Fifth South-East Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum

"Building Back Better from COVID-19 while Advancing the full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"

Virtual Meeting Format
28-30 September 2021
3 November 2021
(Bangkok, UTC: +7)

The South-East Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals provides governments, development partners, civil society, academia, the private sector and other stakeholders opportunities to share subregional perspectives, discuss collaborative measures to address subregional priorities and exchange good practices to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The outcomes and recommendations derived from the Forum will feed into regional and global processes, including the annual Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) and the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

While the South-East Asian countries were not on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030, the COVID-19 pandemic has further disrupted the subregion's journey towards a more sustainable and resilient future. The pandemic has exposed long-standing development fault lines across the Asia-Pacific and exacerbated inequalities, leading countries to focus on the need to promote sustainable recovery and enhance resilience to address the possible lasting socio-economic downfalls experienced by most countries.

Against this backdrop, the South-East Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals will enable an inclusive dialogue across stakeholder groups in South-East Asia on the subregion's SDG progress and subregional actions to address challenges in expediting advancements in the context of the socio-economic crisis induced by the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, the Forum will aim to address the following questions:

- What are the impacts of COVID-19 on the region's journey towards sustainable, resilient and equitable development?
- How can South-East Asian countries address the lasting socio-economic impacts induced by the pandemic? What policy recommendations, including financing options, can the subregion tap into and what do countries need to take into consideration in the process of contextualizing?
- What are good practices that the subregion can share to promote cross-country and cross-regional collaboration?

The Forum will highlight salient points emanating from the discussions and aims to develop partnerships and concrete action plans for the subregion's sustainable and resilient recovery.

Tentative Programme

Day 1, Tuesday, 28 September 2021

09:45-10:00 **OPENING SESSION**

- Welcome remarks: Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP
- Key remarks: H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand

10:00-12:00 **SESSION 1: Regional Action Towards Sustainability: APEC and the SDGs**

As the incoming host of APEC in 2022, Thailand's overarching thematic thinking centres on a shift towards an inclusive and sustainable future by facilitating trade and investment, re-booting connectivity, and advancing balanced growth. APEC 2022 Thailand is an opportune time to engage in a whole-of-society approach and synergise partnerships to achieve the SDGs and the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 towards sustainable and inclusive development.

The session aims to strengthen regional cooperation by building on the complementarities between APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 and the SDGs and share how Thailand, as APEC 2022 host economy, plans to drive APEC priorities and inject new dynamism of growth through synergising the bio-, circular-, and green economies.

Moderator: Mr. Michael Williamson, Section Chief, Energy Division, UN ESCAP

Panellists

1. Ms. Sweta C. Saxena, Chief, Macroeconomic Policy and Analysis Section, Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development, UN ESCAP
2. Mr. Hairil Yahri Yaacob, Deputy Secretary General (Trade) of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), APEC Malaysia
3. Mr. Mark Talbot, Senior Official, APEC New Zealand
4. Mr. Cherdchai Chaivaivid, Director General of International Economic Affairs, APEC SOM Thailand
5. Ms. Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria, Executive Director, APEC Secretariat

Q&A Session

Wrap-up and Summary

14:00-16:00 **SESSION 2: South-East Asian perspectives on the APFSD and HLPF theme 2022 "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"**

Progress towards the SDGs was already stalled in South-East Asia, and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis has further compromised their full achievement by 2030. The Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership Report 2021: Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic-Leaving No Country Behind, developed in collaboration with the ADB, UNDP, and UN ESCAP identifies such contrasting impacts due to the divergent pre-existing economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities in and response capacities of the countries.

Understanding the underlying vulnerabilities and capacities of the countries becomes, therefore, essential in designing policies that respond to the ongoing pandemic and accelerate SDG actions.

The session will focus on identifying the unique set of challenges and needs of South-East Asia and its subregions. The session will also gather information on priorities policies, stakeholder-led initiatives and projects for possible inclusion in the 2022 SDG Partnership report that are related to the HLPF theme 2022 "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Part 1.

Moderator: Ms. Juliet Nicole Braslow, Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Executive Secretary, UN ESCAP

Presentation: Key messages and findings from 2021 SDG Partnership Report and Introduction to theme of 2022 SDG Partnership Report

- Mr. Bishwa Tiwari, Programme Specialist, UN Development Programme (UNDP)
- Ms. Smita Nakhooda, Senior Results Management Specialist, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Panellists

1. Expert on SDG 4: Ms. Ethel Agnes Pascua-Valenzuela, Director of Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO)
2. Expert on SDG 5: Ms. Cielito V. Perez, Executive Director of the Center for Women's Resources, Inc.
3. Expert on SDG 14: Ms. Fithriyyah Iskandar, Initiator of Seangle Indonesia Chapter Pontianak, Project Leader & Founder in Asia-Pacific Climate Project
4. Expert on SDG 15: Ms. Riyanti Djalante, Head of Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division of ASEAN Secretariat

Part 2.

Moderator: Mr. Oliver Paddison, Chief of Section for Countries in Special Situations, UN ESCAP

Breakout rooms

Breakout Room	**SDG 4 Education**	**SDG 5 Gender**	**SDG 14 Life below water**	**SDG 15 Life on Land**
Host: Resident Coordinator's office	Cambodia: Pauline Fatima Tamesis, Resident Coordinator	Thailand: Iwona Spytkowski, Team Leader and Strategic Planner, Resident Coordinator's Office	Indonesia: Afke Bootsman, Head of Resident Coordinator's Office	Lao People's Democratic Republic: Sara Sekkenes Tollefsen, Resident Coordinator
Co-host: SDG Partnership	Frank Thomas, ADB	Smita Nakhooda, ADB	Riccardo Mesiano, ESCAP	Bishwa Tiwari, UNDP

Plenary discussion

Wrap-up and Summary

Day 2, Wednesday, 29 September 2021

08:00-10:30 SESSION 3: SDGs and Advancing Gender Equality & Women's Economic Empowerment

The high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) is the United Nations platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For 2022, the five SDGs for review are Goals 4 on Quality Education, 5 on Gender Equality, 14 on Life Below Water, 15 on Life on Land, and 17 on Partnerships. The session will deliberate on strengthening SDG implementation during the Decade of Action with emphasis on promoting gender equality and women's economic empowerment, and providing quality education to girls.

Welcome remarks

Mr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, UN ESCAP

Keynote address

1. H.E. Ms. Lay Navinn, Secretary of State, Ministry of Industry Science Technology and Innovation of Cambodia
2. H.E. Ms. Diedrah Kelly, Ambassador of Canada to ASEAN

Moderator: Mr. Jonathan Wong, Chief of Technology and Innovation Section, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, UN ESCAP

Panellists

1. Ms. Cristina Pineda, Senior Development Officer, Strategic Planning, Policy and Operations, Asia Pacific Bureau, Global Affairs Canada, and Ms. Anna Mae Tuazon, SME, Trade, Access to Finance Expert, Canadian Trade and Investment Facility for Development (CTIF)
2. Mr. Vitoon R. Panyakul, Chairman of the ASEAN Organic Federation
3. Ms. Emilia Setyowati, President of Indonesia Organics Alliance (IOA)
4. Ms. Vicky Singmin, Head of Cooperation and Counsellor (Development), Mission of Canada to ASEAN
5. Ms. Trinh Thi Huong, Director of Policy and General Affairs Division, Agency for Enterprise Development-Ministry of Planning and Investment, Vietnam
6. Ms. Celia Boyd, Co-founder and Managing Director, SHE Investments Cambodia
7. Ms. Alizé Duludé, Senior International Development Officer, Vietnam, Indonesia and ASEAN Development program, Global Affairs Canada
8. Ms. Truc Ho Thanh, Mientrung University of Civil Engineering, M.Eng., and Canada-ASEAN Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development (SEED) scholar
9. Ms. Yolanda Mustika Bohal, Canada-ASEAN Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development (SEED) scholar

Q&A Session

Wrap-up and Summary

Day 3, Thursday, 30 September 2021

10:00-12:00 SESSION 4: Subregional and National Progress Reporting on SDGs: Advice and Lessons from the Region in the Context of the Continuing COVID-19 Crisis

The session will focus on the follow-up to Voluntary National Reviews presented in 2021 and the preparations for VNR presentations at the 2022 HLPF. Part 1 will aim to promote 'twinning' by enabling different stakeholders from countries presenting their VNR in 2022 to interview their counterparts from countries that presented their VNR in 2021. Representatives from government, civil society, local authorities, supreme audit institutions and the business sector, will be engaged to share advice and lessons with countries submitting their VNR in 2022. Part 2 will include tailored interventions from other countries in the South-east Asia region. They will have the opportunity to share their progress since their last VNR and provide an update on SDG implementation.

Keynote remarks: H.E. Mr. Vu Hai Ha, Chairman of Foreign Relations, Viet Nam National Assembly

Moderator: Ms. Caitlin Porter, Senior VNR Advisor, UN ESCAP

Part 1: Interviews with 2021 VNR countries: How different stakeholders approached the VNR

Moderator: Mr. Roy Trivedy, UN Resident Coordinator, Timor-Leste

Panel interviews

The Philippines will present their 2nd VNR in 2022. This session will aim to promote 'twinning' by enabling different stakeholders from the Philippines to interview their counterparts from countries that presented their VNR in 2021.

Interviewers:

- **Government:** Undersecretary Rosemarie G. Edillon, Sub-Committee on SDGs Secretariat, National Economic and Development Authority
- **Civil Society:** Ms. Ma. Victoria R. Raquiza, Social Watch Philippines, Associate Professor, National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines Diliman
- **Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry:**
  - Ms. Alegria Limjoco, Chairperson
  - Mr. Joel Ryan Tugade, Chairman of the Committee on the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- **Supreme Audit:**
  - Ms. Sofia C. Gemora, Director, Commission on Audit
  - Mr. Michael Racelis, Director, Performance Audit Office, Commission on Audit

Panellists

- Indonesia
  - Ms. Vivi Yulaswati, Special Advisor to BAPPENAS, Minister on Social Affairs and Poverty Reduction, and Supreme Audit Institution
  - Mr. Agus Joko Pramono, CA, CSFA, CPA, CFRA, QGIA, Vice Chairman of the Audit Board

- Lao PDR
    - Mr. Khaphinh Philakone, Director, UN Economic and Social Affairs Division, International Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Malaysia
    - Mr. Che Kodir Baharum, Director, Environment and Natural Resources Economic Division, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department
    - Mr. Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria, Head of secretariat for the All-Party parliamentary group on SDGs (APPGM-SDG) and co-chair of the Malaysian CSO SDG Alliance
    - Ms. Annie Syazrin Ismail, Senior Assistant Director, Sustainable Development Unit, Shah Alam City Council
- Thailand
    - Ms. Dheerangkun Uchino, Chief of the Development Section, Counsellor, Development Affairs Division, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
    - Ms. Thanyaporn Krichtitayawuth, Executive Director of Global Compact Network Thailand

Plenary discussion

Part 2: The impact of the VNR: lessons from different countries in the region.

Moderator: Ms. Karima El Korri, UN Resident Coordinator, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam

Interventions on the VNR process from country representatives from the following Member States:

- **Brunei Darussalam:** Ms. Huraini Hurairah, Director of Wawasan Brunei Office/Head of the Secretariat of the Special National Coordination Committee on SDGs, Prime Minister's Office
- **Cambodia:** H.E. Mr. Poch Sovanndy, Deputy Director General of Planning
- **Singapore:** Mr. Logaventhan Karuppannan, Assistant Director, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, International Organisations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Timor-Leste:** Ms. Brigida Brites Soares, Coordinator, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, Prime Minister's Office
- **Viet Nam:** Ms. Nguyen Thi Dieu Trinh, Deputy Director General of Department of Sciences, Education, Natural Resources and Environment, MPI

Plenary discussion

Closure of session: Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, Sustainable Development Officer, UN ESCAP

14:00-16:45 SESSION 5: Sustainable Finance Recovery: Innovating Finance for the 2030 Agenda

The issuance of green, social and sustainability bonds has gained significant momentum in South-East Asia, with a record US$ 12.1 billion issued in 2020. However, across the region, gaps in national capacities and strategies to issue green and SDG-linked bonds have limited the growing potential of the bond market. The UN's four-year strategy for financing

the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development identified the need to address all barriers that may impede the flow of finance to sustainable development.

The session will focus on the use of green and SDG-linked bonds as an instrument to address post-COVID-19 financing needs and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in South-East Asia. The discussion will also take heed of lessons learned from the practical experience of issuing green bonds in Europe. Policy makers, practitioners, academics and other stakeholders will engage in a discourse on useful insights to help South-East Asia develop strategies and policy options for financing inclusive, resilient, and sustainable socio-economic development post COVID-19.

Keynote address

1. H.E Mr. Aun Pornmonirot, Minister of Economy and Finance, Kingdom of Cambodia
2. H.E Mr. Pierre Gramegna, Minister of Finance, Luxembourg

Moderator: Mr. Patrick Martin, International Expert on Climate Finance, UN ESCAP

Presentation

1. Mr. Paul Chahine, Sustainability Research Manager, Luxembourg Green Exchange (LGX), Luxembourg Stock Exchange
2. Mr. Aldo M. Romani, Head of Sustainability Funding, Finance Directorate, Capital Markets Department, European Investment Bank (EIB)

Panellists

1. Ms. Reiko Hayashi, Deputy President and Director of the Board, BofA Securities Japan Co., Ltd.
2. Mrs. Patricia Mongkhonvanit**,** Director General, Public Debt Management Office**,** Thailand

Q&A Session

Wrap-up and Summary

Wednesday, 3 November 2021

14:00-16:00 **SESSION 6: RCEP and the 2030 Agenda: Sustainable Investment**

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) sets the standard for a new level of economic cooperation, integration, and inclusion across the Asia-Pacific region. The agreement recognises that all three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social, and environment) are interdependent, and that economic parentships can play an important role in sustainable development. Moreover, the signatories to RCEP have adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The session will raise the discussion of implementing RCEP in support of the 2030 Agenda, particularly the role of FDI and PPPs to better promote sustainable development in the region. Discussion will also touch on how RCEP can and has changed the investment landscape within the region, how it can contribute to the COVID-19 recovery efforts in the region through boosting investment prospects, how it can facilitate infrastructure development through PPPs that bring in new sources of finances, and the specific areas within the Agreement that offer room for incorporating more of a sustainable development orientation.

Introductory remarks: Ms. Tientip Subhanij, Chief, Investment and Enterprise Development Section (IEDS), Trade, Investment and Innovation Division (TIID), UN ESCAP

Opening remarks: Mr. Yusdiman Saman, Acting Assistant Director at the Trade Division, Ministry of Finance and Economy and monitors, Brunei Darussalam

Moderator: Mr. Manjiao Chi, Professor, Center of International Economic Law and Policy, Law School, University of International Business and Economics

Presenter

1. Leveraging RCEP to Promote Sustainable FDI, Ms. Heather Taylor-Strauss, Economic Affairs Officer, IEDS, TIID UN ESCAP
2. Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Eric Roeder, Coordinator, IEDS, TIID, UN ESCAP

Panellists:

1. Mr. Sar Senera, Director, Legal Affairs Department, Council for the Development of Cambodia
2. Ms. Marjorie Ramos-Samaniego, Governor, Board of Investments, Philippines
3. Mr. Syed Mohd Faizal Syed Mohd Dardin, Director, Investment Policy and Trade Division, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Malaysia
4. Ms. Ankiti Bose, CEO and Co-founder, Zilingo
5. Ms. Intan Murnira Ramli, Policy Fellow, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia
6. Mr. Darwin T Djajawinata, M.Sc, Operation & Finance Director PT. SMI (Persero)

Q & A Session

Wrap-up and Summary

Closing remarks: Mr. Ruhimat Soerakoesoemah, Head, Sub-regional Office for Southeast Asia, UN ESCAP