27-30 March 2023

10th ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
“Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels in Asia and the Pacific”

SDG 6 Round Table Concept Note

28 March, 14:15 – 16:15 hours (GMT+7)
[Meeting Room A] United Nations Conference Center (UNCC), Bangkok, Thailand
Reporting back to APFSD Plenary: Wednesday 29 March, 14:00-17:00 hours (GMT+7)

Background

The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 Round Table Session, an integral part of the 10th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), serves to bring together United Nations organisations, representatives from UN member states, civil society, and others to discuss progress, challenges, next steps, and overall objectives related to SDG 6 in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The SDG 6 Round Table reviews and assesses themes within the SDG 6 Goal Profile (like water scarcity, transboundary cooperation between shared rivers and aquifers, water-related disasters and climate change, adaption, and resilience) that have progressed and other areas that need increased support. More specifically, the region needs to (i) accelerate progress in four of the eight SDG 6 targets (SDG 6.1, 6.2, 6.5, 6.a), (ii) reverse its current negative trend for three of its targets (SDG 6.4, 6.6, 6.b), and (iii) two targets lack sufficient data to measure progress (SDG 6.1 and 6.3). The overall goal of the SDG 6 Round Table is to foster collaboration in order to establish next steps and develop concrete actions for water-related issues in the coming years.

Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) and SDG 6 Round Table

The annual Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) is an inclusive and intergovernmental forum and a regional platform for supporting countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 10th APFSD will be organized from 27-30 March 2023 under the theme “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development at all levels in Asia and the Pacific” in Bangkok, Thailand, at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC).

APFSD will feature multi-stakeholder “round tables” dedicated to the goals under review at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2023. The round table on the review of SDG 6 will be co-organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations’ Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

The objectives of the round table are to:

I. Establish a shared understanding of the outlook/progress on SDG 6 by:
   (a) Providing an update on progress made

II. Jointly develop recommendations on:
   (a) Addressing systemic challenges that are barriers to further progress.
   (b) Priorities for strengthening policy coherence in implementation efforts – including through attention to key leverage points.
   (c) Promising solutions and innovations (policy, social, institutional, technological, or other); and
   (d) Areas for national and regional cooperation.

The round table discussions will be based on the SDG 6 Goal Profile which was drafted in preparation to the forum and will be available on the APFSD website for reference. Data gaps and how these can be addressed may also be discussed.

The round table will provide a platform to present on overall goal progress as well as share individual country perspectives on water-related issues. It will also include a breakout session in which representatives cover key water issues and discuss key action plans followed by a large group discussion and question and answer session that seeks to examine key takeaways and establish clear goals related to SDG 6. The round table format includes a presentation on the SDG 6 profile, a panel discussion, breakout discussions, and a plenary session. The agenda is presented below. The report of the round table will be presented to the broader APFSD plenary during agenda item 5 (b) scheduled for 29 March 2023 between 14:00-17:00 hours (GMT +7).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Themes of SDG 6 Round Table</th>
<th>Areas for Discussion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water Scarcity</strong></td>
<td>The relationship between agricultural production, climate change adaptation and water supply limitations.</td>
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<td><strong>Transboundary cooperation</strong></td>
<td>Multistakeholder engagement and integrated approaches to address the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems.</td>
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<td><strong>Water related disasters</strong></td>
<td>Strengthening investment and institutional coordination to address disaster risk reduction for water related disasters.</td>
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<td><strong>Safely Managed Sanitation</strong></td>
<td>Prioritizing finance and inclusive consultation processes for marginalized populations who may not benefit equally from the economic prosperity and overall improvements in basic services.</td>
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**Tentative Agenda**

**Tuesday, 28 March 2023**

14:15 – 16:15 hours (GMT+7, Bangkok time)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda</th>
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<tr>
<td>14:15-14:20</td>
<td><strong>Welcome and opening remarks</strong>, Debora Comini, Regional Director for UNICEF East Asia &amp; Pacific</td>
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<td>(5 mins)</td>
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<td>14:20-14:25</td>
<td><strong>Presentation of the Goal 6 Profile</strong></td>
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<td>(5 mins)</td>
<td>Ms. Caroline Turner, FAO</td>
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<td>Ms. Silvia Gaya, UNICEF</td>
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<td>14:25-14:55</td>
<td><strong>Panel discussion</strong></td>
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<td>(30 mins)</td>
<td><strong>Moderator</strong>: Ms. Katinka Weinberger, UNESCAP</td>
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<td><strong>Discussants</strong>:</td>
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<td>14:55-15:40 (45 mins)</td>
<td>Breakout groups</td>
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| **Group 1: Water scarcity** | **Moderator:** Ms. Caroline Turner, FAO  
**Notetaker:** Peerawit Janta, Asia Institute of Technology (AIT) |
| Recommendations from the SDG 6 profile for discussion:  
- *Enhance agricultural production with consideration of climate change adaptation and water supply limitations.*  
- *Improve data collection and sharing that underpins water accounting and informs sustainable management and use of water resources.* |
| **Group 2: Transboundary cooperation** | **Moderator:** Mr. Devesh Belbase, FAO  
**Notetaker:** Mr. Prakash Lamsal, UNICEF |
| Recommendations from the SDG 6 profile for discussion:  
- *Improve governance and cooperation through inclusive multi-stakeholder approaches.* |
- Use integrated approaches that address protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems, promote nature-based solutions and foster citizen action for river restoration.

**Group 3: Water related disasters**

**Moderator:** Mr. Philip Kang, ESCAP  
**Notetaker:** Ms. Yi-Ann Chen, ESCAP

Recommendations from the SDG 6 profile for discussion:
- **Strengthen national institutions and institutional coordination across administrative scales, especially on disasters.**
- **Regulations to direct investment towards effective water management, clean production systems and to prevent pollution and disasters.**

**Group 4: Safely managed sanitation**

**Moderator:** Ms. Silvia Gaya, UNICEF  
**Notetaker:** Mr. Arturo Italo Salazar Toledo, UNICEF

Recommendations from the SDG 6 profile for discussion:
- **Increase public financing for WASH services for marginalised populations who may not benefit equally from the economic prosperity and overall improvements in basic services**
- **Support gender equality, disability, and social inclusion through inclusive methodologies for consultation and outreach to different stakeholders in the design and implementation of relevant policies and strategies**

| 15:40 - 16:10 (30 mins) | Plenary discussion  
**Moderator:** Ms. Silvia Gaya, UNICEF |
| 16:10 - 16:15 (5 mins) | Closing remarks, Ms. Silvia Gaya, UNICEF |
Moderator to summarise highlights and note that the points identified and presented back by the breakout groups will be used to revise the SDG 6 recommendations for action and be presented to APFSD plenary.

Rapporteur on the Round Table Discussion on SDG 6: Dr. John Dore, Lead Water Specialist, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia

For more information, please contact: APFSD Secretariat at escap-apfsd@un.org.

SDG 6 Round Table:
- Ms. Caroline Turner, Programme Manager, FAO caroline.turner@fao.org

Registration link:

#APFSD #GlobalGoals #SDGs #2030Agenda #AsiaPacific