A national workshop on
“Building forward better: Securing inclusive, resilient and green development in Nepal”

Wednesday 9th – Thursday 10th March 2022

Day 1: 14.00 - 15.30 hours (Nepal time)
Day 2: 14.00 - 16.00 hours (Nepal time)

Virtual conference

Concept note

A. Background

Developing Asia-Pacific countries usually have national macroeconomic models that can be used to assess the potential economic impacts of adverse shocks (such as commodity price surge) and changes in economic policy directions. Yet, these models typically focus on economic dimension of sustainable development, while neglecting the social and environmental aspects. As countries seek to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there is a need to move beyond these traditional macroeconomic models because they are not designed to give a comprehensive picture of the impacts of public policies. For example, when considering an introduction of environmental taxes, policymakers not only need to understand the impacts on economic growth and inflation, but also on poverty incidence, income distribution and carbon emissions.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the merit of having a macroeconomic model that captures interactions among economic, social and environmental variables has become more evident. As countries are introducing an unprecedented scale of fiscal stimulus, they need to ensure that such spending helps them to ‘build forward better’, that is, more resilient to future shocks, socially inclusive and ecologically sustainable.

In this context, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), together with the United Nations country team, are carrying out a capacity building project that aims to further integrate sustainable development into macroeconomic modelling in Nepal. The two main outputs are (a) a macroeconomic model that is based on the region-wide ESCAP macroeconomic model, but tailored to Nepal’s context; and (b) a national study that examines the socio-economic and environmental implications of selected policy scenarios in Nepal. This workshop is organized as part of this project.

B. Objectives, structure and participation

The national workshop aims to (a) discuss ideas on public policy options that help Nepal build forward better; and (b) strengthen the technical capacity of government officials in conducting macroeconomic analysis that duly considers the social and environmental aspects of development.
The discussion on Day 1 of the workshop will highlight Nepal’s medium-term development challenges, policy options that help Nepal to build forward better, and the socio-economic and environmental impacts of selected national policy scenarios. On Day 2, the modelling session describes the basic technical features of the ESCAP macroeconomic model and demonstrates how to execute the model in the EViews statistical software.

For Day 1, participants include officials from the National Planning Commission and other public agencies. Representatives of national think-tanks, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and international development partners are also invited. For Day 2, target participants are officials from the National Planning Commission who work on economic modelling to support long-term development planning. The workshop will be conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation via Zoom.

C. Contact persons

- ESCAP: Mr. Vatcharin Sirimaneetham, Economic Affairs Officer, Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division; sirimaneetham@un.org
- UN Country team: Mr. Subhash Nepali, Development Coordination Officer, Resident Coordinator’s Office; subhash.nepali@un.org
- National Planning Commission: Dr. Chakra Pani Acharya, Program Director, Economic Management Division; cpacharya@npc.gov.np

D. Workshop’s website

The final version of the concept note (including the programme), presentation slides and other materials are available on https://unescap.org/events/2022/national-workshop-nepal-building-forward-better

E. Programme

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14:00 – 14:30</td>
<td>Session 1 – Opening remarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>(30 mins)</td>
<td><strong>Moderator</strong></td>
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<td>Mr. Hamza Ali Malik, Director, Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division, ESCAP</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Remarks (10 mins each)</strong></td>
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<td>Dr. Pushpa Raman Wagle, Member, National Planning Commission</td>
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<td>Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, ESCAP</td>
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<td>Mr. Richard Howard, Acting United Nations Resident Coordinator in Nepal</td>
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<td>14:30 – 15:30</td>
<td>Session 2 – Building Nepal forward better: policy options and implications</td>
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<tr>
<td>(60 mins)</td>
<td>This session reviews Nepal’s major development opportunities and challenges and</td>
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discusses the socio-economic and environmental implications of selected policy options to achieve more inclusive, resilient and green development.

**Moderator**

- Mr. Rajan Ratna, Deputy Head, Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, ESCAP

**Presentations (20 mins each)**

1. *Pathways to sustainable development in Nepal*
   - Dr. Chakra Pani Acharya, Program Director, National Planning Commission

2. *Socio-economic and environmental impacts of policy scenarios in Nepal*
   - Ms. Dawn Holland, Senior consultant on macroeconomic modelling

**Q&A and open discussion (20 mins)**

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<th>DAY 2</th>
<th>Thursday, 10 March 2022</th>
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<td>14:00 – 16:00 (120 mins)</td>
<td>Technical session on implementing the ESCAP macroeconomic model for sustainable development for Nepal</td>
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This session highlights the basic technical features of the model, explain the model’s technical manual, and demonstrates how to execute the model in the EViews statistical software.

- Ms. Dawn Holland, Senior consultant on macroeconomic modelling

**Q&A**