UNEP intervention APFSD

“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”
February 22, 2024
13:30-16:30 hrs

Agenda item 4: Review of regional progress and opportunities for achieving the SDGs

• Thank you chair.

• At this year’s APFSD UNEP was pleased to support the SDG 13 Roundtable on climate action. Building on this the UN system through the Issue Based Coalition on Scaling up Climate Action, co-chaired by UNEP and ESCAP, will continue to support members states through two core focus areas of action:
  o Raising ambitions on climate action through Nationally Determine Contributions; and,
  o Accelerating action on an energy transition including renewable energy, the phase-down of coal power, accelerating efforts towards net-zero emission energy systems, and the environmental aspects of critical minerals, while leaving no one behind

• UNEP would also like to take this opportunity to highlight some key global and regional processes that will support the work of member states in our region to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

• Firstly, next week in Nairobi the UN Environment Assembly- the world’s top decision-making body on the environment- will meet from the 26th of February to 1st March. This 6th session of the UN Environment assembly aims to promote united, inclusive and multilateral action that addresses the triple planetary crisis. In addition to the core resolutions, we will have a Youth Environment Assembly, convened by youth, for youth. We will have leadership dialogues on finance, on science, data and digitalization, and on multilateralism. We will have a day dedicated to bringing together the many multilateral environmental agreements that member states have signed up to, with a view to create united and amplified action.

• The fifth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific co-organized by Government of Sri Lanka and UNEP in October last year in Colombo, Sri Lanka, also provided an opportunity for Asia Pacific member states to voice the priorities of the region as an input into the upcoming UN Environment Assembly. The Asia Pacific Youth Environment Forum, held back to back with this ministerial meeting, was an important platform for youth from the region to participate in environmental decision making.
Allow me to end by noting that to inform discussions at the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution taking place from the 23 to 29 April 2024 in Ottawa, Canada, UNEP is hosting a regional Asia Pacific consultation from 5-6 March here at the UN Convention Center in Bangkok.

Thank you.