

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SIDE EVENTS

8th ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

“Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia and the Pacific”

March 23-26, 2021 Bangkok

Background

The Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development is an annual, inclusive intergovernmental forum to support follow-up and review of progress on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals at the regional level, while serving as a regional preparatory meeting to the high-level political forum. The Forum provides a regional perspective on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by identifying regional trends and sharing best practices and lessons learned.

The 2020 Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development noted that the Asia-Pacific region is not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular as regards environmental and climate goals. Since then, rising unemployment, declines in economic output and livelihood disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic have further stalled progress, risking reversing the hard-won development gains in Asia and the Pacific.

APFSD 2021 objective and format

The 8th APFSD will be organized during 23-26 March 2021 under the theme *“Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia and the Pacific”*, in a hybrid mode. The 8th APFSD aims to catalyze 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:

- Discuss how transformations can take place in the aftermath of COVID-19, supporting a sustainable and resilient recovery while accelerating implementation of the SDGs.
- Conduct in-depths review of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17, and their interlinkages.
- Support the presentation of Voluntary National Reviews for the 2021 HLPF.
- Discuss opportunities to strengthen linkages between national, regional and global follow-up and review.

Asia-Pacific’s perspectives on follow-up and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be conveyed to the HLPF and are expected to inform discussions there.

Criteria for side events

Side events will be held fully virtually. Side events can be organized and sponsored by Member States, the UN system, other Intergovernmental organizations, accredited CSOs or other stakeholders. Held outside the official programme, they provide an opportunity to discuss the theme of the 2021 APFSD *“Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia and the Pacific”*, or one (or more) of the SDGs under review, or to deepen discussions on Voluntary

National Reviews, and to share good practices, identify new and emerging issues, and spread greater awareness of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

- Priority will be given to events that show a clear link with the theme of the 2021 APFSD, the SDGs under review, and/or events related to VNRs.
- In view of the large interest to organize side-events at past APFSD sessions and taking into consideration the limited time, side-event requests should be limited to **one** per proposing entity, and side events sponsored by Governments will be given priority.
- To ensure that many organizers can be involved, side event proposals should ideally involve different partners. One of the organizers of a proposed side event should be designated as a lead organizer and communication focal point. A co-organizer cannot be the lead organizer of more than one side event.
- Side-event organizers will be fully responsible for all aspects of their events, including arranging the virtual platforms to be utilized, programme, outreach, registration, speakers' recruitment, and any related logistics or costs.
- Organizers are encouraged to ensure geographic and gender balance and include, in the discussions, a mix of countries and other actors, including civil society, scientists, and academia.
- Organizers are requested to hold their event in English or make their own interpretation arrangements.
- Publicizing a side event is the responsibility of its organizers. The Secretariat will not distribute notices or run other publicity efforts for side events.
- The side events should be open to all APFSD participants. Participants attending side-events will not automatically be listed as APFSD participants.

Proposed side-events will be reviewed and selected so that the overall programme of side-events is balanced in terms of geography and thematic focus and provides clear links to the theme and SDGs under review. The ESCAP secretariat will include a page displaying all side-events on the APFSD website, with onward links to the organizer's own pages for additional information and registration.

Process

Interested parties are invited to submit applications to organize a side event to the 8th APFSD following the guidelines and criteria above to escap-apfsd@un.org, using the Proposal Form available at: <https://www.unescap.org/apfsd/8/>

The proposal should provide a detailed description of the side event, including its thematic focus, potential contribution to the APFSD and tentative speakers. It should clearly indicate the main organizer of the event and their contacts.

The deadline for submitting proposals is 31 January 2021. All requests for side events received within the deadline will be considered. The Secretariat will review the requests and revert to the organizers by **mid-February 2020**. Following approval, the full schedule of approved side events will be posted on the website of the 8th APFSD: <https://www.unescap.org/apfsd/8/>

All queries related to side events should be addressed to escap-apfsd@un.org