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"

Session #3
SDGs and Advancing Gender Equality & Women's Economic Empowerment

Wednesday, 29 September 2021; 08:00 – 10:30 hrs (Bangkok Time: UTC +7)
Virtual meeting, MS Teams

Overview

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). The forum provides political leadership in achieving the 2030 Agenda and strengthens peer learning among member States in implementing the SDGs at the global, regional, and national levels. Every year, the forum reviews a cluster of SDGs to facilitate in-depth discussion on progress of implementation in all its dimensions. For 2022, the HLPF has identified the set of SDGs for review, namely goals 4 on Quality Education, 5 on Gender Equality, 14 on Life Below Water, 15 on Life on Land, and 17 on Partnerships. The deliberation is to strengthen SDG implementation during the Decade of Action through gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, quality education, and the sustainable management, protection and restoration of natural resources.

To inform the intergovernmental meetings such as the 2022 HLPF and feed into the development of multi-stakeholder initiatives for South-East Asia's recovery, this session will focus on the strong partnership of Canada and ESCAP with governments in developing regional initiatives that deploy a multi-pronged approach in building capacities for countries in the region with a strong emphasis on promoting Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment.

Under this chapeau, and in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the session will feature three innovative projects in Southeast Asia that primarily address one or more of the following goals: SDG 4 on Quality Education, SDG 5 on Gender Equality, 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth, and SDG 17 on Partnerships. Each project will highlight the integrated and interlinked nature of the SDGs through its activities. This dialogue will illustrate how individual projects can have the greatest and most transformative impact across multiple SDGs.

The South-East Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals provides a unique opportunity to continue shaping the sub-regional perspectives and priorities and explore closer multi-stakeholder collaboration for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ESCAP and its development partners remain committed to working with these countries to build their capacity through technical cooperation and training programs to develop the necessary policies and institutional capacity.

Objectives

The overall objective of this forum is to showcase initiatives in South-east Asia of the SDG goals of 4 on Quality Education, 5 on Gender Equality, 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth, and 17 on Partnerships.

The discussion will:

- Enhance knowledge of gender-responsive approaches to the design and implementation of initiatives that address the cross-cutting challenges faced by women, including economic empowerment and contribute towards achieving sustainable development goals in South-East Asia;
- Highlight the innovative mechanisms, including impact financing, public-private partnerships and institutional coordination that ensure that the COVID-19 recovery is inclusive, gender responsive and consistent with the 2030 sustainable development agenda; and
- Share best practices, lessons learned and experiences of the women in coping with the socio-economic challenges induced by the COVID-19 pandemic

The session is also considered as an opportunity for the policymakers, practitioners, academics and other stakeholders to provide necessary information, useful insights and explore potential partnerships to help South-East Asia develop initiatives to successful achieve the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

Target Audience

Participants include official representatives from each of the ESCAP member States in South-East Asia, related ASEAN working groups, United Nations organizations, Global Affairs Canada representatives, civil society representatives, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, the private sector representatives, financial institutions, and regional and international organizations.

Further Information

This session will take place in a virtual modality on **29 September 2021**. It will be conducted in English. All questions regarding this session and the SDG Forum can be sent to escap-sro-sea@un.org.

Tentative Programme

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 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 by Moderator

Closing Remarks

Mr. Ruhimat Soerakoesoemah, Head, UN ESCAP Subregional office for Southeast Asia