

## Sustainable Economies in the Aftermath of COVID-19

### A Virtual Policy Dialogue for North and Central Asia on the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2020

Wednesday, 27 May 2020, 13:00 – 14:30 PM (Almaty time)

#### Introduction

The *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2020: Towards Sustainable Economies* assesses economic conditions during the current COVID-19 pandemic and near-term economic growth prospects of the Asia-Pacific region. It also highlights that the overall steady economic progress in the past decades has coincided with rising inequality, lack of empowerment of certain segments of society, and worsening environmental conditions. The Survey emphasizes that there is a need to move away from a development model that solely promotes economic growth. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it discusses a pathway towards development that is more people-centered and ecologically sustainable.

After the recent global launch of the Survey, ESCAP is now undertaking a series of policy dialogues at subregional level to provide a forum for discussion of the key messages of the Survey. The *Virtual Policy Dialogue for North and Central Asia* will relate to major sustainable development challenges and policy options in the subregion<sup>1</sup>, including those created by and relating to COVID-19.

The Policy Dialogue will be held virtually in English and is open to all interested participants. Please click on the link to register and join the event: <https://bit.ly/2ysgNak>

#### Programme

13:00-13:05	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. <i>Nikolay Pomoshchnikov</i>, Officer-in-Charge, UN ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia</li> </ul>
13:05-13:30	<b>Presentation on “Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2020”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. <i>Zhenqian Huang</i>, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Macro-economic Policy and Financing for Development Division, UNESCAP</li> </ul>
13:30-13:55	<b>Comments from Panel of Discussants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. <i>Talant Sultanov</i>, Chair Internet Society-Kyrgyz Chapter</li> <li>Dr. <i>Aiyngul Kerimray</i>, Postdoctoral Researcher, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University</li> <li>Dr. <i>Roman Vakulchuk</i>, Senior Research Fellow, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs</li> </ul>
13:55-14:25	<b>Q&amp;A</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>between participants, presenter and discussants</li> </ul>
14:25-14:30	<b>Concluding Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. <i>Nikolay Pomoshchnikov</i>, UN ESCAP</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> The North and Central Asia is one of five subregions of UNESCAP. The following countries form part of it: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

## Economic and Social Survey 2020

The Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2020, Executive Summaries in Russian and English and a recording of the global Survey launch, can be accessed here: <https://www.unescap.org/publications/economic-and-social-survey-asia-and-pacific-2020>

## Overview of Speakers at the Virtual Policy Dialogue

<p><b>Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov</b></p> 	<p>is Officer-in-Charge of the ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia and has extensive experience in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, including as Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to UNESCAP, and working on the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC, the Montreal Protocol to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, and the United Nations Forum on Forests. He has the diplomatic rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (second class). He holds a PhD in Political Science.</p>
<p><b>Ms. Zhenqian Huang</b></p> 	<p>is an Associate Economic Affairs Officer at the Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division of ESCAP and member of the core team that produces ESCAP's annual flagship publication - the Economic and Social Survey. Before that, she was an economist for the United Kingdom's Foreign &amp; Commonwealth Office. She holds MAs in Public Administration (Harvard's Kennedy School of Government) and in Social Policy and Planning (London School of Economics) and a BA in Economics and Philosophy (Fudan University, China).</p>
<p><b>Mr. Talant Sultanov</b></p> 	<p>is a Digital Development Specialist at World Bank Bishkek Office. Previously he worked as Adviser to the Prime Minister, Coordinator of the Taza Koom National Digital Transformation Program, Director of the National Institute for Strategic Studies, CFO of the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek, Head of a Project Finance Unit at Kazkommertsbank in Almaty. He co-founded the Internet Society-Kyrgyz Chapter and served as Asia Regional Coordinator of the Association for Progressive Communications. He also served on boards of the Kyrgyz National TV and Radio Corporation, the Business Council of the Kyrgyz Parliament, the Bank of Asia, and Humo Microcredit Foundation in Tajikistan. He holds an MA in International Finance (Columbia University, SIPA), a BA in International Relations (San Francisco State University) and received executive education at the Harvard Kennedy School.</p>
<p><b>Dr. Aiyngul Kerimray</b></p> 	<p>holds a PhD in Science and Technology (Nazarbayev University) with her PhD thesis focusing on "Modeling of the paths of decarbonization of residential buildings in the Republic of Kazakhstan." She has 10 years of research experience in energy and ecology. She obtained her MA of Science in Energy and Environmental Engineering (University of Sheffield) and in 2019, received the "Woman in Science" Award from the Elsevier. She was a consultant at the World Bank, UNDP, and IEA working on sustainable transport, climate change, energy efficiency, and clean technologies. Her current research at Al-Farabi KazNU focuses on air quality in Kazakhstan's cities.</p>
<p><b>Dr. Roman Vakilchuk</b></p> 	<p>works as senior researcher at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs and Visiting Professor at OSCE Academy, Kyrgyzstan. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics (Jacobs University Bremen) and worked for ADB, GDN, GIZ, NREGI, WB and OECD. He was a visiting research fellow at Johns Hopkins University and worked for Shell in Germany. In 2013, he received the Gabriel Al-Salem International Award for Excellence in Consulting. He specializes in energy transition, renewable energy governance, natural resource management, climate change, economic transition, trade, infrastructure and transport, and public sector reform in Kazakhstan, Central and Southeast Asia.</p>