange. Countries are less constrained than ever before by traditional factor endowments and technological capacity. This meeting will examine what digitization means for economic development, and how digitization of products and processes change our existing understanding of the links between trade and development.

***Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world: Review of the 2017 Annual Regional SDG Report under the ESCAP/ADB/UNDP Regional Partnership on SDG:*** The regional partnership between ESCAP/ADB/UNDP on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific region is a platform for cooperation and collaboration to harness the capacities and the potential of all regional, sub-regional and global cooperation mechanisms including those offered by the United Nations system. This meeting will bring together experts and partners to discuss the first report of the partnership to be released under the framework of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development.

***Workshop on Promoting Cross-border Agricultural Trade for Sustainable Development:*** Expanding cross-border trade of agricultural products is an important vehicle for sustainable development for developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Overseas markets can provide more income for small-scale farmers than might receive by selling to the local markets. However, overseas markets require compliance with food safety, food quality and sustainability requirements. Furthermore, it

often requires optimization of procedures in the agricultural supply chain as well as improving food safety and quality control systems. The objectives of the workshop are: to build capacity of public and private sector stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region on quality standards and control systems for fresh horticulture products; to raise awareness of particular food safety, food quality and sustainability standards and certifications for the export of fresh horticulture products, particularly for mango and pineapple to export markets and; to review procedures and practices to enhance cross-border trade of fresh horticulture products.

***Expert group meeting on the regional implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action for landlocked developing countries:*** This expert group meeting will bring together eminent experts in the region and beyond to provide regional perspectives and in-depth country experiences in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) and in building their capacity to make appropriate policy responses that address their special sustainable development needs and policy challenges in a more coherent manner. Furthermore, the Asia-Pacific Countries with Special Needs Development Report (CSN Development Report) 2017, a new ESCAP flagship publication aimed at informing policy maker about the development challenges and prospects of the region's 36 least developed countries (LCD), landlocked developing countries (LLDC), and small island developing states (SIDS), will also benefit from the review of the VPoA. The report is expected to provide a timely and comprehensive review and analysis of the status, challenges and prospects of each of these groups of countries and targeted policy options to promote their inclusive growth and sustainable development. The theme of the 2017 Report is "Investment in Infrastructure for inclusive and sustainable future".

***Workshop on Using Technology in Support of Trade for Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises for Sustainable Development:*** Through this workshop we hope to pioneer a new way of bringing together government and the private sector to develop an actionable, high-impact capacity building program to enable regional governments to use the technology revolution to unlock regional MSMEs' potential for inclusive trade, economic growth, and job-creation. Ensuring effective and appropriate eTrade policies are in place is of the utmost urgency for many developing economies, especially in this region. Thus, we expect strong interest in the workshop from our member states. Expected outcomes include identifying key components of a capacity-building programme for entrepreneurs and business development institutions in four key areas: Logistics, Online payments, Policy environment to support MSMEs, and Online engagement.

***Workshop on The Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asian and Pacific Cities:*** The workshop will follow up on the outcomes of the First International Forum on Urban Policy and the SDG, held in Seoul in June 2016, as well as the outcomes of the Sixth Asia Pacific Urban Forum and the Third Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. The Urban SDG Knowledge Platform, first formally conceptualized during the forum in Seoul, is a specific regional response to support SDG implementation at the urban level through knowledge development and sharing of effective practices. This two day event will provide an opportunity to promote the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform, and highlight efforts being taken towards inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable urban development in the Asian and Pacific region.

***Expert Group Meeting on Macroeconomic Prospects, Policy Challenges, and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific:*** This EGM aims to review the draft chapters of 2017 edition of

ESCAP's flagship publication, Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific. The morning sessions will focus on near-term economic prospects and medium-term development challenges related to employment, social protection, and environmental sustainability. The afternoon session will discuss the thematic chapter on "Better governance in support of financing for development", which will highlight how better governance and effective institutions play an instrumental role in development, particularly through the channels of fiscal management and financial sector development. The final session will take a broader perspective and discuss how policy advice in the Survey 2017 can help Asia-Pacific countries achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

***Expert dialogue on effective follow-up and review for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific:*** Follow-up & review is particularly crucial to ensure effective implementation progress, strengthening national and local mechanisms and processes for accountability and action, including through targeted and constructive multi-stakeholder participation. This expert group meeting will establish a shared understanding of follow-up and review. It will discuss effective follow-up and review at the regional level, support provided at national levels, and identify good practices for follow up and review at the national level.

***Regional Seminar on International Investment Agreements (IIAs) and Sustainable Development and the 6th Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Network:*** The regional seminar on IIAs and sustainable development will discuss current developments and challenges in investment rule making, and possible ways for improving the IIA system to ensure it better supports achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Targeted at investment policy makers, investment agreement negotiators and investment promotion officials from across the region, the seminar and the network meeting will provide an opportunity for FDI policy makers to exchange experiences and interact with experts. Discussions will be centred on investor-state dispute settlement mechanisms and will examine the relation between FDI and the sustainable development goals. The 6th Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Network will also take place as part of this event.

***Round table event: Youth at the Heart of the 2030 Agenda: the Case for Space:*** UNESCO, UNDP and ESCAP will convene the meeting "Youth at the Heart of the 2030 Agenda: The Case for Space" at the UNCC from 30 November to 2 December 2016. The event will bring together a large number young people, representatives from governments and civil society organizations to discuss a series of critical issues related to how best engage youth in the SDG implementation. It is expected that the meeting will identify a collection of research findings and innovative initiatives/programmes to enhance youth participation as well as strategic elements for governments and youth to collectively engage in work related to sustainable development.

#### **Other special events:**

***Launch of the Asia Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR) 2016:*** Both trade and investment are integral components of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development - trade has been recognized as a critical means of implementation for SDGs, while foreign direct investment is an important source of the financing for development. A review of recent trends in trade and foreign direct investment flows and patterns is an invaluable input to all stakeholders to take stock, evaluate preparedness and initiate discussions on addressing possible short term and long term challenges to

harnessing trade and investment for achieving SDGs. Asia Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR), a recurrent annual publication prepared by the Trade, Investment and Innovation Division of ESCAP, contributes towards this. APTIR provides information on and independent analyses of recent trends and developments in trade, foreign direct investment, trade facilitation, integration and related policy issues of the region. The launch of the APTIR 2016 will take place in CR3, 10-11:30 am, on 29 Nov, 2016.

**Lunch Event on the GIZ urban nexus project:** The importance of an integrated approach to natural resource management was recognized in the Rio+20 outcomes as well as in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda. Integrated resource management in Asian cities or the "urban nexus approach" was also highlighted in the Jakarta Call for Action, adopted at the sixth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF-6) in October 2015, as a meaningful policy option and priority action for cities. ESCAP along with our partner GIZ, aim to assist cities and relevant stakeholders by promoting and mainstreaming sustainable, integrated resource management into national and local policies and initiatives for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Organizing outreach events at key conferences has been a key approach to disseminate the nexus outcomes. This side event will share key outcomes from an Expert Group Meeting organized on 10-11 November 2016. The session will discuss how resource integration at the sub-national and city levels can support implementation of urban- and resource-related SDG and follow up the New Urban Agenda.

**19<sup>th</sup> Regional Consultative Meeting on Good Urban Governance (GUG):** This recurrent meeting, for which ESCAP and UN Habitat serve as co-chairs, provides an opportunity for regional agencies and programmes within and outside the United Nations working on urban issues in Asia-Pacific to exchange information on activities and to explore opportunities for collaboration. GUGs often take place in conjunction with other meetings to use the opportunity of face-to-face interaction with regional partners. The objective of the 19th GUG is to discuss regional strategies to support urban-level implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and the SDGs as well as the New Urban Agenda, the outcome of HABITAT III. The meeting will take the form of a brown-bag lunch on 1 December and is open to all interested representatives from global, regional and sub-regional organizations whose work is linked to urban settlements.

**Launch of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2016: Year-end Update:** To ensure effective pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Asia-Pacific region will need to strive for stable economic growth at reasonably high levels, along with better-quality growth in terms of inclusiveness and sustainability. In providing an update to the Survey published in April 2016, this report finds that economic conditions have somewhat stabilized this year following a period of downward revisions to the growth forecast and high volatility in financial and commodities markets. The report discusses the implications of recent growth trends and drivers for productive employment, poverty reduction, and mitigation of inequalities. In taking stock of recent policy developments, the report argues for a more proactive role of fiscal policy in supporting higher and more inclusive growth. In this regard, the report also provides a preliminary discussion on the role of governance -- a topic which will be explored in-depth in the forthcoming Survey 2017. The launch of the Survey 2016 Year-end Update will take place in CR-4 at 13.30-14.30 on 1 December 2016.

**Indicative Program Outline:**

	Monday 28 Nov	Tuesday 29 Nov	Wednesday 30 Nov	Thursday 01 Dec	Friday 02 Dec
Opening/Closing Panels	09:00 -10:30				Afternoon
Asia-Pacific Commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2016	10:45-12:00				
Expert Group Meeting on Developing Partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals	x				
Regional Seminar on Integrated Approaches for SDG Planning: the Case of SDG 6 on Water and Sanitation	x	x			
Event on Trade and the Digital Economy and the 2030 Agenda	x	x			
Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world: Review of the 2017 Annual Regional SDG Report under the ESCAP/ADB/UNDP Regional Partnership on SDG		x			
Workshop on Promoting Cross-border Agricultural Trade for Sustainable Development	x	x	x		
Expert group meeting on the regional implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action for landlocked developing countries			x		
Workshop on Using Technology in Support of Trade for Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises for Sustainable Development			x	x	
Workshop on The Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asian and Pacific Cities			x	x	
Expert Group Meeting on Macroeconomic Prospects, Policy Challenges and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific				x	
Expert dialogue on effective follow-up and review for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific				x	x
Regional Seminar on International Investment Agreements and Sustainable Development and 6th Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Network				x	x
Round table event: Youth at the Heart of the 2030 Agenda: the Case for Space			x	x	x
<b>Other special events</b>					
Launch of the Asia Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR) 2016		10:00-11:30			
Event on the GIZ urban nexus project			Lunch event		
Regional Consultative Meeting on Good Urban Governance (GUG)				Lunch event	
Launch of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2016: Year-end Update				13:30-14:30	

