SDG Partnership Session

An Associated Event of the Seventh South-East Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
Co-organized by ESCAP, ADB, and UNDP

Tuesday 7 November 2023, 09:00-10:30
UNDP Meeting Room, Service Building, 4th Floor
Bangkok

CONCEPT NOTE

Context

Since 2015, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have been engaged in a fruitful knowledge partnership on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As one of the partnership’s joint knowledge products, the annual Asia Pacific SDG partnership report facilitates regional dialogue on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The analysis and policy recommendations emerging from this process provide inputs to the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD).

The impacts of multiple and compounding crises—climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the cost-of-living crisis driven by recent war-related food and energy crises and post-pandemic inflation—have been particularly devastating for poor and vulnerable groups. The severity of climate change is becoming increasingly evident in the Asia-Pacific region, as the region has experienced almost double the warming trend over the last 30 years. In the past year alone, 152 reported disasters triggered by natural hazards in the Asia-Pacific region caused 7,636 fatalities, 48,542 injuries, and affected 64 million people, with a total cost of US$57 billion. The multiplier effect of climate change further compounds challenges faced by vulnerable populations, exacerbating inequalities across many dimensions beyond income, increasing the vulnerability of individuals to threats such as food insecurity, malnutrition, hunger, and enduring poverty.

In this context, it is essential to place the needs of the poor and vulnerable groups (including women, the elderly, children, and persons with disabilities) at the core of policy responses. Therefore, the 2024 Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership Report will focus on the multifaceted relationship between climate change, poverty, and hunger in times of multiple crises, in line with the SDGs under review at the 2024 APFSD (SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17).

The report will (1) investigate climate change impacts on intersectional dimensions of poverty and (2) identify a range of innovative solutions from the region that apply the nexus approach to address the interlinked issues of climate change, poverty and hunger. The solutions will have the potential to collectively address poverty reduction and food insecurity, while also supporting climate actions.
To this end, ESCAP, ADB, and UNDP are organizing a consultative session on the 2024 Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership Report on 7 November 2023 from 09:00-10:30 hours following ESCAP’s annual South-East Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the Implementation of the SDGs from 6-7 November 2023.

Objectives

This 1.5-hour consultative session aims to gather feedback and inputs from governments, international organizations, academia, think tanks, CSOs, and other subregional SDG practitioners on the 2024 Asia-Pacific SDG partnership report covering the interconnected challenges of climate change, poverty, and food security and the solutions, good practices, and policies that tackle the issues within this nexus in a time of multiple crises.

Participants

Invited experts from governments, academia, civil society, private sector, think tanks, and international organizations whose work focuses on the thematic issues of the 2024 report: climate change, poverty and hunger. Participation will be in person.

Agenda

Tuesday, 7 November 2023

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| 09:00 – 09:05 (5 minutes) | Welcome and setting the theme  
**Opening introduction to the SDG Partnership by ESCAP/ADB/UNDP**  
- Speaker: Christophe Bahuet, Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, Director Bangkok Regional Hub, UNDP |
| 09:05-09:15 (10 minutes) | Report presentation  
**Presentation on 2024 Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership Report by the moderator**  
- Presenter: Oliver Paddison, Chief, Section on Sustainable Development and Countries in Special Situations, ESCAP |
| 09:15-09:25 (10 minutes) | Reflections on the report outline  
**Open debate to gather inputs on the report outline and approach**  
- Moderator: Madhubashini Fernando, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP |
| 09:25 - 09:50 (25 minutes) | Facilitated group discussion  
**Key messages on the impacts, solutions, and policy insights at the nexus of climate change, poverty and food security**  
(i) Impacts and drivers of climate change on poverty and hunger  
- Facilitator: Eric Roeder, Technical Specialist, Green Jobs/Climate Action and Resilience, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific |
|  | (ii) Solutions at the nexus of climate action, poverty reduction and food security  
- Facilitator: Deo Gabinete, Regional Manager, NDC Partnership Support Unit |
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| 09:50 – 10:15 (25 minutes) | **Takeaways and open debate**<br>**Presentation of summary of the group discussion by the facilitators and open debate with the audience**<br>• Group 1 takeaways on the impacts and drivers  
  ○ Audience feedback/open debate  
  • Group 2 takeaways on solutions  
  ○ Audience feedback/open debate  
  • Group 3 takeaways on policy insights  
  ○ Audience feedback/open debate |
| 10:15 – 10:20 (5 minutes)  | **Wrap-up by the moderator**                                        |