Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
Bangkok and online, 27–30 March 2023

Annotated provisional agenda*

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (section I) and the annotations thereto (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development:
   (a) Opening addresses;
   (b) Election of officers;
   (c) Adoption of the agenda.

2. Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

3. Towards the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit.

4. Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through voluntary national reviews.

5. Review of regional progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and opportunities for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals:
   (a) Implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the subregional level;
   (b) Progress towards the achievement of Goals 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17 at the regional level;
   (c) Reporting on system-wide results of the United Nations at the regional level in Asia and the Pacific in support of the 2030 Agenda.

* The present document was submitted after the deadline so as to include the most recent information.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report on the Tenth Forum.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

(a) Opening addresses

Opening addresses will be delivered by the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), other senior officials and government representatives.

(b) Election of officers

The participants in the Tenth Forum will elect a Chair and Vice-Chairs.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Provisional agenda (ESCAP/RFSD/2023/1/Rev.1)
Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/RFSD/2023/1/Add.1)

Annotation

The provisional agenda will be considered and adopted, subject to such changes as may be necessary.

The list of participants and the programme for the Tenth Forum will be available online at www.unescap.org/events/apfsd10/.

2. Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

Documentation

Delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals through the energy, food and finance nexus (ESCAP/RFSD/2023/2)

Annotation

Guided by the overall theme of the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development, “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”, the participants in the Tenth Forum will review the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict and climate change on the regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda and highlight the challenges and opportunities at the nexus of energy, food and finance. The recent surges in food and energy prices, together with supply chain disruptions, have triggered a cost-of-living crisis and amplified social tensions in several countries in the region. At the same time, growing debt distress and fiscal deficits in the aftermath of the pandemic are making it more challenging for Governments to ensure food security, sustainable agricultural production and a renewable energy transition and to
provide social, economic and health protection. Loss of livelihoods, together with the rising cost of living, have exacerbated multidimensional poverty and inequalities, pushing vulnerable groups even further behind and setting back progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Document ESCAP/RFSD/2023/2 includes an examination of the energy, food and finance nexus, framing the need for and the opportunities underlying green and inclusive transitions in these interlinked areas. It provides information on good practices and innovative solutions to the energy-, food- and finance-related challenges confronting the region and identifies key actions, policy recommendations and pathways to realize the Sustainable Development Goals through transformations in the region’s energy, food and finance systems.

The participants in the Tenth Forum may wish to take note of the document and provide guidance on how Governments in the region could accelerate their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and fully implement the 2030 Agenda at all levels.

3. Towards the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit

Documentation

Asia and the Pacific Sustainable Development Goals progress report 2023: championing sustainability despite adversities (ESCAP/RFSD/2023/3)

Annotation

The 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, which will be held in New York on 19 and 20 September 2023 and mark the midpoint in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, will be an opportunity to comprehensively review progress and provide political guidance for accelerating the achievement of the Goals during the period until 2030. The Tenth Forum will provide a platform to review regional progress and identify regional priorities for the way forward and showcase solutions and transformative actions ahead of and in preparation for the Summit.

Document ESCAP/RFSD/2023/3 contains an update on progress made towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific, taking into account the possible impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It also contains a review of the critical priorities and persistent data gaps, and shines a spotlight on those countries that have demonstrated a commitment to and made progress towards the achievement of the Goals.

The participants in the Tenth Forum are invited to provide guidance on how Governments in the region could close the gaps and accelerate progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to raise key issues from the regional perspective for consideration at the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit.
4. Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through voluntary national reviews

Documentation

Strengthening the impact of voluntary national reviews on accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through South-South cooperation and improved data for evidence-based policymaking (ESCAP/RFSD/2023/4)

Annotation

Discussions will focus on the role of the voluntary national reviews in strengthening evidence-based policymaking. As the cornerstone of national follow-up and review processes, voluntary national reviews will serve as the basis for deliberations at the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development, to be held, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, in New York from 10 to 19 July 2023. As stipulated in the 2030 Agenda, the reviews are voluntary, State-led and undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders. Almost all ESCAP member States in Asia and the Pacific have prepared at least one review.

Document ESCAP/RFSD/2023/4 explores how voluntary national reviews have influenced development planning through South-South and triangular cooperation and how they have improved data for evidence-based policymaking, particularly by helping to identify inequalities and those being left behind. The use of data analysis tools and improvements to monitoring systems can strengthen the analysis and utilization of data in policy making and planning. South-South and triangular cooperation in the voluntary national review process can further enhance evidence-based policymaking by promoting leadership and knowledge exchange on the Sustainable Development Goals. At the midpoint in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, it is imperative to support member States in mobilizing resources, technical know-how and partnerships so that they can resume progress on the Goals. The ESCAP twinning programme plays a fundamental role in fostering this much-needed leadership. It is contributing to important changes in the institutional architecture for sustainable development and strengthening the political will and know-how to implement evidence-based policy reforms needed to fast-track progress.

The participants in the Tenth Forum are invited to provide guidance on ways to strengthen further the use of voluntary national reviews in development planning and to evaluate progress and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

5. Review of regional progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and opportunities for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

(a) Implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the subregional level

Documentation

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the subregional level (ESCAP/RFSD/2023/5)
Announcement

Discussions will focus on the subregional dimensions of the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific with a view to encouraging concrete commitments to accelerate efforts.

Document ESCAP/RFSD/2023/5 highlights some of the perspectives shared at the subregional forums organized in 2022 on the theme of the Tenth Forum and on the Sustainable Development Goals under review at the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development, namely 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 (Partnerships for the Goals). During the discussion, participants will highlight the achievements and challenges of each subregion in implementing the 2030 Agenda and opportunities and priority actions for accelerating progress, including by strengthening partnerships and facilitating the development of mechanisms for sustainable development.

(b) Progress towards the achievement of Goals 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17 at the regional level

Documentation

Progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17 at the regional level (ESCAP/RFSD/2023/INF/1)

Annotation

Discussions will focus on how to facilitate a regional dialogue on accelerating action for the Sustainable Development Goals under review at the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2023, namely 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 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Information document ESCAP/RFSD/2023/INF/1 contains an update on regional progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals under review at the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development, highlights of priority areas for accelerated action and opportunities for greater policy coherence towards the achievement of the Goals.

(c) Reporting on system-wide results of the United Nations at the regional level in Asia and the Pacific in support of the 2030 Agenda

In 2019, the Secretary-General outlined five key areas of transformation to guide the restructuring of United Nations regional assets in support of the 2030 Agenda (see A/74/73-E/2019/14, paras. 109–118). Consequently, a unified mechanism for coordination in each region – a United Nations regional collaborative platform – has been created and annual reports are being prepared on the system-wide results of the United Nations at the regional level in support of the 2030 Agenda. The discussion under the present sub-item will focus on system-wide actions and results at the regional level during 2022, including those taken by and achieved through issue-based coalitions established under the regional collaborative platform.
At the midpoint in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the participants in the Tenth Forum are invited to provide further guidance on how the United Nations can, at the regional level, further support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular the Goals under review at the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, and help to accelerate implementation during the period until 2030.

6. **Other matters**

The participants in the Tenth Forum may wish to consider other matters brought to their attention.

7. **Adoption of the report on the Tenth Forum**

**Documentation**

Draft report (ESCAP/RFSD/2023/L.1)

**Annotation**

The participants in the Tenth Forum will consider and adopt the report, including the Chair’s summary of discussions and recommendations, which will be transmitted by ESCAP to the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development and to the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit.

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