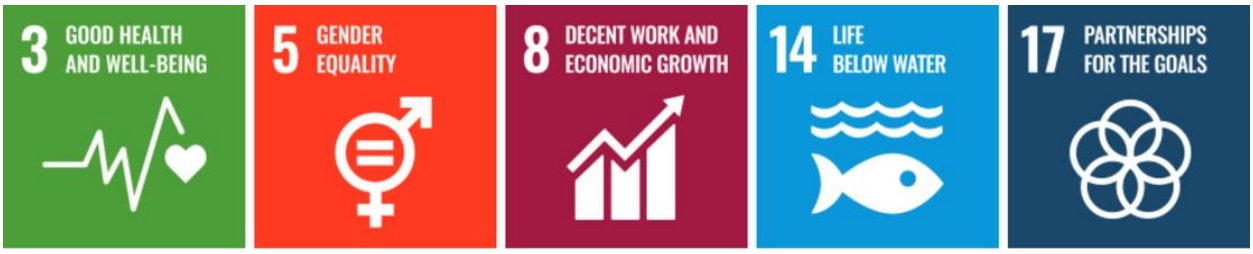
8th North-East Asia Multistakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development Goals 2024

24 – 25 October 2024, G-Tower, Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea

Concept Note



The SDG Forum is ESCAP's flagship annual subregional event, organized by the five subregional offices of ESCAP as part of the consultation process for the annual Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD). APFSD, in turn, 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. It serves, also, as one of the regional consultations for the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development organized under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held every July in New York.

Forum Arrangements

Participation. The forum brings together key stakeholders on SDG implementation in North-East Asia. Target participants include government officials (national and local level) and representatives of institutions responsible for various aspects of SDG implementation; representatives of civil society organizations and private sector organizations; representatives of regional and sub-regional organizations that support SDG implementation; sector experts on SDGs in focus from policy institutes, think tanks and academia; and UN entities (UN Resident Coordinators, UN Country Teams, etc.).

Resources. ESCAP covers the cost of participation of officially nominated representatives from the government and CSOs. Cost-sharing arrangements for meeting expenses (e.g., venue, reception, interpretation upon request of local participants) are discussed with host country/host institution and partners. The forum is conducted in English.

Forum Scope and Structure

The forum sessions are structured around the theme and selected SDGs in focus. In 2024, the **forum's theme** is "Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for leaving no one behind" and the **goals in focus** are:

- good health and well-being (Goal 3);
- gender equality (Goal 5);
- decent work and economic growth (Goal 8);
- life below water (Goal 14); and
- partnership for the goals (Goal 17).

Indicative Programme

24 October (Thursday) Venue: IFEZ Grand Auditorium (3/F)	
Day 1 will start with an opening session setting the scene for the forum's theme on "Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for leaving no one behind". *The progress of SDG implementation in North-East Asia will be discussed with a subregional snapshot, updates from member States and perspectives from CSOs and youth representatives.* *The deep-dive sessions on the Goals in focus will highlight the complex interactions across the goals with the aim to develop sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based-solutions and transformative actions in addressing interlinked challenges.*	
08:45 – 09:30 [45 mins]	*Registration [Light refreshments]*
09:30-10:00 [30 mins]	**Opening** **Opening Remarks** • Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana (Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP) [video message] **Welcome Remarks** • Mr. Hyo-jin Hwang (Vice Mayor, Political Affairs of Global City, Incheon Metropolitan City) **Keynote Remarks** • Ms. Jin Kim (Director General, Statistics Research Institute, Statistics Korea) **Group Photo**
10:00-11:30 [90 mins]	**Session 1 – Progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in East and North-East Asia and Voluntary National Review (VNR)** Moderator: Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav (Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office) • SDG progress: A subregional snapshot - Mr. Jan Smit (Regional Adviser on Official Statistics, Statistics Division, ESCAP) • SDG progress: Country updates

24 October (Thursday) Venue: IFEZ Grand Auditorium (3/F)	
	- Mr. YE Xuenong (Permanent Representative of China to ESCAP) - Mr. Shoichiro Nakai (Third Secretary, Embassy of Japan, Republic of Korea) - Mr. Erdenebat Tseveendorj (Director-General, Integrated Development Policy and Planning Department, Ministry of Economy and Development, Mongolia) - Ms. Jiyoung Min (Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea) - Ms. Iuliia Sergeeva (Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation) • SDG progress: Stakeholders' perspectives - Mr. Hirotaka Koike (APRCEM North-East Asia Sub-regional Group Focal Point) *(online)*
11:30 – 13:00 [90 mins]	*Lunch*
13:00 – 14:15 [75 mins]	**Session 2 – SDG3 and Interlinked Issues: Human well-being and capabilities** Moderator: Dr. Asa Torkelsson (Chief, UNFPA Seoul Representative Office) • Mr. James Choi (Executive Vice President and Head of Sales Support, Samsung Biologics) • Ms. Iuliia Sergeeva (Third Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation) • Mr. XIAO Dahua (Division Director, Department of Planning and Information, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China) • Mr. Masaki Inaba (Chair, Japan CSO Network on Global Health / Japan's Focal Point, APRCEM North-East Asia Sub-regional Group)
14:15 – 15:30 [75 mins]	**Session 3 – SDG 8, SDG 14 and Interlinked Issues: Sustainable and inclusive economies** Moderator: Ms. Oyun Sanjaasuren (Director, Department of Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation, Green Climate Fund)

24 October (Thursday) Venue: IFEZ Grand Auditorium (3/F)	
	• Ms. Barsuren Namuunnaa (Consultant, Ministry of Economy and Development, Mongolia) • Dr. Bong Man Seo (Senior Research Fellow / Director, Urban Data and Information Center, Incheon Institute, Incheon Metropolitan City) • Ms. Sara Castro De Hallgren (Sustainable Development Officer, UN Office for Sustainable Development) • Prof. Do-myung Paek (Professor Emeritus, Seoul National University)
15:30 – 15:45 [15 mins]	*Coffee break*
15:45 – 17:00 [75 mins]	**Session 4 – SDG 5 and Interlinked Issues: Bridging gaps for gender parity and empowerment** Moderator: Prof. Haelim Cho (Director and Professor Ewha-KOICA Program, Graduate School of International Studies, Ewha Womans University) • Ms. YU Lu (Associate Research Fellow, Center for International Knowledge on Development, China) • Ms. Kumjoo Huh (Korea Representative, G20 EMPOWER Alliance) • Ms. FENG Yuan (Co-founder of Equality-Beijing, China) • Dr. Aree Moon (President, Korea Foundation for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology)
17:00 – 18:30 *[90 mins]*	*Socials and Networking* • *Dinner Reception (Holiday Inn Songdo)*

25 October (Friday) Venue: UNDRR Lecture Room (4/F)	
Day 2 will unfold across data-focused learning sessions. These sessions will align with the theme to strengthen sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda. The ESCAP 2024 Asia-Pacific SDG Progress Report highlighted substantial challenge in the progress assessment of the SDGs in the lack of sufficient trend data and the unavailability of data. The learning session will address the remaining significant data challenges impeding the implementation of the 2030 agenda.	
09:30-10:45 [75 mins]	**Learning Session 1: Case study on innovative methodologies on data production**

25 October (Friday) Venue: UNDRR Lecture Room (4/F)	
	Moderator: Ms. Juliet Nicole Braslow (Sustainable Development Officer, Section on Countries in Special Situations, Office of the Executive Secretary, ESCAP) • Mr. Jan Smit (Regional Adviser on Official Statistics, Statistics Division, ESCAP) • Lessons Learned from SDG Monitoring in Korea: From a Statistical Perspective Dr. YoungShil Park (Deputy Director, Statistics in Policy Research Team, Statistical Research Institute, Statistics Korea)
10:45 – 11:00 [15 mins]	*Coffee break*
11:00-12:00 [60 mins]	**Learning Session 2: Case study on national data partnerships with CSOs and NGOs** Moderator: Ms. Juliet Nicole Braslow (Sustainable Development Officer, Section on Countries in Special Situations, Office of the Executive Secretary, ESCAP) • Power of Data Initiative[1] Mr. Babatunde Abidoye (Global Policy Advisor for SDG Integration, UNDP) *(online)*
12:00 – 13:30 [90 mins]	*Lunch*
13:30-14:30 [60 mins]	**Learning Session 3: Case study on strengthening youth engagements in policymaking** Moderator: Mr. Riccardo Mesiano (Deputy Head/ Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office) • UNESCO's Youth as Researcher / Toolbox for youth policy and programming[2] Ms. ZHENG Cheng (Intersectoral Coordination Associate, UNESCO Beijing Office)
14:30-15:30 [60 mins]	**Learning Session 4: Citizen science from fields – Contribution of CSOs field monitoring work to the government policymaking**

[1] https://www.data4sdgs.org/initiatives/power-of-data-unlocking-data-dividend-sdgs
[2] https://www.unesco.org/en/youth

25 October (Friday) Venue: UNDRR Lecture Room (4/F)	
	Moderator: Mr. Riccardo Mesiano (Deputy Head/ Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office) • Dr. In-ki Kwon (Representative of Black-faced Spoonbill NGO Network) • Ms. Shoko Murakami (Board Member and Secretariat, The Takagi Fund for Citizen Science)
15:30-16:00 [30 mins]	**Closing** • CSO representative (to read CSO statement) • Youth representative (to read Youth statement) • Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav (Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office)
16:00 – 19:30	*Post-Forum Socials and Networking* ***Study Tour (Optional; for International Participants only)*** • *Incheon Free Economic Zone (IFEZ) Smart City Control Center* • *National Museum of World Writing Systems* • *Korean Culinary Dinner Experience*

Links to North-East Asia SDG Forums:

2017: https://www.unescap.org/events/north-east-asian-multistakeholder-forum-sustainable-development-goals-2017
2018: https://www.unescap.org/events/north-east-asian-multistakeholder-forum-sustainable-development-goals-2018
2019: https://www.unescap.org/events/north-east-asian-multistakeholder-forum-sustainable-development-goals-2019
2020 (online): https://www.unescap.org/events/north-east-asian-multistakeholder-forum-sustainable-development-goals-2020
2021 (online): https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/north-east-asian-multistakeholder-forum-sustainable-development-goals-2021
2022 (hybrid): https://www.unescap.org/events/2022/6th-north-east-asia-multistakeholder-forum-sustainable-development-goals-2022
2023 (hybrid): https://www.unescap.org/events/2023/7th-north-east-asia-multistakeholder-forum-sustainable-development-goals-2023