Fifth North and Central Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

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

Session 8:
SDG17 Partnerships for the Goals

Virtual Meeting Format
7 October 2021, 15:00 – 16:45 (UTC+6)

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Sustainable Development Goal 17 refers to the need for partnerships and cooperation in pursuit of all Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It has wide range of targets and indicators which fall under the categories of finance, technology, capacity building, trade and systemic issues such as policy coherence, multistakeholder partnerships and data. Meeting these targets is a prerequisite for the successful implementation of the entire Agenda 2030. In North and Central Asia, progress of the Goal is not on track with, thus accelerated actions are required to fully achieve the Goal by 2030.

Under the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a need for enhanced partnerships, collaboration and multistakeholder consultations. This is especially the case for the landlocked countries in North and Central Asia, as they are dependent on neighbouring countries and transit corridors to receive goods and services that complement domestic supply. Coordinated actions among the different stakeholders are needed to build back better from COVID-19 while advancing full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

This session on “Partnerships for the Goals” will look into specific aspects of cross-border connectivity. Cross-cutting indicators of Goal 17 and means of implementation for partnerships include Goal 17.9: international cooperation for SDG capacity building, 17.16: global partnership for sustainable development and Goal 17.17: effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships. The session also discusses possible avenues for cooperation to mobilize joint actions on the implementation of Goal 17.

Participants will have opportunities to join breakout rooms for focused discussions on: trade and investment; and technology and innovation. Trade and investment are key features of
Goal 17 and are priority areas for countries in North and Central Asia. Situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, countries in the subregion have immense trading potential which is currently hindered by connectivity issues. Technology and innovation are other important factors for structural transformation for the region. In many countries in North and Central Asia, national strategies and initiatives have already been put in place to promote technological development and encourage innovation and entrepreneurship.

The breakout room on Trade and Investment will examine issues related to: digitalization to streamline cross-border trade processes; greening their value chains; and investment promotion strategies that are sustainable and can facilitate economic diversification and transformation.

The breakout room session on Technology and Innovation will discuss: how to increase the local capacities on information and communications technology to fully realise the potential of the “4th Industrial Revolution; and the partnerships for science, technology and innovation.

Objectives and Expected Outcomes

This session will discuss partnerships for cross-border connectivity and knowledge sharing in North and Central Asia. Specifically, it will look into the aspects of (i) trade & investment and (ii) technology & innovation. The discussions are expected to contribute to:

- Sharing of national experiences (along with challenges faced) in implementing partnerships related to cross-border connectivity and knowledge sharing;
- Identification and development of potential partnerships to accelerate subregional and regional trade and investment activities as well as technology and innovation development;
- Identification of cross-border and subregional challenges in implementing the SDGs and the means of implementation to overcome these challenges;
- Formulation of potential solutions and mechanisms than can enhance partnerships in North and Central Asia as well as North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

Key discussion points and recommendations from this session will feed into the next Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) and the 2022 High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

Tentative Programme

*all times in Almaty local time [UTC +6]

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<th>Time*</th>
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| 15:00 – 15:10 | **Opening remarks by moderator [10 min]**  
- **Mr. Atajan Atayev**, Head, Department of Strategic & Sustainable Development, Ministry of Finance & Economy of Turkmenistan |
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| 15:10 – 15:20 | **Presentation to set the stage** – “Current status of SDG 17 in North and Central Asia” [10 min]  
|           | - **Ms. Michiko Enomoto**, Deputy Head, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, ESCAP |
| 15:20 – 15:25 | **Moving into breakout rooms** [5 min]                                      |
| 15:25 – 15:35 | **Breakout room 1:**  
|           | Trade and investment  
|           | Moderator: Mr. Nikolay Pomoschnikov  
|           | **Breakout room 2:**  
|           | Technology and innovation  
|           | Moderator: Ms. Michiko Enomoto                                            |
| 15:35 – 15:55 | **Presentation** [10 min]  
|           | - **Ms. Witada Anukoonwattaka & Ms. Vanika Sharma**, TIID, ESCAP         |
|           | **Presentation** [10 min]  
|           | - **Ms. Natalia Mochu**, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for CIS   |
| 15:55 – 16:25 | **Open discussion** [30 min]  
| 16:25 – 16:30 | Wrap up breakout session and move back to plenary [5 min]                 |
| 16:30 – 16:40 | Breakout room participants and moderators to share reflections and discussion outcomes [10 mins] |
| 16:40 – 16:45 | Participant’s Feedback on the Session  
|           | Closing remarks                                                          |
Guiding Questions for the Session

- What is the current progress of North and Central Asia on SDG 17? Are there any best practices or innovative approaches to achieve better results in the subregion on this SDG?
- How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected the ability of the relevant stakeholders to pursue SDG 17? Have collaboration needs changed or shifted because of the pandemic? What potential collaboration exists between public and private players/ with entities within or outside the subregion that can strengthen partnerships for cross border connectivity and knowledge sharing?
- How can partnerships for cross border connectivity and knowledge sharing be inclusive and sustainable?

Further Information and Registration

The 2021 subregional SDG Forum is taking place in virtual modality. It is conducted in English and Russian languages and is open to all interested participants.

- Online registration for the Subregional SDG Forum is possible [here](#) or via QR code
- Detailed information will be available on the official website [here](#).
- For further information, please contact escap-sonca@un.org

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