10th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development

"Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels in Asia and the Pacific"
27-30 March 2023
United Nations Conference Centre - Bangkok, Thailand

Event Background

The Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) 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. This regional platform aims to inform, empower, and support Asia-Pacific countries (especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States) in their efforts to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their targets set out by the 2030 Agenda by identifying regional trends and sharing best practices and lessons learned. The Forum convenes United Nations system bodies, member States, international organisations, civil society, and other stakeholders whose reflections feed into and inform the 2023 High-level Political Forum in New York, which reviews sustainable development progress at the global level, and the 2023 SDG Summit.

The 10th APFSD will be organized from 27-30 March 2023 under the theme “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels in Asia and the Pacific” in Bangkok, at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand. This special event also marks the mid-way point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In alignment with the focus of the 2023 HLPF, the Forum will assess progress on the following SDGs: Goal 6 (Clean water and sanitation); Goal 7 (Affordable and clean energy); Goal 9 (Industry, innovation, and infrastructure); Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities); and Goal 17 (Partnership for the Goals). The Forum will also support the presentation of voluntary national reviews (VNRs) for the 2023 HLPF. Additionally, the APFSD will feed into the 2023 SDG Summit by reviewing progress at the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and identify priorities and solutions for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs in the remaining years to 2030.
**Context**

Currently, the Asia-Pacific region is not on track to meeting any of the Sustainable Development Goals. The compounding challenges of climate change, conflict and COVID-19 has catalyzed a “perfect storm” of crises leading to the widening of inequalities both across and within Asian and Pacific countries. Decades of development progress has been set back.

Against this backdrop, the 10th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development convenes at a critical juncture not only in terms of the long-term goal of the 2030 Agenda, but also in addressing the short and medium-term challenges to the region’s social, environmental, and economic development.

Accelerating progress of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda though innovative and structural transformation which leaves no one behind is critical to recovery from these crises and to realizing the 2030 Agenda.

The 10th APFSD will endeavor to present opportunities, innovative solutions, and inclusive policy recommendations which are shaped by the SDGs and adopt a ‘whole of society’ approach to promote an accelerated recovery which is resilient, inclusive, and sustainable.

**Objective**

The 10th APFSD will play a unique role as a convenor of solutions and peer learning on how to accelerate transformations for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda while recovering from COVID-19, by providing a platform to:

- Examine how to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, paying attention to the compounding of crises faced by the region, while ensuring that recovery is made resilient, inclusive, and sustainable.

- Conduct in-depth review of SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17, whilst also considering the integrated, indivisible, and interlinked nature of all the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Support the presentation of voluntary national reviews for the 2023 HLPF.

- Discuss opportunities to strengthen linkages between national, regional, and global follow-up and review.

- Identify short, medium, and long-term solutions for attaining the 2030 Agenda.
Asia-Pacific perspectives on follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda will be conveyed to the HLPF and SDG Summit and are expected to inform its discussions. The APFSD Report and Chair’s Summary will be submitted to ECOSOC.

**Format**

The 10th APFSD will be held in-person, but virtual participation will also be facilitated when necessary.

The 10th APFSD provisional agenda includes 7 agenda items:

1. Opening of the Forum
2. Thematic Review
3. Toward the SDG Summit
4. Voluntary National Reviews: follow-up and review to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda
5. Review of regional progress and opportunities for achieving the SDGs
6. Other Matters
7. Adoption of the Report

The APFSD will also hold Roundtable discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals under review on the second and third day of the event.

Prior to the opening of the 10th APFSD, ESCAP will host a People’s Forum and a Youth Forum as preparatory meetings to the main programme. Side events and an exhibition will run throughout the days of the APFSD. An additional day after the closing of the 10th APFSD will be open for Special Events and networking opportunities.
## Tentative Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>27 MARCH DAY ONE</th>
<th>28 MARCH DAY TWO</th>
<th>29 MARCH DAY THREE</th>
<th>30 MARCH DAY FOUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MORNING</strong> 09:00-12:00</td>
<td><strong>MORNING</strong> 09:00-12:00</td>
<td><strong>MORNING</strong> 09:00-11:00</td>
<td><strong>MORNING</strong> 09:00-11:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AGENDA ITEM 1</strong> Opening of the Forum</td>
<td><strong>AGENDA ITEM 4</strong> VNRs: follow-up and review to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda</td>
<td><strong>AGENDA ITEM 5</strong> Review of regional progress and opportunities for achieving the SDGs</td>
<td><strong>Open for event</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Opening address</td>
<td>• SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy</td>
<td>a) Implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the subregional level</td>
<td>• SDG Acceleration Pavilion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Election of Officers</td>
<td>• SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities</td>
<td>b) Progress towards the attainment of SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, and 17</td>
<td>• Networking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Adoption of the Agenda</td>
<td>• Twinning and South-South Cooperation</td>
<td>c) UN development system-wide results at the regional level</td>
<td>• Special Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AGENDA ITEM 2</strong> Thematic Review</td>
<td><strong>Country &amp; stakeholder statements</strong></td>
<td><strong>AGENDA ITEM 6</strong> Other matters</td>
<td><strong>AGENDA ITEM 7</strong> Adoption of the Report Closing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ministerial roundtable and discussion</td>
<td><strong>AGENDA ITEM 3</strong> Toward the SDG Summit</td>
<td><strong>SIDE EVENTS (TBD)</strong> 11:00-13:45</td>
<td><strong>SIDE EVENTS (TBD)</strong> 11:00-13:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Delivering on the SDGs through energy, food, and finance</td>
<td>• Presentation of the SDG Progress Report</td>
<td><strong>SIDE EVENTS (TBD)</strong> 11:00-13:45</td>
<td><strong>SIDE EVENTS (TBD)</strong> 11:00-13:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Country &amp; stakeholder statements</td>
<td>• Mid-point review and way forward showcasing SDG successes</td>
<td><strong>LUNCH</strong> 12:00-13:00</td>
<td><strong>LUNCH</strong> 12:00-13:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AFTERNOON</strong> 13:00-17:00</td>
<td><strong>AGENDA ITEM 3</strong> Toward the SDG Summit</td>
<td><strong>SIDE EVENTS (TBD)</strong> 11:00-13:45</td>
<td><strong>SIDE EVENTS (TBD)</strong> 11:00-13:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Key note speaker</td>
<td>• SDG 6: clean water and sanitation</td>
<td><strong>SIDE EVENTS (TBD)</strong> 11:00-13:45</td>
<td><strong>SIDE EVENTS (TBD)</strong> 11:00-13:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Country &amp; stakeholders’ statements</td>
<td>• SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure</td>
<td><strong>SIDE EVENTS (TBD)</strong> 11:00-13:45</td>
<td><strong>SIDE EVENTS (TBD)</strong> 11:00-13:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SIDE EVENTS (TBD)</strong> 17:00-18:15</td>
<td>• SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals</td>
<td><strong>SIDE EVENTS (TBD)</strong> 11:00-13:45</td>
<td><strong>SIDE EVENTS (TBD)</strong> 11:00-13:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RECEPTION</strong> 17:00-18:00</td>
<td><strong>SIDE EVENTS (TBD)</strong> 17:00-18:15</td>
<td><strong>SIDE EVENTS (TBD)</strong> 17:00-18:15</td>
<td><strong>SIDE EVENTS (TBD)</strong> 17:00-18:15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Participants

ESCAP member States and associated member States’ representatives will be invited to participate in the meeting. Parliamentarians and representatives from Supreme Audit Institutions will also be invited.

Contributions of other parts of the UN system strengthen the APFSD and are explicitly requested by member States in ESCAP resolution 72/6. Participation of other parts of the UN system and other development partners and intergovernmental organizations in relevant parts of the APFSD will also be assured. Invitations will be issued to all Resident Coordinators.

Major groups and other stakeholders’ participation will be solicited via an open call and other channels. They will be accredited to the meeting based on review of applications against pre-defined criteria by a selection committee from the Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCEM) and ESCAP. At present major groups and other stakeholders’ representation is encouraged in: (1) in the opening session; (2) in all plenary sessions unless explicitly a Ministerial Panel; (3) in each Roundtable, and; (4) as organizers of side events, special events and exhibitions.

For the private sector, accreditation to the meeting will also be provided via membership of the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network, Chambers of Commerce, and other private-sector networks.

Researchers and staff of academic institutions who express interest may observe the APFSD if they are engaged in relevant work. ESCAP will make the final decisions on participation based on the expected numbers of registrants and the need to balance participation across gender, constituency, substantive, geographic and other factors. ESCAP will invite all organizations that meet the selection criteria to attend.

Additional participants will be able to follow the proceeding through the ESCAP YouTube channel.

Contact Us:
For information, please contact escap-apfsd@un.org.

Follow Us:
https://www.unescap.org/  @unescap
@unitednationsescap  @united-nations-escap