Outlook and preparations for the 6th session of the Forum

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SPEED THINKING SESSION

1. South-South Cooperation Connector & matchmaking
2. Support to technical assistance providers
3. Strengthening the Asia-Pacific DG Forum
1. South-South Cooperation Connector & matchmaking

1. Challenges in identifying and prioritizing areas of assistance (offers/requests)?

- Entry point for new assistance providers
- Prerequisites to be able to receive technical assistance
- Lack of information on focal points to identify evolving needs/demands
1. South-South Cooperation Connector & matchmaking

2. Possible uses or areas for improvement for the Connector?

- Ensure there is no duplication between the Connector and other tools
- Consider use of AI for data assimilation and analysis
- Maintain a list of SSC focal point organizations
- Standardize categories (thematic sectors/areas of expertise)
- Glossary of SSC and technical cooperation
- Separate technical assistance from programmes
- Include national/subregional government, academia and other partners
- Key word search
2. Support to technical assistance providers

1. Challenges and capacity gaps of new or emerging technical assistance providers?

- **Institutional**: Operational capacity/expertise, resource constraints and resource mobilization challenges, coordination including prioritization of country requirements and communication to assistance providers
- **Coordination/networking**: Lack of platform/network among emerging and traditional donors, management of accountability and flexibility between technical assistance provider and recipient, scaling up existing programmes, modalities to engage non-government stakeholders
- **Assessment and outreach**: Lack of planning frameworks, M&E development needs, communication strategy to rally public support
2. Support to technical assistance providers

2. Areas of support or knowledge transfer from other experienced providers?

- **Untapped knowledge and expertise:** International norms and standards, M&E expertise, incentivizing country ownership, statistics and evidence-based policy making, structuring funding for technical assistance, developing country strategies

- **Modalities for learning and knowledge transfer:** Study visits, templates/guidelines/lessons learned and success stories for new assistance providers
3. Strengthening the Asia-Pacific DG Forum

1. Thoughts on inter-session exchanges?

- Reporting on the discussions from the previous session at the start of each session
- Feedback on the 5th session: highly interactive, appreciating the different kinds of sessions

2. Selection of annual theme?

- ESCAP’s mandated Commission theme or consider UNGA’s key agendas, SDG progress
- Vote on a short list of themes
- Ideation from emerging donors
- Ideas for themes: Supply chain security, food supply security, implementing the SDGs
3. Strengthening the Asia-Pacific DG Forum

3. Linkages to other development fora in the region?

- More collaboration with subregional organizations (ASEAN, PIF, ECO), UN agencies
- Linkages to other stakeholders, e.g., subnational, mayors/governors, the private sector (chambers of commerce), research organizations
- Cross-regional collaboration
Decisions: 6th Session of the Asia-Pacific DG Forum

Format:
- Length of the Forum?
- Types of sessions? Side events by interested agencies or stakeholders?

Theme:
- Alignment with the 81st Commission theme

Venue:
- Bangkok?
- Interested ESCAP member States to convene the next DG Forum?
THANK YOU