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Regional perspectives on progress on the 2030
Agenda for Sustainable Development

Assessment of progress in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17 at the regional level**

Summary

Effective follow-up and review is critical for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development not only highlights the critical role of follow-up and review but also recognizes the role of regional approach towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and emphasizes the importance of regional contributions in assessing the progress in delivering the Agenda.

This paper focuses on Sustainable Development Goals 4,8,10,13,16 and 17, which constitute the cluster of Goals under review at the 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development under the theme of "Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality".

The report provides an assessment of progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16 at the regional level, discusses areas for regional policy actions and provides insights on interlinkages of the Sustainable Development Goals 4,8,10,13,16 and 17 among themselves and with other Goals.

I. Introduction

1. United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/299 establishes the mechanism for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national, regional and global level, including the cluster of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will be under review under this year.

2. The Sustainable Development Goals (the full list of Sustainable Development Goals is available as Annex I) under review in 2019 are Goal 4: Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong

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Learning Opportunities; Goal 8: Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All; Goal 10: Reduce Inequality within and Among Countries; Goal 13: Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts; Goal 16: Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for All and Build Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions at all Levels; and Goal 17: Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

3.   Goal profiles assessing the status of regional progress on Sustainable Development Goals 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16 were developed to support the follow-up and review mandate of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), in collaboration with partner United Nations Agencies and Programmes and other stakeholders. The goal profiles are based on data from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) statistical database, as well as data and resources from partner United Nations Agencies. They available on the ESCAP website in the document section at https://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/apfsd6.

4.   The goal profiles are provided to support common regional understanding of the options for integrated policy approaches, aiming at making further progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals under review and for transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies.

II.   Assessing Progress on Sustainable Development Goals 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16

5.   The profile for Sustainable Development Goal 4 was developed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) with inputs from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS), ESCAP and from a multi-stakeholder reference group.

6.   The profile for Sustainable Development Goal 8 was developed by the Regional Economic and Social Analysis Unit of the International Labour Organization (ILO), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, with input from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES).

7.   The profile for Sustainable Development Goal 10 was developed by ESCAP with inputs from UNESCO, ILO, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and UNDP.

8.   The profile for Sustainable Development Goal 13 was developed by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and UN Environment Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific with input from ESCAP, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education.

9.   The profile for Sustainable Development Goal 16 was developed by UNDP with inputs from UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and ESCAP.

10.   The goal profiles are included available on the ESCAP website in the document section at https://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/apfsd6

11.   Each goal profile provides:

(a)   A summary of progress made at the regional level

(b)   An overview of the current status on the Goal, including areas where good progress has been made as well as areas requiring specific attention and associated key challenges;

(c)   Promising innovations and best practices;

(d)   Priority for action, from a policy perspective; and

(e)   A statistical annex presenting the list of targets and indicators for each Sustainable Development Goal, the latest available official data as per the ESCAP statistical database and comments on availability of data and possible other proxi indicators that could be used to monitor progress against the goals.

III.   Assessing Interlinkages between the Goals

12.   A coherent and integrated policy approach to developing strategies to facilitate implementation of the 2030 Agenda will require considering the interlinked and interdependent nature of the Sustainable Development Goals. Some highlights of important interlinkages between the goals under review in 2019 are provided below based on the findings of a forthcoming joint publications of ESCAP, UNDP and ADB under the Sustainable Development Goal Partnership, as well as the analysis provided by the inter-agencies working groups that have developed the Sustainable Development Goals profiles for discussions at the 6th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development Roundtables.

13.   Where women are better educated (Goal 4: target 4.5 on eliminating gender disparity in education), better opportunities for early childhood development are created (Goal 4: target 4.2), which sets for a trajectory for good lifelong health (Goal 3: target 3.2 and others). Investment and interventions promoting inclusive and equitable quality education, including early childhood development (Goal 4: target 4.1 and 4.2) are powerful equalizers (Goal 10: target 10.2) with the potential to instil values and behaviours that reduce violence and promote peace (Sustainable Development Goal 4, target 4.7, and, ultimately, 16.1). To achieve Sustainable Development Goal 8 requires increasing investment in people's capabilities. This can include a universal entitlement to lifelong learning that enables people to acquire skills and to reskill and upskill, while also increasing investment in the institutions, policies and strategies that will support young people to navigate the school-to-work transition. Education and skills upgrading (Goal 4) will be critical for removing the obstacles to realizing green jobs (targets 8.5, 8.6).

14.   Strengthening participation and voice of people, through enhanced civic engagement is found to improve accountability and trust in institutions while ensuring responsive decision making (targets 16.5 to 16.7). Empowering citizens through constitutional guarantee of environmental rights (Goal 16) can boost actions that contribute to climate change mitigation (Goal 13).

15.   Putting effective labour market institutions and improved labour market governance, including legislation and regulations (Goal 8: target 8.3) that stimulate decent work for all women and men, and young people and persons with disabilities (Goal 8: target 8.5,) and social protection, occupational safety and health, minimum wages and collective bargaining (Goal 8: target 8,7 and 8,8), would also ensure equal opportunities and reduce income inequality (Goal 10: target 10.3) and will promote social, economic and political inclusion of all (Goal 10: target 10.2) and will also contribute to further eliminate discriminatory laws policies and practices (Goal 10: target 10.3). Ultimately those measures can vastly accelerate eradication of poverty and in all its forms (Sustainable Development Goal 1: target 1.1. and 1.2), stimulate gender equality (Sustainable Development Goal 5: target 5.5), and promote the rule of law (Goal 16: target 16.3) as well as inclusive and participatory decision-making at all levels (Goal 16: target 16.7).

16.   Conversely, economic prosperity and social progress in the region are threatened by environmental degradation (Goals 14 and 15) and climate change (Goal 13). To ameliorate those threats and to ensure a "just transition" towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all it is important to adopt low carbon approaches in energy production (Goal 7), facilitate sustainable urban development through resource efficient (Goal 12) and circular economy approaches (Goal 11). Such progressive policy reforms can ensure green economic growth (Goal 8), greener industrial development and innovations (Goal 9) and lead to a net creation of new and decent jobs (Goal 8). Realizing the importance of interlinkages, the forthcoming Climate Summit 2019: A Race We Can Win promulgated by the United Nations Secretary-General, will address interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 13 on Climate Action with the other Sustainable Development Goals to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreements Commitments and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (see Annex III).

17.   Enhanced policy coherence for Sustainable Development (Goal 17: target 17.14) would greatly support integrated approaches to implementation of the cluster of goals, creating a powerful impetus for effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships (Goal 17: target 17.17) and ensure social partnerships for Sustainable Development. Such partnerships will greatly support reducing inequalities (Goal 10) and contribute to the protection of labour rights (Goal 8), quality education (Goal 4), mobilization of financial resources, including untapped domestic resources with better fiscal policies (Goal 17: target 17.1 and 17.3) and direct investments for capacity development and innovation (Goal 17: target 17.6-17.8 and 17.9).

18.   Some of those important interlinkages are presented in Annex II to this paper.

IV.   Policy recommendations emanating from the Goal Profiles on Sustainable Development Goals 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16

19.   In order to support the sharing of regional perspectives on integrated policy approaches for making further progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals under review and for transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies, this section presents the major priorities for action under emanating from the development of the goal profiles for Sustainable Development Goals 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16.

A.   Quality Education: Priority areas for regional action

20.   Remove barriers that hinder equity, inclusion and quality at all levels of education: the persistent inequalities in education perpetuate the marginalization of disadvantaged groups such as those in vulnerable situations, persons with disabilities, remote rural areas, ethnic minorities, the poor, women and girls, migrants and displaced persons. Concrete and effective policy interventions to remove any form of barrier (direct and indirect) to education, and to significantly increase equitable access to quality learning opportunities during early years and pre-primary level are vital. Addressing quality also requires consistent and persistent attention to pedagogy, language of instruction, curricula, teaching and learning materials, assessment (going beyond core competencies to capture a variety of skills, learning outcomes and multiple intelligences), teachers' professional development, parental engagement and community participation, and infrastructure.

21.   Eradicate illiteracy through formal and non-formal education and training: this region is still home to more than 60 per cent of adult illiterates in the world and women are at disadvantage. There are serious social equity and human rights implications if the situation is left neglected. A poorly educated population with unskilled workforce will definitely hinder Sustainable Development. Implementation of effective literacy programmes (formal or non-formal) that are of high quality and tailored to learners' needs and linked to skills development for decent work and livelihood are crucial. Flexible education programmes that allow students to continue on to formal education should also be provided as a viable option.

22.   Increase and ensure the supply of motivated, supported, qualified, adequately resourced and empowered teaching force: teachers play a vital role in preparing our future generation. Rigorous policies with effective strategies and interventions supported by adequate resources must be put in place. Teachers as well as caregivers and facilitators for early learning/ early childhood development (ECD) must be accorded better support and resources for their continuous professional development, decent working conditions, and career pathways. Teachers should also be empowered to engage meaningfully in policy development and dialogue that affects not only their own professional development but for ensuring inclusive and equitable quality learning environment for all learners.

23.   Increase investment, adhere to the international benchmarks of allocating at least 4-6 per cent of Gross Domestic Product and/or at least 15-20 per cent of total public expenditure to education and ensure an efficient and equitable resource allocation and accountability in expenditures: full realization of Sustainable Development Goal 4 and reversing the stagnating funding to education sector require an increased, sustained, innovative and well-targeted financing. Domestic resources will remain the most important source for funding education. The most marginalized group require more resources; hence financing should be targeted towards them particularly during early years and basic education. Governments have the primary obligation to ensure the right to education and a central role to ensure effective accountability system are in place for effective allocation and use of resources. As much as possible, the financial burden of education on families should be minimized and the pros and cons of expansion of privatization of education must be carefully reviewed and regulated where needed to ensure quality and equity of provisions.

24. Strengthen monitoring of inclusion, equity and quality by ensuring mechanisms are in place and capacity are available: to comprehensively and systematically track progress and address inequalities, a high-quality and more disaggregated data based on gender/sex, ethnicity, language, income, disability status, and geographical location must be available to planners, decision makers and stakeholders. Strengthening management information systems and capacity of data users on data collection using multiple sources (e.g. administrative, household, etc.), processing, analysis, and the effective utilization of data are also crucial in ensuring evidenced-based policies. The new agenda also calls for use of diversified data sources to review progress based on agreed framework and processes at different levels (global, regional and national).

25. Map or review existing national education plans, policies, strategies, programmes and capacity in light of Sustainable Development Goal 4: such exercise will enable countries to systematically assess their current situation and realign/ mainstream their policy goals, toward Sustainable Development Goal 4 targets in the context of sector wide policy and planning. This will also help countries in the region in redefining their priorities and ensuring that their policies and goals are aligned with their global commitment to Sustainable Development Goals.

B. Decent Work and Economic Growth: Priority areas for regional action

26. Be inclusive in setting the institutional mechanisms for **sustainable development goal** 8: given its breadth, making progress on Sustainable Development Goal 8 necessitates the integrated planning of a broad array of actors including ministries of economy, environment and labour, local governments, trade unions, employers' organizations, the private sector, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society.

27. Build effective labour market institutions for improved labour market governance: key labour market institutions (LMIs) include legislation and regulations on employment and social protection, anti-discrimination, occupational safety and health, unacceptable forms of work, minimum wages and collective bargaining. These LMIs are critical to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 8, as well as for other interlinked Goals concerning the eradication of poverty (Goal 1), achieving gender equality (Goal 5), reducing inequalities (Goal 10) and promoting just institutions (Goal 16). Also related to strengthening institutions is the call to increase the capacity of national statistics offices to ensure regular collection of labour force surveys, or other household surveys needed to monitor decent work and inclusive growth.

28. Develop national policies and programmes to combat child labour and for better prevention and assistance to victims of forced labour: there are a variety of strategies and measures available with the aim to strengthen legislation and policy frameworks for action against child labour discussed in the recent ILO report released in 2018, Ending child labour by 2025: A review of policies and programmes. For example, India introduced new legislation on manual scavenging and revised its child labour legislation in 2016.

29. Step up investments in human capital to provide all people the opportunities to realize their full potential: while education for all, lifelong learning and building technical and core skills are themes featured under Sustainable Development Goal 4, they also serve as key input to human development as well as the decent work and economic growth outcomes of a

country. For this reason, progress in Sustainable Development Goal 8 will necessitate increasing investment in people's capabilities. This can include a universal entitlement to lifelong learning that enables people to acquire skills and to reskill and upskill, while also increasing investment in the institutions, policies and strategies that will support young people to navigate the increasing difficult school-to-work transition.

30. Progressive policy reforms are required to promote a "just transition" towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all: with economic prosperity and social progress in the region threatened by environmental degradation and climate change, the urgency to act on climate change. The transition to a low greenhouse gas economy is expected to lead to a net creation of jobs. A few countries–for example, Cambodia, Fiji, Malaysia and Viet Nam–have adopted a broad and comprehensive policy framework on the green economy and will be watched closely in view of impact. Few other countries integrated labour issues into laws and policies related to specific issues such as climate change, energy, land use, agriculture, forestry, waste management and transport.

31. Design coherent and integrated strategies to facilitate the transition from the informal to the formal economy: certain countries in the region have initiated strategies to formalize the informal economy in line with the ILO Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204), adopted by the International Labour Conference in 2015. The guidelines of R.204 highlight the formulation of appropriate macroeconomic and skills policies, simplified registration procedures, extended scope of, and compliance with, labour laws, improved access to credit and offering incentives, such as tax incentives, and extending social protection coverage to all categories of workers.

C. Reduced Inequalities: Priority areas for regional action

32. Reap maximum benefits by focusing on social protection investments had inequality not increased, an additional 140 million people would have been lifted out of poverty in the region.[1] To reverse that trend, all countries need to step up investments in inclusive social protection. Estimates indicate that increased investments in social protection alone could be a game changer for poverty reduction by lifting at least 233 million people out of moderate poverty in the Asia-Pacific region by 2030.[2] Additional investments in people are not only critical for poverty reduction efforts but can also help in boosting economic growth and dampening inequality. The equalizing effect of boosting expenditures on social protection to meet the global spending average would reduce the unweighted Gini coefficient of 26 countries by 5 percentage points, with the greatest impact in Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

33. Promote decent job creation and equal pay: expanding the formal sector means more workers benefit from decent work, including coverage by labour laws and social protection. Minimum wage setting is another tool for supporting the incomes of those in the lower part of the income distribution. A wider range of policies is required to overcome wage gaps across groups that are not explained by human capital and labour market characteristics. For example, achieving equal pay between men and women requires policies aimed at combating discriminatory practices and gender-based stereotypes

[1] ESCAP (2018). *Inequality in Asia and the Pacific in the era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.* Bangkok.

[2] ESCAP (2018). *Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific: Poorly Protected.* Bangkok.

about the value of women's work, effective policies on maternity, paternity and parental leave, as well as advocacy for better sharing of family responsibilities.

34.   Increase the effectiveness of fiscal policies: an effective tax system enhances public revenues and facilitates increasing investments in essential services, such as health care, education and social protection. To this end, better and effective governance will be needed to boost overall tax compliance and improve composition and efficiency of public expenditure. Similarly, reforming tax structures to reduce their adverse effects on the poor through progressive taxes on personal income, property and wealth can ensure greater equality of opportunity within and across generations. Countries can embark on improving their fiscal policies by undertaking comprehensive and transparent reviews of the overall redistributive impact of their expenditure and taxation system. Furthermore, regional cooperation can contribute to public revenue mobilization, including through regional initiatives to address tax evasion, base erosion and harmful tax competition.[3]

35.   Protect the poor and disadvantaged from disproportionate impact of environmental hazards: policy measures that reduce exposure of the poor and disadvantaged to environmental hazards and natural disasters can help close inequalities within countries. Such measures include more inclusive urban planning and land use systems, establishing networks of urban greens spaces in cities such as 'green corridors' and the establishment of universal health care systems to address impacts on human health, supported by monitoring mechanisms, including regular health check-ups in schools. Further, strengthened regional cooperation for monitoring of emerging transboundary disaster 'hotspots' is needed. These hotspots are areas that are expected to suffer the impacts of climate change most, while also being homes to large numbers of poor and vulnerable people.[4]

36.   Address the digital divide and Information, and Communication Technology infrastructure: addressing the digital divide and developing affordable, resilient and reliable broadband infrastructure should be a development priority in Asia and the Pacific. If left unaddressed, inequality could worsen, with implications for many other areas of development, including labour market outcomes. As broadband development is geography-dependent, regional and sub-regional cooperation is key to addressing the challenge. Ensuring that current curricula correspond to future labour market needs, including through emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects, can facilitate school-to-work transition.

37.   Include migrants in efforts to achieve greater equality: the scale and complexity of migration and its impacts on society mean that efforts to achieve equality must include migrants. In realizing this goal, it will be essential that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and regular way, respecting the rights of migrants. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration provides guidance on steps countries can take to achieve this goal.

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[3]   *'Taxing for shared prosperity: policy options for the Asia-Pacific region' (2017, jointly with Oxfam) and 'Tax policy for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific' (2018, chapter 4)*

[4]   UNESCAP (2017). Disaster Resilience for Sustainable Development: Asia Pacific Disaster Report 2017

D. Climate Action: Priority areas for regional action

38.   Integrated policy planning: urgent action is needed to prevent new risks, reduce existing risk and adapt to a changing climate by strengthening integrated climate and disaster risk governance systems. This includes developing coherent disaster risk reduction and climate change strategies that create multiple benefits, including through scaling-up sustainable consumption and production, investing in resilient and sustainable infrastructure and promoting ecosystem-based approaches that increase resilience and carbon storage.

39.   Leverage climate action with co-benefits: as part of integrated development strategies, countries can leverage short and medium-term climate action by prioritizing measures with multiple sustainable development benefits. Investing in air quality improvement solutions in Asian cities can accelerate a shift to clean transport and energy technologies that mitigate short-lived climate pollutants and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) while improving public health.

40.   Strengthen monitoring systems and data collection: the region will benefit from investing in climate and disaster risk assessments and disaster loss accounting systems, with a special emphasis on vulnerability analysis and disaggregated data collection, to enable implementation and monitoring of inclusive adaptation and disaster risk management policies and inform public investment frameworks. National environmental and disaster statistics and disaster forensic capabilities need to be improved to identify socio-economic impacts of past extensive and intensive disasters, assess cost-benefits of disaster risk reduction investments and improve the accuracy of future disaster risk modelling.

41.   Strengthen regional cooperation for financial protection: countries can mitigate disaster and climate risks by promoting regional catastrophic insurance and risk pooling mechanisms and promote good practices on reviewing expenditures through the Climate Public Expenditures and Institutional Review (CPEIR)/ Disaster Risk Management: Public Expenditure Review (DRM-PIER) and calculating investment carbon footprints through emissions tagging of national budgets and disaster risk impact through appraisal of public investments.

42.   Develop innovative and blended climate finance tools: Complement conventional and international climate finance (including the Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund) with blended approaches to climate action and disaster risk reduction, by mobilizing private sector financing and shifting national budgets. Tools include green and catastrophe bonds, and integrating climate change and disaster risk reduction into business operations, including commercial banks. Tapping the capital market and engaging institutional investors is important for countries with relatively mature capital markets.

43.   Improve access to and flow of climate finance: The capacity of governments, public and private stakeholders needs to be strengthened to develop 'bankable' proposals that allow investors to make climate-related investments. Developing countries, especially Small Island developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), will require 'readiness' support to accredit direct-access-entities and help them develop successful Green Climate Fund (GCF) proposals. Finance reporting needs to be improved and climate finance flows become more transparent to address the gap between pledged and received resources.

E. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Priority areas for regional action

44. Sustainable Development Goal Localization: localizing the Sustainable Development Goals or translating the Sustainable Development Goals into priorities that are relevant, applicable and attainable at the local level allows for sub-national and local governments to take on greater role in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. It will require effective and responsive institutions at the local level to shape policies and programmes to achieve defined priorities. Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals can also improve engagement between various stakeholder. At the same time, effective localization requires policy coherence, cohesion and coordination between different levels of government. Thus, localizing Sustainable Development Goals is not only essential for achieving Sustainable Development Goals but is also vital for strengthening effectiveness of institutions and reinforcing participatory governance at all levels.

45. Multi-stakeholder engagement for Sustainable Development Goal 16+: in addition to localizing Sustainable Development Goals, multi-stakeholder partnerships and engagement for Sustainable Development Goal 16+ at all levels can be very useful. Such partnerships can help in developing tools (including new technologies) and methods, facilitate access to information, and analysis public information to improving service delivery for all sections of the population. This can facilitate inclusive public service delivery by engaging stakeholders into the design, implementation and monitoring of government. Civil society actors, and private sector actors can assist help with tracking incidences of violence, and prevalence of corruption – and assist in shaping local measures to tackle governance issues and promote transparency and accountability. In addition, engagement of different actors is critical for changing behavioural patterns – specifically related to violence against children and young men and women.

46. Improving public sector financing: the share of subnational governments relative to nation expenditure varies greatly. On average, the reliability and timeliness of fiscal transfer (how much is allocated and when the money is transferred) is poor in the region. In addition, local governments have very little leeway to manage resources based on local context. These challenges undermine sub-national and local governments' ability to engage with local stakeholders and make decisions around local spending (target 16.6). Improve fiscal transfer systems and adapt practices that would focus on building local fiscal capacities to use public resources to promote efficiency, effectiveness and equity, and achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

47. Data and reporting: as indicated above, there is very limited data to assess progress on Sustainable Development Goal 16. Several efforts are underway at the global level to clarify methodologies – such as the Sustainable Development Goal 16 data initiative, and the Praia Group on Governance Statistics. Asia-Pacific countries are also supporting global efforts around Sustainable Development Goal 16+ (for example: Republic of Korea, and Timor-Leste). Once the methodologies are clarified, the issue then becomes up-take of these methodologies at national and sub-national level by relevant agencies. Support to data excellence centers (consisting of multi-stakeholders generating relevant data), and capacity development support to key institutions at all levels can ensure quality assurance, data coherence, and adherence to data standards.

48.   Strengthening access to information and civic engagement: access to public information is a key enabler/accelerator for achieving Sustainable Development Goals. Public awareness on how to use freedom of information laws and policies is vital for realizing its full potential in strengthening transparency and accountability, limiting misuse of public resources, reduce inequalities, and protecting the rights, including of marginalized and vulnerable sections of the population. Capacity development and advocacy efforts should be supported for converting available data into useable information, and for proactive disclosure of information. Third party/ independent institutions should be supported to make information widely available and accessible.

49.   Oversight and accountability: oversight institutions have a critical role to play. State audit institutions not only conduct fiscal audits but also performance audit to assess the quality of performance of institutions against approved plans. Anti-corruption agencies and public procurement agencies help to identify and reduce corruption risks in the public sector, and (mandate permitting) take punitive measures as well. Strengthening the role of oversight institutions at all levels of the government in monitoring progress on Sustainable Development Goals can increase transparency and accountability within the governance systems. Further, oversight institutions can also work with non-state actors to assess compliance of different actors in delivering on Sustainable Development Goal plans and programmes.

V.   Matters calling for the attention of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

50.   Member States and other stakeholders are invited to review the present document with a view to:

(a)   Sharing perspectives on progress on the Sustainable Development Goals under review; and

(b)   Sharing perspectives on integrated policy approaches, taking into consideration the interlinkages between the goals, for making further progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals under review.

Annex I

Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 1	No Poverty - End Poverty in All its Forms Everywhere
Goal 2	Zero Hunger – End Hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3	Good Health and Well-Being – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4	Quality Education – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality of education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5	Gender Equality -Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6	Clean Water and Sanitation – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7	Affordable and Clean Energy – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8	Decent Work and Economic Growth – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10	Reduced Inequalities – Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12	Responsible Consumption and Production – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13	Climate Action – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
Goal 14	Life Below Water – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15	Life on Land - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16	Peace and Justice – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17	Partnerships for the Goals – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnerships for sustainable development

Annex II

Sustainable Development Goal 4 Interlinkages Diagram

Developed by ESCAP based on interlinkages matrix by the UNESCO/UNICEF Interagency Team

Annex III

Six Priority Areas of the Climate Summit 20019: A Race We Can Win