Background

The Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2022, ESCAP’s flagship publication, raised anew the critical status of SDG implementation in the Asia-Pacific region indicating that the region is not on track to achieve any of the 17 SDGs. Progress towards the SDGs has even slowed in the region as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change have exacerbated development challenges in the region. There is also diverse progress across subregions.

For East and North-East Asia, the subregion is on track to achieve Goal 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, owing to its robust manufacturing base and advanced infrastructure. The subregion has likewise progressed in the fight against poverty (Goal 1). Concerning partnership for the goals (Goal 17), countries in the subregion have developed strong SDG partnerships which highlight the importance of public-private and civil society partnerships. However, although the subregion is an economic powerhouse, achieving the targets on decent work and economic growth (Goal 8) remains a serious concern largely due to resource use inefficiency. Consequently, the subregion has regressed in responsible consumption and production (Goal 12) and climate action (Goal 13).

The 2030 Agenda commits to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions—economic, social and environmental—in a balanced and integrated manner. And facilitating an inclusive and networked (broad-based) engagement is a key element in the process of progressing SDG implementation. To this end, the North-East Asia Multistakeholder Forum on SDGs is held annually since 2017 providing a subregional platform for rich exchanges of perspectives among various sectors on the SDG implementation. The SDG Forum is also an important component of regional and global SDG engagements. It is part of the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), which itself is one of the regional consultations for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The sessions of the SDG Forum are informed by a set of SDG targets identified yearly as thematic areas to highlight in the discussions.

2 https://www.unescap.org/2030-agenda/regional-processes-and-dialogue
3 https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf


**6th North-East Asia Multistakeholder SDG Forum 2022**

**A. Organizers**

ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office jointly organizes the SDG Forum with subregional stakeholders and partners. The Ministry of Economy and Development of Mongolia is the host Ministry of the SDG Forum 2022. The SDG Forum 2022 is also organized in partnership with Mongolia’s UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (UN RCO) and UN Country Team (UNCT).

**B. Thematic Areas**

The overarching objective of the SDG Forum 2022 is to foster an inclusive dialogue among multistakeholder groups in North-East Asia across the SDG targets in focus: clean water and sanitation (Goal 6); affordable and clean energy (Goal 7); industry, innovation, and infrastructure (Goal 9); sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11); and partnership for the goals (Goal 17).

A special session on zero hunger (Goal 2) is included to address the pressing issues on food security.

The SDG Forum 2022 will be conducted in English and will have a hybrid format (in-person and online participation).

**C. Participation**

The SDG Forum 2022 will bring together key stakeholders in North-East Asia from government, academia, civil society, the private sector, and international organizations. Target participants include:

- a. Government officials and representatives of institutions in ESCAP member States responsible for various aspects of SDG implementation
- b. Voluntary National Review (VNR) focal points and ESCAP focal points for sustainable development
- c. Representatives of local government (e.g., mayors and representatives of the municipality)
- d. Representatives of civil society organizations and private sector organizations
- e. Representatives of regional and sub-regional organizations that support SDG implementation
- f. Experts from policy institutes, think tanks and academia
- g. UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams in North-East Asia
- h. Other relevant stakeholders involved in SDG implementation