



## ***Creating a seat at the table*** **Workshop on engaging multiple perspectives for the 2030 Agenda**

**23-25 August 2017**  
**MR H, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok**

### **Background and justification**

Stakeholder engagement is central to effective implementation for the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. Connecting and integrating diverse perspectives through effective stakeholder engagement is the foundation of policies and plans that are economically, socially and environmentally-sustainable.

Structured, well-planned and meaningful engagement creates opportunities for social transformation - promoting understanding, developing ownership, and facilitating the emergence of well-aligned partnerships. Effectively engaging those who are affected by a decision is a cornerstone of accountable governance that supports favourable development outcomes,<sup>1</sup> minimising the risk of failure that can too-often result from strategies crafted in isolation.

However, effective stakeholder engagement requires dedicated capacity and institutional support, as well as clear communication, effective tools and committed leadership, from local to national levels. At the beginning of the implementation period of the 2030 Agenda, governments and civil society organisations are encountering several constraints that impact on the effectiveness of the response.

### **The role of the United Nations and ESCAP's approach**

The United Nations system has long promoted the engagement of multiple perspectives as a pillar of effective governance. More than ten years ago, the United Nations partnered with the Queensland Australia local government to organize the International Conference on Engaging Communities.<sup>2</sup> The International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Australasia then facilitated the development of the resulting "*Brisbane Declaration on Community Engagement*", which called for all actors in societies to work together to expand and promote participatory, transparent governance for the benefit of their people. This call for action echoed the outcome of the *Sixth Global Forum on Reinventing Government* organized by the United Nations and hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Economic and Social Survey for Asia and the Pacific 2017: Governance and Fiscal Management (see <http://www.unescap.org/publications/economic-and-social-survey-asia-and-pacific-2017>)

<sup>2</sup> Held in August 2005, the Conference was attended by more than 8000 people including Heads of State and government representatives (see <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un/unpan019716.pdf>)

<sup>3</sup> The Seoul Declaration on Participatory and Transparent Governance made at the Sixth Global Forum on Reinventing Government at Seoul, Republic of Korea, 24-27 May 2005. (see <https://publicadministration.un.org/en/6thglobalforum>, <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un/unpan021799.pdf>).

Reflecting a global mandate to regional commissions of the United Nations, ESCAP has been tasked by its member states to support the implementation integrated approaches to the 2030 Agenda.<sup>4</sup> In response ESCAP is promoting systems analysis approaches that facilitates effective and integrated planning at the national level, including stakeholder identification. We are also working to promote effective partnerships for the 2030 Agenda.

Together with the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Federation, and its IAP2 Australasia and IAP2 Indonesia affiliates, as well as other partners, ESCAP will work with civil society, government officials and experts to build on tried and tested approaches for engaging multiple perspectives, and make this knowledge available.

### ***Aims and objectives***

The workshop on will focus attention on technical and institutional aspects of engaging multiple perspectives in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. It will also address other dimensions of an enabling environment (e.g. policy and legislation) for implementation of the Agenda.

With participation by invitation, this meeting will work towards:

- Sharing experiences in effective engagement
- Assessing the gaps in practice, capacity and knowledge
- Reviewing and adapting tried and tested methodologies and tools for the context of the 2030 Agenda, and for developing country situations and approaches
- Developing strategies to strengthen support to national and regional processes

### ***Programme outline***

#### **23 August 2017**

- The 2030 Agenda and the engagement context
- Identifying engagement challenges
- Assessing quality of engagement

#### **24 August 2017**

- Defining an assessment framework
- Reviewing available tools
- Exploring national “infrastructure” needs for building effective engagement

#### **25 August 2017**

- Mapping strategies to support engagement in the region

### ***For more information:***

<http://www.unescap.org/events/creating-seat-table>  
[escap-2030agenda@un.org](mailto:escap-2030agenda@un.org)

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<sup>4</sup> See ESCAP resolution 72/6 “Committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific.”