

ESCAP CS79 Agenda Item 4 (a) Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

**Thursday May 18, 2023
10:00-12:00 hours (ESCAP Hall, UNCC)**

- Honorable Chair,
- Mongolia acknowledges the value of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) as an important multistakeholder regional space to increase regional cooperation and networking and share good practices and information toward implementing the 2030 Agenda and preparations for the High-level Political Forum and the SDG Summit.
- Following Mongolia's first Voluntary National Review back in 2019, my country will present its second review this year, which assesses the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Mongolia for each indicator, the policies, processes, and efforts made at the national level, and the results of applying recommendations from the first review.
- The 17 goals and 169 targets of global sustainable development have been formulated into 16 goals and 134 targets in accordance with national characteristics. A total of 191 indicators have been defined, of which 156 are global and 35 national ones, thus improving the implementation assessment tool and emphasizing the results documented by data based compared to the first review. It is concluded that Mongolia has made progress at a certain level on 15 goals, and the implementation of one goal, poverty reduction, was assessed as regressive.
- I wish to stress that the assessment was made considering the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical conflicts, highlighting the groups left behind in development and determine how regional development disparities affect sustainable development.
- The COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical conflicts have had a significant negative impact on Mongolia's economy and the implementation of the SDGs.
- We would like to express appreciation for the work of the secretariat of APFSD and voluntary national review support received from ESCAP. Specifically, the opportunities for sharing and networking on voluntary national reviews and encouraging continued support from the secretariat including for sharing of experiences through twinning and provision of methodologies and tools.
- Additionally, we note the value of the Five SDG round tables to facilitate regional multi-stakeholder dialogues on ways to accelerate action on the Sustainable Development Goals that would be under review at the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development.
- In line with the resolution to be adopted, we resolve to strengthen regional cooperation on environment conservation, including climate action, air quality, the conservation of ecosystems, forests, oceans and sustainable urban development;

- We reaffirm to leave no one behind and put people at the center of all our efforts while making sustainable development in all its dimensions a priority in the region, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reach the furthest behind first, including by investing in inclusive national social protection and universal health coverage, advancing gender equality and equity, accelerating the transition to inclusive and sustainable economies, including through climate change mitigation and adaptation and nature-based solutions.
- Thank you