"South-East Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals"

18-19 October 2017, Bangkok

Concept Note

Background and rationale

The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs embody the strategic vision and aspirations of all countries for the future of development and its implementation will require comprehensive actions at the global, regional[1] and sub-regional levels, as indicated in General Assembly Resolution 70/1 on Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The **"South-East Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals"** provides a unique opportunity to share perspectives on "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies," the theme of the next session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2018 and the fifth session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD).[2]

The forum will also provide an opportunity to discuss how the South-East Asia sub-region can cooperate to assess progress on the cluster of goals that will be reviewed by the HLPF in 2018, i.e. SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG12 on responsible consumption, SDG 15 on life on land and SDG 17 on the means of implementation and partnerships for development.

The SDGs selected for in-depth review at HLPF 2018



Furthermore, in view of the ongoing process to develop a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and given historic highs of international migration that provides vital support to countries in the region for building sustainable and resilient societies, this Forum will provide a valuable opportunity to explore sub-regional perspectives on key issues and

[1] ESCAP resolution 72/6 on Committing to the Effective Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, calls upon member States to cooperate at the regional level in the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

[2] The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development is an inclusive regional intergovernmental forum which supports the preparations for the HLPF, discussing national and sub-regional perspectives and sharing good practices; providing perspectives for implementing the 2030 Agenda; and assessing progress and providing opportunities for peer learning related to the thematic goals of the HLPF. The ESCAP-ADB-UNDP has established a partnership to support the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Asia and the Pacific through knowledge products to strengthen regional follow-up and review and national implementation efforts. Under this partnership, an annual thematic report will support discussions at the APFSD and the HLPF, presenting regional perspectives.

priorities to ensure that reduced inequality and migration contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The sub-regional preparatory meeting will:

- Enhance awareness and understanding of the theme of the upcoming High-level Political Forum on sustainable development and related key challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through sharing of experience.
- Identify ways to strengthen implementation efforts through follow up and review, linking national, sub-regional, regional and global processes.
- Provide sub-regional perspectives and good practices on the cluster of goals under review at the HLPF in 2018
- Strengthen the sub-region's readiness for the preparatory process of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Participants

- Experts involved in national coordination of SDGs
- Non-government and private sector organizations
- Think tanks and academia
- Regional and sub-regional organizations and stakeholders involved in SDG implementation at national, regional and global levels.

Draft Programme Outline

Timing	Session
Wednesday 18 October **Meeting Room H, UNCC**	
09.00-09.15	**Opening Session** **Opening Remarks**, Mr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director of the Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
09.15-10.30	**Session 1: Global to regional and sub-regional context of follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda** *The session's aim is to enhance awareness and understanding of the key challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region by sharing the results of regional and sub-regional level discussions. The Session will provide inputs to discussions on the road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.*
09.15- 09.30	**Global to regional and sub-regional context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs: a road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific,** Ms**.** Katinka Weinberger, Chief EDPS, Environment and Development Division, **ESCAP**
09.30- 09.45	**ASEAN support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,** Mr. Son Ngoc Nguyen, Assistant Director and Head ASCC Monitoring Division, **ASEAN Secretariat**
09.45- 10.00	**UNDP Support for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Southeast Asian Countries**, Jaco Cilliers, Chief Regional Policy and Programme for Asia and the Pacific, **UNDP**
10.00- 10.15	**Investing in the 2030 Agenda: ADB's Response to the SDGs**, Smita Nakhooda, Senior Policy and Planning Specialist, Asian Development Bank, **ADB**
10.15- 10.30	**Q&A**
10.30-11.00	**Coffee break**
11.00-12.30	**Session 2: National and sub-regional progress, achievements and challenges with respect to the 2030 Agenda** *The session will help reflect on how the regional and sub-regional processes can support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level.*
11.00-11.15	**Voluntary National Reviews and main messages from the 2017 reporting countries from Asia and the Pacific**, Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, Sustainable Development Officer, Environment and Development Division, **ESCAP**
11.15-11.30	**Measuring the SDGs at the national level,** Mr. Arman Bidarbakht Nia, Statistician, Statistics Division, **ESCAP**

Timing	Session
11.30-12.30	**Panel discussion on Voluntary National Reviews** **Moderator:** Mr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director of the Environment and Development Division, **ESCAP** **Panellists:** Mr. Edgardo II Santos Aranjuez, Chief Economic Development Specialist, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), **Philippines** Mr. Hari Prabowo, Deputy Director for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Indonesia** Ms. Shirah Nair, Assistant Director, Climate Change Office, International Organizations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Singapore** Mr. Anouparb Vongnorkeo, Director-General, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **LAO PdR** **Q&A**
12.30-14.00	**Lunch Break**
14.00-15.15	**Session 3: Regional Road Map for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific** *The session will help reflect on the role of the Regional Road Map for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific.* **Moderator:** Ms. Katinka Weinberger, Chief EDPS, Environment and Development Division, **ESCAP** **Panellists:** H.E. Mr. Pagnathun Theng, Director General of Planning, Ministry of Planning**, Cambodia** Ms. Brigida Brites Soares, Office of Prime Minister, and Acting chief for UPMA, **Timor-Leste** Mr. Mohammed Safwan Rosidy, Principal Assistant Director, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department, **Malaysia** Ms. Marjorie Pamintuan, Asia Pacific Research Network, **Philippines** Ms. Cai Cai, Chief, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division, **ESCAP**
15.15- 15.30	**Coffee break**
15.30-16.30	**Session 4: South-East Asian Perspectives on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration** *The session will aim to provide participants with an overview of the process of developing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and how South East Asian countries can participate in this process in line with their priorities, and stimulate a discussion to develop a list of key issues and priorities for South East Asia which can be presented to the ESCAP regional preparatory meeting for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*

Timing	Session
15.30-15.45	**Setting the scene,** Mr. Paul Tacon, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, **ESCAP**
15.45-16.30	**Discussion**
Thursday 19 October **Meeting Room H, UNCC**	
09.00-12.00	**Session 5: South-East Asian perspectives on the 2018 HLPF theme: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies** *The session's aim is to develop sub-regional perspectives on the theme of the 2018 High-level Political forum for Sustainable Development. It will identify trends and risks faced by the sub-region, discuss the impacts on sustainable development and the most vulnerable, discuss social protection and other measures needed to strengthen resilience, and highlight opportunities for sub-regional responses to strengthen resilience.*
09.00-09.15	**Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies – framing sub-regional perspectives and responses,** Ms. Hitomi Rankine, Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, **ESCAP**
09.15-10.30	**Working groups**
10.30-10.45	**Coffee break**
10.45-12.00	**Working groups**
12.00-13.30	**Lunch**
13.30-16.00	**Session 6: SDGs Roundtables** *Initial discussions on regional follow-up and review processes of the SDGs, including the organization of the SDGs Roundtables to be held during the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) 2018, focusing on SDG 6,7,11,12 and 15.*
13.30-13.45	**Processes for regional follow-up and review of the SDGs, including SDG roundtable experience during APFSD 4 and planning for the future,** Ms. Solene Le Doze, Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, **ESCAP.**
13.45-14.10	**Plenary discussion on regional Follow-up and Review**
14.10- 14.40	**Introduction to tools to assess SDG integration followed by Q&As**, Ms. Aneta Nikolova, Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, **ESCAP**
14.40-15.00	**Coffee break**
15.00-15.10	**Presentation on the outlook of the cluster of Goals considered at APFSD 2018,** Ms. Solene Le Doze, Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, **ESCAP.**
15.10-16.00	**Working Group discussion on follow-up and review of the cluster of goals for APFSD 2018** Identifying existing processes for the follow-up and review of each goal, role of governments, UN Partners and civil society stakeholders, and discussing emerging issues for each goal

Timing	Session
16.00-16.30	**Conclusions and the Way Forward**