Fourth South-East Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum
on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

“Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic: Building an inclusive and
effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in South-East Asia”

Virtual Meeting Format
28-29 October 2020

Programme

Day 1, Wednesday, 28 October

09:45-10:00 OPENING SESSION

Secretary: Mr. Rony Soerakoesoemah, Head of the ESCAP Sub-regional Office for South-East Asia
- Welcome remarks by Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, ESCAP
- Key Remarks by H.E. Mr. Dato’ Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN

10:00-12:00 SESSION 1: Resilient, inclusive and Sustainable Development: COVID -19 recovery and SDG implementation

The session’s aim is to reflect on the current situation of the sub-region in terms of progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the COVID-19 era, and key challenges and opportunities and policy options for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the sub-region while supporting COVID-19 recovery efforts.

Moderators:
- Prof. Emeritus Suthiphand Chirathivat, Professor Emeritus of Economics, Executive Director of the ASEAN Studies Centre and Chairman of the Global Network, Chulalongkorn University
- Prof. Emeritus Surichai Wun’Gaeo, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Director of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Chulalongkorn University

Panellists:
- COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment in the South-east Asia Subregion, Dr. Hamza Ali Malik, Director, Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division, ESCAP
- COVID-19 Impact and prevention in Timor-Leste, Ms. Brigida Brites Soares, Office of the Prime Minister, Timor-Leste
- COVID-19 Impact and SDGs on Lao PDR, Ms. Sara Sekkenes, Resident Coordinator, United Nations Lao PDR
- Re-imagining a sustainable future around COVID-19: opportunities for social businesses, Mr. Sukich Udindu, Chief Executive Officer, SEAMEO Regional Centre for Sufficiency Economy Philosophy for Sustainability
- Ms. Sulistri Afrileston, KSBSI, Trade Union and Workers Constituency, Indonesia
- Mr. Kavi Chongkittavorn, veteran journalist, senior fellow at Chulalongkorn University’s Institute of Security

Panel discussion, including Q&A with audience

- How can a regional response, particularly South-to-south cooperation, contribute to Member countries' recovery?
- How can regional stakeholders (academia, the media, business groups, non-governmental organizations, and civil society) contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the sub-region while supporting COVID-19 recovery efforts?
- What scaled up support can be provided to the lesser developed countries to help push their national efforts?
- How important is leadership in the regional grouping of ASEAN to steer the region's recovery efforts?
- What are some potential initiatives the UN and SEA countries can explore at the regional and national levels that can be done differently to address the SDGs?

Wrap-up and Summary by Moderators (5 minutes)

14:00-16:00 SESSION 2: Subregional and National Progress Reporting on SDGs in the Context of the COVID-19 crisis. VNR preparations and updates

The session will focus on follow-up to Voluntary National Reviews presented at the 2020 and preparations for the presentations at the 2021 HLPF. Representatives from governments, civil society, national parliaments and business sectors, will be engaged in a discussion on how to prepare and follow-up on policy measures identified in the reports to accelerate the achievements of the SDGs.

Moderator: Dr. Riccardo Mesiano, Sustainable Development Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP.

Opening presentation: Ms. Caitlin Porter, Senior VNR consultant, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP

Panellists:

- Ms. Farizah Abdullah, Senior Economic Officer, Pegawai Ekonomi Kanan, Office of the Permanent Secretary (Economy), Ministry of Finance and Economy, Brunei Darussalam
- Ms. Thanda Khine, Deputy Director, Planning Department, Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, Myanmar
- Mr. Maythong Thammavongsa, Director General, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR
- Ms. Cataleya Phatoomros, Director, Development Affairs Division, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand
- Ms. Afiza Idris, Deputy Director I, Environment and Natural Resources Economic Division, Prime Minister’s Department, Malaysia
- Mr. Satryo Bramono Brotodiningrat, Directorate of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs, Directorate General of Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia

Discussants:
- Mr. Roy Trivedi, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Timor-Leste
- Mr. Kamal Malhotra, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Vietnam

Interventions from stakeholders:
Mr. Saroeun Soeung, Executive Director, Cooperation Committee of Cambodia
Dr. Agus Joko Pramono, Vice-Chairman, Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia

Q&A Session

Discussion points:
- What actions are being taken to ensure that all levels of government work together (horizontally across sectors, and vertically from national to local) to integrate the three dimensions and the SDGs?
- Are there examples of how the institutional arrangements have had an impact, for instance through more integrated policymaking?
- Has the country prioritized certain SDGs? What criteria/process was used to derive priorities and who was engaged in prioritizing the SDGs?
- Where gaps and challenges have been identified, what measures have been put in place, or are planned, to address them?
- What efforts have been made to ensure that all policies, plans and programmes reach the most marginalized and leave no one behind?
- What steps have been taken in the VNR process to identify critical gaps and estimate additional financial resources that are needed to implement the 2030 Agenda in your country?
- What steps are indicated in the VNRs to integrate the SDGs into government activities, e.g. the budgeting process and policies and programmes of line ministries?
Day 2, Thursday, 29 October

09:00-11:00 SESSION 3: Understanding the importance of financing in the context of the COVID-19 South-East Asia recovery and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

COVID-19 has upended the global economy. Banks and financial institutions will be essential to the global recovery. The international banking and financing industry are facing a monumental challenge of helping to keep economies running during lockdowns while concurrently working with governments to recover from the pandemic.

The session will focus on the strategies and policy options to finance sustainable, inclusive and resilient socio-economic development amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The discussion among policy makers, practitioners, academicians, and other stakeholders will provide necessary information and useful insights to help South-East Asia develop their subregional post-pandemic recovery framework.

Moderator: Dr. Tientip Subhanij, Chief, Financing for Development, ESCAP.

Opening Remarks: Dr. Aladdin Rillo, Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Economic Community, ASEAN Secretariat.

Keynote Speaker: Setting the priority right, the role of sustainable finance and investment in the COVID-19 recovery framework and the 2030 Agenda. Dr. Zeti Akhtar Aziz, Chairman of Permodalan Nasional Berhad (Former Governor of Bank Negara Malaysia).

Panellists:
- Integrating policies and investment plan in national budget to recover from COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Amalia Adininggar Widyasanti, Expert Staff for Synergy of Economic Affairs and Financing, Ministry of Planning, Indonesia
- Leverage the capital market to attract domestic and international institutional investment through the development of sustainable finance, Ms. Kyi Kyi Khin Swe, Director, Securities Exchange Commission of Myanmar
- Greening the capital market, how green bond support greener recovery framework in ASEAN, Mr. Cedric Rimaud, ASEAN Programme Manager, Climate Bond Initiative.
- Accelerating digital financial inclusion in South East Asia, Mr. Rajeev Kumar Gupta, Programme Manager, UNCDF
- The role of financial literacy in enhancing sustainable investment, Prof. Dr. Randall Shannon, College of Management, Mahidol University
- Ms Yoke Ling, Third World Network (TWN), Malaysia

Q&A Session

Discussion points:
- Countries in South-East Asia would need to continue with current expansionary policy to ensure that the recovery is sustained over time. At the same time, they need to invest substantial amounts to support the SDGs. How do we reconcile the need for further spending and investments with the need to ensure economic sustainability?
Amid this period of heightened uncertainty, how can we prioritize policies that are most urgently needed and can be implemented to build back better the South-East Asia’s economies?

How can regional cooperation in finance contribute to the process of a recovery plan and how can ASEAN and partners work towards its formulation and implementation?

Wrap-up and Summary by Moderator (5 minutes)

11:00-13:00 SESSION 4: Progress on Sustainable Development Goals under review at the 2021 Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and High-Level Political Forum

The HLPF in 2021 will discuss Sustainable Development Goals including 1 on no poverty, 2 on zero hunger, 8 on decent work and economic growth, 12 on responsible consumption and production, and 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. The Forum will also consider the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals. This session will provide sub-regional updates on the progress of the goals under discussion in preparation of the 2021 regional discussions at the APFSD.

Moderator: Dr. Katinka Weinberger, Chief, Environment and Development Policy Section, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP

Panellists:

- SDG 1 on the Eradication of poverty: current challenges and opportunities, Mr. Bishwa Nath Tiwari, Programme Specialist, Bangkok Regional Hub, United Nations Development Programme.
- SDG 2 and the Hunger Challenge: State of Progress and Scale of Commitments to Achieve Zero Hunger Goals, Mr. Aziz Elbehri, Senior Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization.
- SDG 8: Trends and challenges in South-East Asia. Mr. Phu Hynh, Technical Specialist on Employment & Decent Work, Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific, International Labor Organization.
- SDG 12 in Asia and the Pacific – Implementation and Reporting, Mr. Mushtaq Memon, Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency, Asia Pacific regional Office, United Nations Environment Programme.
- SDG 16 on Peace, justice and strong institutions – how lack of progress on SDG 16 jeopardizes achievement of the 2030 Agenda in South East Asia, Ms. Therese Bjork, Human Rights Officer, South East Asia Regional Office, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Q&A Session

Discussion points:

- What are the progresses made by the sub-region in the implementation of the different goals?
- In what measure has the COVID-19 pandemic affected the implementation of the individual goals?

Wrap-up and Summary by Moderator (5 minutes)
SESSION 5: The Socio-Cultural aspects of a South-East Asian Recovery Framework

The Declaration of the Special ASEAN Summit had initiated the development of a post-pandemic recovery plan to help restore regional connectivity, tourism, and business and social activities and in effect, potentially dampen the impact of a pending recession in the member countries. This declaration was followed through with an announcement by the Leaders at the 36th ASEAN Summit of a process to move forward ASEAN’s efforts to recover from the impacts of COVID-19. The expected output of the process is a comprehensive recovery framework and corresponding implementation plan.

ASEAN and its partners have been engaged in high-level dialogues to address the challenges and priorities in framing a recovery effort. The meetings have provided ASEAN with a better understanding of the multi-dimensional aspects of a recover and helped identify key elements of a regional recovery framework for member states to consider.

This session will bring forward the discussion of the elements with a view to help raise issues to consider in developing regional action plans and its operationalization.

Moderator: Dr. Sita Sumrit, Head of Poverty Eradication and Gender Division, ASEAN Human Development Directorate, ASEAN Secretariat

Keynote speaker: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery: Perspectives from the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, Mr. Kung Phoak, Deputy-Secretary General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

Panellists:
- Inclusive Innovation for Sustainable Development, Representative, Regional Innovation Centre (RIC), Mr. Suriyon Thunkijjanukij, Senior Advisor, Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC), Thailand
- Social Recovery Plan for Post-COVID-19 - Priorities from an EU perspective, Mr. Giuseppe Busini, Minister-Counsellor, Deputy Head of Mission, Delegation of the European Union to Thailand
- Inclusive and Sustainable development and COVID-19 pandemic in ASEAN, highlighting priority issues and challenges to be addressed through recovery phases, Dr. Shailaja Fennell, University of Cambridge
- Social Enterprises as Innovators toward Building Back Fairer amid COVID19, Dr. Marie Lisa Dacanay, President, Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia
- SDGs Progress in South-east Asia, Mr Dayyan Shayani, Associate Statistician, Statistical Data Management Unit, Statistics Division, ESCAP

Q&A Session

ASEAN Member States may wish to provide interventions

Summary and Way Forward by Moderator (5 minutes)

CLOSING SESSION: Summing up the Subregional SDG Forum
Mr. Rony Soerakoesoemah, Head of the ESCAP Sub-regional Office for South-East Asia

*Note: Bangkok time (GMT+7)*