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Twelfth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Bangkok, 25–28 February 2025

Report on the Twelfth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development*

1. The Twelfth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), was held in Bangkok from 25 to 28 February 2025.

2. The Twelfth Forum was attended by over 1,000 participants, including representatives of Governments, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations bodies, international organizations and major groups and other stakeholders.

3. Representatives of the following member States attended: Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

4. Representatives of the following Permanent Observers attended: Chile, Egypt, Germany, Italy, Romania, South Africa and Sweden, as well as the European Union. A representative of the Holy See, an observer to the United Nations, also attended.

5. In accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure of ESCAP, the Chair and Vice-Chairs examined the credentials of all the representatives and found them to be in order.

6. Under agenda item 1 (a), the Executive Secretary of ESCAP delivered opening remarks. Special remarks were delivered by the Deputy Minister of Interior of Thailand, Ms. Sabeeda Thaised, and the President of the Economic and Social Council. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

* Annex II is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.

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delivered a statement. Statements on behalf of major groups and other stakeholders were delivered by the representative of the Asia-Pacific Peoples' Forum on Sustainable Development, Ms. Beena Pallical, and the representative of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development Youth Forum 2025, Ms. Shayal Nand.

7. Under agenda item 1 (b), the following members of the bureau were elected:

Chair:	Mr. Suman Bery (India)
Vice-Chairs:	Mr. Chencho (Bhutan) Mr. Florian J. Yatilman (Federated States of Micronesia) Mr. Shigemi Ando (Japan) Mr. Shiva Raj Adhikari (Nepal)

8. Under agenda item 1 (c), the following agenda was adopted:

1. Opening of the Twelfth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development:
   - (a) Opening addresses;
   - (b) Election of officers;
   - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind in Asia and the Pacific.
3. Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through voluntary national reviews.
4. Review of regional progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and opportunities for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals:
   - (a) Progress towards the achievement of Goals 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17 at the regional level;
   - (b) Implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the subregional level;
   - (c) Reporting on system-wide results of the United Nations at the regional level in Asia and the Pacific in support of the 2030 Agenda.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report on the Twelfth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

9. Under agenda item 2, the participants in the Twelfth Forum took note of the note by the secretariat entitled "Summary of the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goals partnership report 2025: promoting productive employment, gender equality and health in the workforce for a just transition towards green and blue economies" (ESCAP/RFSD/2025/2) and the note by the secretariat containing a summary of the Asia and the Pacific Sustainable

Development Goals progress report 2025 (ESCAP/RFSD/2025/3). A high-level panel discussion was held on the theme of the Twelfth Forum, "Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind in Asia and the Pacific". The panellists exchanged insights on policies and solutions to build a resilient workforce through decent employment, gender empowerment, social protection and health. A second high-level panel discussion was focused on turbocharging the regional implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Pact for the Future, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 79/1 of 22 September 2024.

10. Under agenda item 3, the participants took note of the note by the secretariat on leveraging the voluntary national review process to enhance the role of the private sector in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ESCAP/RFSD/2025/4). They considered the experiences of member States in preparing their voluntary national reviews for the 2025 high-level political forum on sustainable development, discussed the private sector's role in implementing the 2030 Agenda and how voluntary national reviews could enhance it and shared national perspectives on challenges, progress, achievements and lessons learned.

11. Under agenda item 4, five round tables were organized to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues to review regional progress on the Sustainable Development Goals that would be under review at the 2025 high-level political forum on sustainable development, namely Goal 3 (Good health and well-being), Goal 5 (Gender equality), Goal 8 (Decent work and economic growth), Goal 14 (Life below water) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The participants noted the various views expressed during the round tables, which were intended to inform the high-level political forum.

12. Under the same agenda item, the participants took note of the note by the secretariat on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the subregional level (ESCAP/RFSD/2025/5) and highlighted diverse subregional approaches, specificities and outcomes shared from the five subregional multi-stakeholder forums on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals held in 2024.

13. Also under agenda item 4, the coordinated approach of the United Nations system at the regional level to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was discussed. Many of the participants shared information on the actions taken and the results achieved in 2024, including those taken by issue-based coalitions established under the Regional Collaborative Platform for Asia and the Pacific.

14. Under agenda item 5, no other matters were discussed.

15. Under agenda item 6, the present report (paras. 1–20), except the annexes thereto, was adopted on 28 February 2025.

16. It was agreed that the Chair's summary of the discussions held during the Twelfth Forum (see annex I), which was not a negotiated document, would be circulated to member States for review to ensure factual accuracy; that the lists of the side events and other associated events held prior to and on the margins of the Twelfth Forum would be annexed to the present report (see annex II); and that the summaries of the five round tables organized under agenda item 4 would be issued as an addendum to the present report (ESCAP/RFSD/2025/6/Add.1) at a later date.

17. Once reviewed for factual accuracy, the present report (ESCAP/RFSD/2025/6) and its addendum (ESCAP/RFSD/2025/6/Add.1) would be submitted to ESCAP at its eighty-first session. Both documents were intended to inform the global dialogues at the 2025 high-level political forum on sustainable development.

18. The analytical report entitled *Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2025: Engaging Communities to Close the Evidence Gap* was prepared for the Twelfth Forum and presented to the media on 18 February 2025.

19. On 25 February 2025, the publication entitled *Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goals Partnership Report 2025: Delivering a Just Transition – Advancing Decent Work, Gender Equality and Social Protection* was issued in the framework of the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goal Partnership between ESCAP, the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.

20. To complement the main programme of the Twelfth Forum, 43 side events and 14 other associated events were scheduled to be held between 12 February and 5 March 2025 (see annex II).[1]

[1] Additional information on the side events is available at www.unescap.org/events/2025/apfsd12-side-events, and additional information on the other associated events is available at www.unescap.org/events/2025/apfsd12-associated-events-and-sdg-dialogue-space.

Annex I

Chair's summary of discussions at the Twelfth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

1. The theme of the Twelfth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development was "Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind in Asia and the Pacific". During the Twelfth Forum, members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), intergovernmental bodies, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and major groups and other stakeholders exchanged regional perspectives on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

I. Key messages

2. The following key messages emerged from the discussions held at the Twelfth Forum, which involved many participants and are further detailed in sections II to V below:

(a) Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the Asia-Pacific region, which is not on track to achieving them, must be accelerated through strengthened national commitment, increased investment and solutions that address the region's diversity, promote more responsible consumption and production and ensure a just transition;

(b) Strong regional cooperation on financing for development, digital transformation and intergenerational equity, backed by inclusive access to technology, building upon the Pact for the Future, can enable countries to turbocharge progress towards the Goals;

(c) Inclusive and evidence-based voluntary national reviews, with strong stakeholder engagement from government, the private sector, civil society and academia, are crucial for assessing progress towards the Goals and identifying gaps, as well as for data-driven decision-making;

(d) Strengthened primary healthcare that addresses the needs of different population groups and demographic trajectories, with a view to achieving universal health coverage, is crucial for better health outcomes;

(e) Accelerated action on gender equality and women's economic empowerment requires challenging gender norms, strengthening laws and policies to address gender-based violence and harmful practices, strengthening civic space and women's movements for inclusive decision-making and bridging gender and intersectional data gaps;

(f) Building a resilient and inclusive workforce with decent, formal work opportunities, especially for women and young people, include facilitating access to skills training and digital technologies and strengthening social protection;

(g) Protecting the oceans requires more investment, better data and monitoring, improved ocean governance, sustainable management and greater collaboration for marine biodiversity conservation;

(h) The primary responsibility for implementing the 2030 Agenda is at the national level, as most of the resources to implement the Goals will be nationally sourced. However, strong regional cooperation on financing for development and reforms of the international financial architecture are

required, in particular for the region's most vulnerable countries, including least developed countries and small island developing States;

(i) The United Nations development system actively fosters regional and subregional cooperation, enabling countries to learn from each other and accelerate progress towards the Goals.

II. Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind in Asia and the Pacific

3. Under agenda item 2, the participants in the Twelfth Forum reviewed progress made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and discussed ways to accelerate it. They examined the interlinkages between the Sustainable Development Goals under review; explored integrated policies and solutions; and highlighted opportunities and experiences in building a resilient workforce through productive employment, gender equality, social protection and improved health.

4. Many participants in the Twelfth Forum outlined measures for promoting productive employment, gender equality and health in the workforce and for enabling a just transition towards sustainable economies. They emphasized the importance of aligning policies to national contexts; recognizing economic and social externalities; mobilizing various sources of financial resources to tackle climate change; leveraging renewable and digital technologies; and utilizing intergovernmental platforms for knowledge-sharing and technical assistance. Many participants also underscored the need for mutual learning with regard to designing skills development programmes, delivering universal healthcare, advancing productive employment and building a resilient workforce. In this regard, South-South cooperation was highlighted by many as important to enable the sharing of technical expertise and to support human capital development.

5. Many representatives of member States reaffirmed their commitment to the 2030 Agenda while acknowledging that progress had been slow due in part to multiple global crises. They also noted the importance of sustainability for advancing the implementation of Goal 8 (Decent work and economic growth), Goal 13 (Climate action) and Goal 14 (Life below water), and they emphasized the need for the increased participation of women in the workforce and in political processes. The importance of integrating the Goals into national policies and encouraging sustainable lifestyles, with tailored support for developing countries and effective financing mechanisms, was also highlighted.

6. Representatives of various member States recognized that data-driven, evidence-based approaches were essential for informed policymaking and stressed the importance of international and regional cooperation. They emphasized the importance of inclusivity to ensure that efforts carried out would benefit vulnerable communities and that no one would be left behind. Furthermore, it was highlighted that leveraging science, technology and innovation was important to fostering resilience and accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

7. Many representatives of major groups and other stakeholders noted the need for a workforce-centred approach to accelerate progress towards the Goals. They highlighted the vulnerability of informal workers, who had limited access to social protection and healthcare, and the disproportionate burden on

women in low-productivity sectors. They noted the importance of formalizing the informal sector by, for instance, reskilling the workforce to adapt to emerging challenges, including the transition to sustainable economies in response to the climate crisis. Many representatives called for: the development of national employment policies to promote unionized, decent jobs with living wages, universal social protection and equal pay; and an end to discrimination against marginalized communities with regard to employment, healthcare and social protection. They also emphasized the need for inclusive, science-based policies for intersecting challenges in the areas of employment, gender and the environment, calling for targeted investments in workforce resilience against climate change, economic shocks and social inequalities. Furthermore, they underscored the importance of regional cooperation for decent work, stronger social protection and better healthcare access, especially for vulnerable communities.

III. Turbocharging the regional implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Pact for the Future

8. Under the same agenda item, participants were briefed on the outcomes of regional consultations on the Second World Summit for Social Development and on the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development. A panel discussion was conducted on turbocharging the regional implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Pact for the Future, during which the panellists explored: (a) financing for sustainable development; (b) harnessing the power of data and digital technologies; and (c) youth and future generations.

9. Many participants in the Twelfth Forum underscored that the achievement of the 2030 Agenda required bold, action-oriented international and regional cooperation and collaboration; improved financing mechanisms; and sustainable, inclusive, and science- and evidence-based solutions. As national ownership is key to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, some participants highlighted that sound macroeconomic policies, financial regulation and financial literacy were critical to creating an enabling environment and to strengthening the investment required to achieve the Goals.

10. Many participants emphasized the key takeaways from the regional multi-stakeholder consultation on the Second World Summit for Social Development, which included the need for universal social protection, intergenerational solidarity, care system transformation and more inclusive growth. A regular regional mechanism for follow-up on and review of any commitments made at the Summit would strengthen resilience against shared social, economic and environmental risks by fostering cooperation and improving accountability.

11. With regard to the upcoming Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, many participants noted the need: to reform the international financial architecture; to enhance tax collection; to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of fiscal expenditures; and to strengthen fiscal management. Several participants noted that public debt sustainability concerns were to be addressed by strengthening the Group of 20 Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative and improving debt disclosure, reporting and data collection. They also noted that capacity-building and technical assistance were needed to mobilize investments effectively, improve policy implementation and facilitate policy alignment with international standards.

12. Many participants highlighted the role of the Pact for the Future in guiding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through intergenerational and multi-stakeholder engagement. Although the region was among the leaders in digital transformation, in order to implement the Global Digital Compact and bridge digital divides, many participants emphasized that it was essential to leverage innovative and digital technologies and robust networks and to remain aware of the potential impacts of artificial intelligence. Supporting the Declaration on Future Generations required stronger intergenerational equity, more investment in youth, more meaningful youth participation and better protection of youth rights and well-being. Intergenerational dialogues, in particular with young women, were seen as potential avenues for transformative changes in decision-making.

13. Several representatives of member States shared the progress that had been made in implementing Goal 3 (Good health and well-being), including the provision of universal healthcare access. Progress had also been achieved in implementing Goal 5 (Gender equality) by addressing social and financial structures to lift women and girls out of poverty and promote their political participation. They also shared that progress towards Goal 8 had been aided by youth employment opportunities, more inclusive value chains and the provision of work-related social protection. As livelihoods, economic and cultural well-being, and the integrity of the ecosystem were inextricably linked to the health of the ocean, they noted that efforts aimed at progressing towards Goal 14 were highly relevant. Progress towards Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) would also require that international development partners fulfilled official development assistance commitments to make financing and life-saving technologies available to those in need.

14. Representatives of major groups and other stakeholders outlined a variety of measures, including on the following topics: (a) addressing debt distress and reviewing the international financial architecture; (b) advancing inclusive science; (c) enhancing development financing; (d) protecting fundamental rights at work; (e) developing employment policies in support of decent work and social dialogue; (f) strengthening social protection systems; (g) ensuring equitable transitions; (h) ending discrimination; (i) expanding safe, orderly and regular migration pathways; (j) strengthening policy coherence; (k) increasing investment in gender-disaggregated data collection; and (l) building resilient, equitable and sustainable food systems through evidence-based policies.

15. Representatives of major groups and other stakeholders highlighted the need for universal health coverage; emphasized the challenges faced by persons with disabilities and the importance of their proactive involvement in decision-making; noted the need to focus on refugee rights through disaggregated data, engagement in decision-making and access to finance and livelihoods; highlighted the importance of the localization of the Goals and the need to support local and regional service delivery; underscored the need to address the root causes of migration and to respect the human rights of migrants and refugees; and called for the full recognition of the rights of Indigenous peoples and their meaningful participation in policymaking. In addition, one representative underscored the role of businesses in aligning their operations with environmental, social and governance principles, mobilizing green finance solutions and implementing the Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business. Another representative highlighted the role of parliaments in ensuring inclusive decision-making processes.

IV. Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through voluntary national reviews

16. Under agenda item 3, a panel discussion was held to share country experiences and good practices in conducting voluntary national reviews and in engaging stakeholders. During the discussion, the participants examined how to leverage the voluntary national review process to enhance the role of the private sector and how to encourage the systematic engagement of the business community in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

17. Several participants emphasized the important role of voluntary national reviews in fostering multi-stakeholder and inclusive participation, as well as the importance of data-driven decision-making. They also stressed the crucial role of the private sector in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through job creation, innovation and sustainable business practices.

18. Several participants highlighted the need for the systematic engagement of businesses in the review process and cited Sustainable Development Goal round tables, stakeholder consultations and corporate sustainability reporting as effective mechanisms. Noting challenges, such as limited awareness of the review process, they stressed the need for capacity-building initiatives aimed at helping businesses to integrate environmental and social sustainability into their operations and to align their operations with national development priorities.

19. Representatives of many member States noted the benefits of a whole-of-society approach in their review processes and stressed the need for the meaningful engagement of a broad range of stakeholders, including from government, the private sector, civil society and academia. They emphasized the need for a robust data framework to track progress towards the Goals. They also highlighted the important role of localizing the Goals and conducting voluntary local reviews in fostering stakeholder awareness and collaboration, which would help to ensure that subnational actions contributed to broader national goals. Furthermore, they reiterated the importance of inclusive policies in addressing the vulnerabilities of marginalized groups, with many participants highlighting ongoing efforts to include such groups in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda. They recognized the ongoing support of the United Nations for voluntary national reviews, including capacity-building for data collection and the tracking of progress, as well as the twinning programmes facilitated by ESCAP that had fostered collaboration across countries.

20. Several representatives from major groups and other stakeholders emphasized the need for a holistic approach to the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda and stressed that voluntary national reviews must be transformed into concrete action plans to achieve tangible results. They also stressed the importance of fostering partnerships and using data disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, income and migrant status in the review process. Such a holistic approach would help to promote the inclusion of marginalized groups in the process and reinforce the commitment to leave no one behind.

V. Review of regional progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and opportunities for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

A. Progress towards the achievement of Goals 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17 at the regional level

21. Under agenda item 4 (a), summaries of five round tables on Sustainable Development Goals 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17 were presented.[1]

22. Many participants in the round table on Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good health and well-being) highlighted the need to accelerate progress. Priority areas for action included: strengthening primary healthcare with a view to achieving universal health coverage; addressing social determinants of health to increase health equity; leveraging innovation and technologies; investing in data and health information systems; and fostering collaborative action to address environment-related health risks. They also underscored the need for stronger partnerships and for action beyond the health sector, as well as the need to support people in making well-informed health decisions.

23. Many participants in the round table on Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender equality) highlighted priorities for action. They included: bridging gender and intersectional data gaps; challenging gender norms; strengthening partnerships; supporting the safe participation of civil society, women's rights organizations and women human rights defenders; institutionalizing gender parity through policy reforms, accountability measures, leadership mentoring and inclusive institutions; strengthening laws and policies to address gender-based violence and harmful practices, with prevention efforts prioritized; expanding women's access to decent work, entrepreneurship, resources, freedom of association and social protection; investing in the care economy; closing gender skills gaps; and empowering adolescent girls through stronger legal frameworks, sexuality education and access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

24. Many participants in the round table on Sustainable Development Goal 8 (Decent work and economic growth) highlighted priorities for action. They included: accelerating just transitions and ensuring decent jobs by strengthening social protection for displaced workers and facilitating access to skills training and education; stimulating low-carbon investments, especially among micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises; and improving labour rights and safe working environments through freedom of association and reinforced labour inspections. They also highlighted the need to adopt inclusive data practices to better represent hard-to-reach communities in policymaking and to foster social dialogue to improve policy design and effectiveness, especially for vulnerable groups.

25. Many participants in the round table on Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life below water) highlighted key areas for potential action. They included: increasing investments and financing; strengthening data and monitoring systems, including through ocean accounting; respecting the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; and operationalizing a gender-responsive, rights-based approach to marine and coastal biodiversity. Participants also highlighted the need to strengthen ocean governance; to develop systems and processes that enable the meaningful involvement of

[1] For additional information on the round tables, see ESCAP/RFSD/2025/6/Add.1.

youth and women in the areas of ocean science, policy and society; to foster ocean knowledge and catalyse solutions; and to scale up ocean-based climate action, including through voluntary regional initiatives.

26. Many participants in the round table on Sustainable Development Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) emphasized the need to strengthen the United Nations framework convention on international tax cooperation to establish a fair global tax system and facilitate collective tax actions at all levels. They stressed the importance of sustainable public debt management, which required responsible borrowing and lending principles, enhanced governance and greater transparency and accountability, while avoiding austerity measures that impacted vulnerable groups. They also highlighted the need to scale up concessional and private finance amid reductions in official development assistance flows and promote climate data, technology solutions and partnerships.

27. Several representatives of member States shared updates on their efforts to achieve the Goals and progress in that regard, while recognizing that levels of progress varied by Goal and by country. They also shared information on government initiatives, programmes, policies and measures that helped to achieve the Goals and that reflected many of the priorities mentioned above. Examples included: prioritizing inclusive healthcare by strengthening primary healthcare in rural areas and addressing medical workforce shortages; promoting women's financial inclusion; promoting decent work by investing in workforce development and promoting a competitive wage culture; supporting micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and favourable business environments; and promoting environmental actions targeted at resource circularity, plastic waste reduction, sustainable fishing, marine biodiversity conservation, coastal ecosystem protection and sustainable investment. They presented national initiatives to introduce road maps to promote responsible ocean governance and emphasized the need for greater collaboration in sustainable ocean management and marine biodiversity conservation. Several representatives also reiterated the commitment of their Governments to accelerating progress towards the achievement of the Goals and fostering regional cooperation and partnerships in knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and technology.

28. One representative of an international organization underlined the need to achieve target 3.3 of Goal 3 to end AIDS by 2030 and added that legal barriers, funding gaps, stigma and inadequate access to treatment needed to be addressed, while innovative approaches in prevention, treatment and service access needed to be in place. One representative of major groups and stakeholders stressed the importance of having sufficient data to measure progress in critical areas of the Goals, especially Goal 14, and reiterated the need to recognize civil society's contributions to ensure a whole-of-society approach. One representative of local and regional governments highlighted the role of local and regional governments in driving progress and proposed priority actions to achieve the Goals.

B. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the subregional level

29. Under agenda item 4 (b), subregional progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals was reviewed. It was noted that although progress had been made in achieving several Goals, progress overall was still insufficient and States had regressed in respect of Goal 13. Recognizing the diversity of the subregions, common opportunities and priority actions for accelerating progress made on the Goals under review, including by

strengthening partnerships and mechanisms for sustainable development, were underscored.

30. Having reviewed the varied progress made and the experiences at the subregional level, several participants emphasized that deepening subregional cooperation and grounding it in the principles set out in the 2030 Agenda was essential to sustaining and scaling up progress made towards the Goals. Collaboration among member States, civil society, the private sector and international and regional organizations was essential for addressing socioeconomic challenges and driving sustainable development.

31. Many participants took note of the insufficient progress made towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, while also highlighting the importance of continuing to support and empower local communities, especially women and girls. Several representatives also noted the need to foster greater connectivity to enhance regional competitiveness and promote deeper integration, in particular for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Other areas needing urgent attention included addressing multidimensional health challenges, achieving inclusive and sustainable growth, promoting productive and decent employment, conserving water bodies and closing investment gaps to reach the Goals. Some participants underscored the existential threat of climate change for small island developing States and challenges with water management and pollution of the Aral and Caspian Seas.

32. Many representatives of member States noted that regional multisectoral partnerships were important for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and subregional organizations provided valuable platforms for cooperation in areas such as agriculture, environment, energy, trade and transport. Several also emphasized the importance of regional and cross-border trade, transport connectivity, resource mobilization, climate adaptation, knowledge-sharing, innovation and an understanding of the intersection of science, policy and society to achieve the Goals.

33. Several representatives of subregional organizations highlighted their contributions to support their members to achieve the Goals, including through regional plans on poverty eradication, climate change and health. The important synergies and alignment of subregional initiatives, such as the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the Pacific Resilience Facility, with the 2030 Agenda was emphasized.

34. Some representatives of major groups and other stakeholders emphasized the urgency of accelerating progress toward the Goals in the Asia-Pacific region, in particular for small island developing States, by addressing data gaps, strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships, ensuring sustainable financing and advocating for transformative action to ensure development benefits reach all.

C. Reporting on system-wide results of the United Nations at the regional level in Asia and the Pacific in support of the 2030 Agenda

35. Under agenda item 4 (c), the participants considered the work of the United Nations development system at the regional level to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Pact for the Future. They were informed of system-wide actions taken and results achieved in 2024, including those attained through the Regional Collaborative Platform for Asia and the Pacific and its issue-based coalitions and working groups, keeping in mind the

key global processes that were to be held throughout 2025. Participants were also briefed on how the Pact for the Future provided important pathways to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the Asia-Pacific region.

36. Several representatives of member States acknowledged the essential role of the United Nations development system in accelerating progress towards the achievement of the Goals. They emphasized the need for increased support in mobilizing sustainable financing; leveraging digital transformation; strengthening disaster risk reduction; facilitating low-carbon transitions; enhancing regional follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda; and strengthening cooperation through improved data and analysis. One representative emphasized the need to provide adequate resources for subregional and multi-country offices in the Pacific to support small island developing States, citing the mandate set out in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity for the establishment of a regional coordination mechanism for the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea small island developing States to support implementation of the Agenda and contribute to its monitoring and review.

37. Representatives of major groups and other stakeholders acknowledged the progress made towards achieving the Goals and emphasized the important role of regional and international cooperation. Key areas requiring further action included: advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment; enhancing workplace protections and migrant worker rights; responding to climate change by addressing transboundary issues; ensuring gender-responsive, accessible and affordable health systems; and leveraging innovative financing mechanisms. They also stressed the importance of strengthening institutional frameworks to eliminate gender discrimination and ensure access to justice and to safe civic space.

Annex II

Lists of side events and other associated events held prior to and on the margins of the Twelfth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

1. On 25 February 2025, 8 side events were held on the following topics: “Digital Health as an Enabler and Catalyst to Accelerating SDG3 Progress”; “Leaving No One Behind: Advancing Inclusive Early Warnings and Broader Development Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region”; “Maximizing Local Impact: SDG Localization and inclusive action in Southeast Asia”; “Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships to Achieve Economic Resilience for Women and People with Disabilities”; “Youth Uniting for Policy Coherence in Advancing Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda”; “The Decent Work Triangle: Government, CSO, and Private Sector Pathways for Sustainable Growth in Tajikistan”; “GBV in Agri-food Systems Amidst Climate Change: Building Partnerships and Evidence for Prevention”; and “Advancing Indigenous Science, Leadership and Economy for Decent Works, Good Health and Well-being of the People and Planet”.

2. On 26 February 2025, 8 side events were held on the following topics: “A Regional Pathway to Achieving SDGs and Addressing the Triple Planetary Crisis: Kickstarting the Asia-Pacific Synergy Report”; “Preventing Violence against Women: Evidence-Based Solutions and Promising Practices from Asia and the Pacific Region”; “Upholding the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable ocean, above and below water, to accelerate ocean-based climate action”; “Roots to Resilience: How Indigenous Girls and Young Women are Powering a Greener Tomorrow”; “Climate change, health and well-being in urbanising Southeast Asia”; “Advancing circular economy actions and synergies to raise ambition towards SDG commitments”; “Fostering regional cooperation in the region – building partnerships between scientific and research councils in the Asia Pacific region”; and “Increasing Country Capacity for Climate Finance in Asia and the Pacific”.

3. On 27 February 2025, 15 side events were held on the following topics: “Building An Inclusive Future: Youth Leadership and Partnerships to Advance Disability Rights and Solidarity”; “Improving the relevance and manageability of sustainable development reporting for Small Island Developing States”; “Powering the Future: Advancing Gender and Social Inclusion in Climate and Energy Policies”; “Advancing SDGs 3, 5, and 8: Integration Opportunities and Regional Practices within the Eurasian Economic Union”; “Women Migrant Workers Speaking Up for Occupational Health, Social Protection and Wellbeing”; “Reaching the Unreached: Inclusive Solutions for Child Health & Nutrition in Asia-Pacific”; “Pathways for Indigenous-Led Energy: Voices of Indigenous Women and Youth in Asia”; “Empowering Youth Leadership: Strategies for Amplifying Youth Voices in South East Asia”; “Leave no child behind: Children at the heart of SDGs”; “Voluntary National Review (VNR) and Gender Equality”; “Addressing the Digital Gender Divide for Transformative Education and Economic Empowerment”; “Transforming the world and leaving no one behind: Lessons from the Asia Pacific on the implementation of the SDGs”; “NextGen Partnerships: Empowering Youth to accelerate SDG delivery”; “The Power of Partnership: Eliminating Child, Early, Forced Marriages and Unions for promoting Gender Equality in the Asia- Pacific”; and “Empowering the Future: Meaningful Inclusion of Children and Youth in the Asia-Pacific Region”.

4. On 28 February 2025, 12 side events were held on the following topics: “Decent Work as a Pathway to Development Justice: Breaking Systemic Barriers, Upholding Workers' Rights and Dignity in Asia-Pacific”; “Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Maritime Transport Sector”; “What makes Universal Health Coverage (UHC) truly inclusive? Advocating UHC in Asian Countries”; “The EU's Global Gateway: Stronger Together Through Sustainable Investment”; “Empowering the Next Generation: Advancing Well-Being in the Asia-Pacific Region”; “Scaling Science-Based Solutions for Sustainable Development: Regional Innovations in Technology and Data for Achieving the SDGs”; “Leveraging digital innovations to improve the work of women in agriculture”; “Community-based climate projects in APAC through cross-sectoral collaboration and inter-state cooperation”; “Convergence for a Healthier Future: Integrating Health, Food, Climate Systems for a Just Transition”; “Indigenous Data: Strengthening the interlinkage of Human Rights and the SDGs for Indigenous Peoples”; “APFSD Youth Forum Regional Call to Action 2025: Youth at the forefront reviewing 10 years of Agenda 2030 implementation and crafting sustainable, resilient and innovative actionable solutions for good health and well-being and gender equality”; and “Accelerating environmental rights protection for women in the Asia-Pacific region”.

5. The following 14 associated and pre-events were held: APFSD Youth Forum 2025; Asia-Pacific Peoples' Forum on Sustainable Development; Towards the World Summit for Social Development: Contributions from Asia and the Pacific; Regional Workshop for the Voluntary National Reviews and Local and Regional Government Assembly: Advancing Multilevel Collaboration for the VNRs; Empowering Communities: Connectivity Initiatives for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific; Asia Science Mission for Sustainability; In Conversation with WOSSO (Women of the South Speak Out); Shaping a Sustainable and Inclusive Digital Economy: Enhancing Government and Private Sector Partnerships for Digital Transformation in Asia and the Pacific; Generation Hope Goals: Actions for the SDGs; Accelerating the SDGs through Impact Investing in Asia-Pacific; SDG Story Exchange; Rise & Thrive- Empowering the Women and Girls of Tomorrow; and Asia-Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktaking Moment.