



11th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises:

The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in Asia and the Pacific

20-23 February 2024

United Nations Conference Centre - Bangkok, Thailand and online

Background

The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) is an annual, inclusive intergovernmental forum to support follow-up and review of progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional level.

This regional platform aims to inform, empower, and support Asia-Pacific countries (especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States) in their efforts to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their targets set out by the 2030 Agenda by identifying regional trends and sharing best practices and lessons learned. The Forum convenes United Nations system entities, member States, international organisations, civil society, and other stakeholders whose reflections feed into and inform the 2024 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York, which reviews sustainable development progress at the global level.

The 11th APFSD will take place from 20-23 February under the theme: *“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in Asia and the Pacific”* at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand, and online.

In alignment with the focus of the 2024 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the APFSD will assess progress on the SDGs under review: Goal 1 (No poverty); Goal 2 (Zero hunger); Goal 13 (Climate action); Goal 16 (Peace, justice, and strong institutions) and Goal 17 (Partnership for the Goals). The Forum will also support the presentation of voluntary national reviews (VNRs) at the 2024 HLPF.

Context

Currently, the Asia-Pacific region is not on track to meeting any of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The compounding challenges of climate change, conflict and COVID-19 have catalyzed a “perfect storm” of crises leading to the widening of inequalities both across and within Asian and Pacific countries. Decades of development progress has

been set back. Accelerating progress of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through innovative transformation that leaves no one behind is critical to recovery from these crises and to realizing the 2030 Agenda.

Against this backdrop, the 11th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development convenes at a critical juncture not only in terms of the long-term goal of the 2030 Agenda, but also in addressing the short and medium-term challenges to the region's social, environmental, and economic development.

The 11th APFSD will endeavor to present opportunities, innovative solutions, and inclusive policy recommendations which are shaped by the SDGs and adopt a whole of society approach to promote an accelerated recovery which is resilient, inclusive, and sustainable.

Objective

The 11th APFSD will play a unique role to facilitate multistakeholder stakeholders' solutions and peer learning on how to accelerate transformations for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda while responding to compounding crisis by providing a platform to:

- Examine how to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, with a focus on the compounding of crises faced by the region, while ensuring that recovery is made resilient, inclusive, and sustainable.
- Conduct in-depth review of SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17, whilst also considering the integrated, indivisible, and interlinked nature of all the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Support the presentation of voluntary national reviews for the 2024 HLPF.
- Discuss opportunities to strengthen linkages between national, regional, and global follow-up and review.
- Identify short, medium, and long-term solutions for attaining the 2030 Agenda.

Asia-Pacific perspectives on follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda will be conveyed to the HLPF and are expected to inform its discussions. The APFSD Report and Chair's Summary will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council.

Subregional Perspectives

ESCAP organizes preparatory meetings for the 11th APFSD in each of the five ESCAP subregions. These bring together stakeholders from government, academia, the international community, civil society and the private sector and provide the opportunity to provide subregional perspectives for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They also provide an enabling environment for peer learning and knowledge sharing and engaging in technical level discussions on the theme of the APFSD and HLPF and on other issues related to implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Outcomes of the subregional meetings will feed into the 11th APFSD.

The subregional preparatory meetings will take place as follows:

South and South-West Asia: 10-12 October 2023 (Kathmandu, Nepal)

North and Central Asia: 01-02 November 2023 (Almaty, Kazakhstan)

South-East Asia: 06-08 November 2023 (Bangkok, Thailand)

East and North East Asia: 20-22 November 2023 (Beijing, China)

Pacific: 21-22 November 2023 (Suva, Fiji)

SDG Round Tables

The APFSD will also hold Round Table discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals under review. These will provide an opportunity for countries and stakeholders to shape policy recommendations on the SDGs under review. UN regional agencies will be invited to lead the organization of the Round Tables, following the practice of past years.

The specific objectives of the round tables are to monitor SDG data to establish a shared understanding of the outlook/progress on the goals in the Asia-Pacific region, and to jointly develop recommendations on (1) systemic challenges that are barriers to further progress while making considerations for human rights and gender equality; (2) promising solutions and innovations (policy, social, institutional, technological or other) at the national level; (3) concrete priority actions, especially within the areas of policy planning, finance, and data and statistics and; (4) areas for regional cooperation to address the transboundary dimensions of these goals and challenges.

Side events, Associated events and Exhibitions

Side events provide an informal space for deepening discussion on the theme of the 2024 APFSD, on the SDGs under review, and on VNRs. They are also an opportunity for organisers to forge new partnerships. Virtual or in-person side events will be organized by member States, major groups and stakeholders, United Nations system entities, and other organisations.

Prior to the opening of the 11th APFSD, a Youth Forum and People's Forum will be convened with partners as preparatory meetings to the main programme.

An additional day prior to the Forum will be open for Associated and other Pre-Events and networking opportunities.

The SDG Acceleration Pavilion is a space for Member States, major groups and stakeholders, United Nations system entities and other intergovernmental organisations to share their knowledge products, audio-visual materials, and other means of information-sharing at designated exhibition booths across the UNCC building. The SDG Acceleration Pavilion also provides an opportunity to network, share, and create or strengthen partnerships with other stakeholders from the region participating in the APFSD who are also committed to the progress of sustainable development.

Participants

ESCAP member States and associated member States' representatives will be invited to participate in the meeting. Parliamentarians and representatives from Supreme Audit Institutions will also be invited.

Contributions of the UN system strengthen the APFSD and are explicitly requested by member States in ESCAP resolution 72/6. Participation of the UN system and other development partners and intergovernmental organizations in relevant parts of the APFSD will also be assured. Invitations will be issued to all Resident Coordinators.

Major groups and other stakeholders' participation will be solicited via an open call and other channels. They will be accredited to the meeting based on review of applications against pre-defined criteria by a selection committee from the Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM) and ESCAP. At present major groups and other stakeholders' representation is encouraged in: (1) in the opening session; (2) in all plenary sessions unless explicitly a Ministerial Panel; (3) in each Round Table, and (4) as organizers of side events, special events and exhibitions.

For the private sector, accreditation to the meeting will also be provided via membership of the [ESCAP Sustainable Business Network](#) [UN Global Compact](#) Chambers of Commerce, and other private-sector networks.

Researchers and staff of academic institutions who express interest may observe the APFSD if they are engaged in relevant work. ESCAP will make the final decisions on participation based on the expected numbers of registrants and the need to balance participation across gender, constituency, substantive, geographic and other factors. ESCAP will invite all organizations that meet the selection criteria to attend.

Additional participants will be able to follow the proceedings through the [ESCAP YouTube channel](#)

Contact Us

For more information, please visit <https://www.unescap.org/events/apfsd11> or contact APFSD Secretariat at: escap-apfsd@un.org

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