Chair’s summary of the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda*

Overview

1. The Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda was organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok, Thailand, from 5 to 6 August 2014.

2. The Consultation was chaired by H.E. Ms. Oyun Sanjaasuren, Minister of Environment and Green Development (Mongolia), and attended by over 150 participants, including experts and representatives of Governments, major groups and other stakeholder organizations and entities within the United Nations system.

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following ESCAP members and associate members: Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Cook Islands and Macao, China.

4. In the four sessions held during the meeting, the following issues were discussed: (i) National Leadership on Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda; (ii) Regional Platforms for Accountability - Role and Functions for Asia and the Pacific; (iii) Accountability and a Renewed Global Partnership; and (iv) Innovations and partnerships for the future we want - The role of the private sector.

* This document has been issued without formal editing.
5. Participants have agreed that the Chair’s Summary be brought to the attention of the Secretary-General to inform his Synthesis Report that would feed into the intergovernmental negotiations on the development agenda beyond 2015 to be launched at the beginning of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

**National Leadership on Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

6. Clear threads of consensus emerged from the discussion including on the necessity of an effective accountability agenda to support the development agenda beyond 2015, anchored in human rights, with a focus on equality, sustainability and non-discrimination and that integrates local, national (including parliamentarians) and global actors and processes actively, inclusively and equitably in the design and implementation of decentralized accountability frameworks including tools for monitoring and evaluation. Building an effective accountability framework for the development agenda beyond 2015 was understood to be a transitional and long-term undertaking, with democratic ownership and shared leadership for its delivery reaching all the way from local, regional and up to global levels.

7. Positive experiences with mechanisms such as bottom-up participatory and gender budgeting, civil society led parallel monitoring and assessment processes and nationally integrated social and gender-responsive accountability mechanisms were shared, as well as innovative mechanisms to reinterpret and leverage existing monitoring and accountability tools – such as a proposal to revise the Human Development Index to include select sustainability dimensions put forward in the agenda beyond 2015, such as per capita CO₂ emission and measures of income inequality. Inclusive dialogue and effective communications on the global development agenda at the national level in order to raise the profile and pertinence for local level stakeholders, including by working with traditional and new media sectors, was stressed.

8. Among the key challenges highlighted during the session were a lack of capacity for effective national accountability and governance, financial and human resources, public engagement and awareness, and appropriate incentives. The panel underscored the need for statistical capacity strengthening by highlighting lack of data (including sex, disability and other socio-economically disaggregated data) in key policy areas such as disaster risk reduction and management; the critical importance of measurable targets and appropriate indicators to generate action, and national ownership of data sources were also highlighted.

9. Recommendations included that an effective accountability framework for the development agenda beyond 2015 should go beyond vertical relationships to encompass a multi-sectoral framework that avoids duplication and leverages existing effective accountability mechanisms to streamline, harmonize and reduce the burden of accountability for the development agenda beyond 2015 and existing treaty bodies. Efforts should be made to link existing mechanisms and ensure systematic communication/exchange of information among them. Multiple mechanisms in similar fields should draw on each other more systematically to ensure synergies, reduce duplication and ease the reporting burden of countries. To ensure sustainability, accountability for
the international goals should be mainstreamed into national
development, planning, monitoring and reporting.

10. Strong and long-term commitment to strengthening capacity to
engage and implement accountability mechanisms for the development
agenda beyond 2015 at the local level in support of government functions
was cited as critical to national accountability. Here, several speakers
highlighted the opportunities for regional and subregional organizations in
supporting nationally-defined processes and mechanisms.

11. It was recommended that national governments with support by
relevant international organizations and donors take a lead role in the data
revolution to implement the positive changes that are required for both
developing and developed countries to produce and disseminate high
quality disaggregated sustainability statistics. It was highlighted that for
such efforts to succeed, basic building blocks in the form of robust
national statistics offices and strong civil registration and vital statistics
systems must be in place and appropriately resourced. An opportunity
should be harnessed to embrace new technologies and make use of new
data sources to close the digital divide, including through passive data
collection by mobile devices, satellite technology and business
intelligence and to improve data literacy, collection and sharing for
accountability, particularly for those with limited access to information
and communication technology (ICT). For such opportunities to be
seized, it is critical that capacity-building responds to national needs.

Regional Platforms for Accountability - Role and
Functions for Asia and the Pacific

12. It was highlighted that subregional monitoring and accountability
frameworks play an important role in developing a common vision for
regional accountability frameworks. The achievements of subregional
frameworks for monitoring and reporting, peer-review, engagement of
civil society, as well as data standardization established under the Inter-
State Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD), Pacific Island
Forum Secretariat (PIFS), CSR ASEAN Network and ESCAP Statistics
Committee, as well as of the Asian Development Bank itself were
discussed by the panellists.

13. The issue of ensuring comparability and timely availability of data
for reporting on sustainable development goals implementation was
discussed and the importance of standardization to ensure quality and
comparability of official statistics was stressed. Bearing in mind the
present variability in the quality of official national statistics, the need to
enhance national statistics capacity to support effective monitoring at the
regional level was highlighted. In reference to the data revolution,
participants cautioned that while digitization of information has pushed
further the frontier of statistics, it must be recognized that population
groups without access to information technology are left out in data
collection exercises that rely on new data sources such as social media.

14. The discussion highlighted the need for proper stakeholder
engagement. Formalization of engagement of civil society organization
(CSO), through the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism
and private sector as well as parliamentarians in regional monitoring and
accountability mechanisms was highlighted.
15. The discussion highlighted that defining the layers of accountability and the processes would ensure effectiveness of the accountability frameworks, at the regional and subregional levels. “If everyone is accountable, no one is accountable” was quoted.

16. It was highlighted that it was time to view the private sector not just as a resource provider but as a contributor to strengthening accountability frameworks by creating institutional systems to review and reward good behaviour of the corporate sector, especially in sustainable production and resource efficiency. At the national level legislative frameworks could stimulate corporate business compliance with allocation of funding for the sustainable development agenda, similar to positive examples shared of regulated by law allocation of 2% of corporate profits to sustainable development projects.

17. There was a broad agreement that enhanced political leaders’ commitment and examination of challenges of the political economy is of high importance for advancing the development of an accountability framework, particularly at the regional level.

18. The panellists and discussants emphasized the relevance of people-centred accountability and of strengthening national accountability mechanisms properly, which take into account the needs of and benefit from the feedback of the civil society organizations, particularly those that represented marginalized and vulnerable groups such as women, farmers, youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous people or migrants. Calls were made for using a rights-based approach in the accountability mechanism to make sure that “no one would be left behind” and to integrate existing global commitments, such as the Beijing Platform for Action in national and regional accountability mechanisms.

19. The panel also highlighted key concerns such as deepened poverty and inequality, between, and within countries as well as between men and women, and pervasive violence against women required structural changes, which included five transformative shift of development justice: 1) redistributive justice, including income distribution, distribution of land and other productive resources, 2) economic justice including through ensuring decent work and living wages for all, 3) social and gender justice, gender parity in political and economic decision-making, and the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence, 4) environmental justice, and 5) accountability to the people.

20. The panel also noted that key youth concerns included creating decent job opportunities and providing a platform for youth participation. Given that the Asia and Pacific region has the largest population of youth in the world, with 717 million young women and men between the ages of 15 to 24, their voices needed to be heard in the formulation of the development agenda beyond 2015. Youth could also be mobilized to contribute to the accountability framework beyond 2015, particularly in respect to monitoring and the evaluation of progress and achievements. Through the use of ICT, including social media, youth would be in the position to help collect data, track progress and share information with appropriate bodies.

21. There was a broad agreement that regional level monitoring will offer a peer review mechanism for assessment and cross-fertilization. The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) has the
potential to evolve into a platform for monitoring and accountability, while complementing national efforts and supporting regular assessment at the global level.

22. There is a need for a broader agreement on contours and scope of a regional accountability mechanism with the focus on review, monitoring and evaluation and on how regional monitoring and accountability would complement and reinforce the voices of civil society and the private sector including in their efforts to reshape national systems. It was highlighted to examine options that will enhance regularity and openness, as well as inclusiveness and timeliness.

23. It was recommended that the partnership among existing regional and subregional mechanisms such as the ESCAP Committee on Statistics, ASEAN Community Statistical System, the Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development for Central Asia, ESCAP Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, the Asian Development Bank and other institutions be strengthened to provide a coherent platform for countries to adopt agreed standards and make concerted efforts for improvements.

24. It was recommended to engage the private sector more fully to allow their expanded involvement in alignment with the sustainable corporate social responsibility principles and contribution to the post-2015 implementation beyond resource provision. It was highlighted that the Global Compact serves as a reliable and effective platform for this purpose. More specifically, it was recommended that the private sector be engaged in identifying the data needs for the sustainable development goals monitoring to facilitate their enhanced contribution to data production for accountability. Similarly establishment of corporate social responsibility tracking mechanisms at the regional level was encouraged.

25. It was also recommended that the regional bodies/United Nations bodies/Regional Commissions create platforms for young people to engage in accountability processes especially in monitoring progress on employment, technology transfer (newest technologies), bridging the gap between rich and poor countries, and others.

**Accountability and a Renewed Global Partnership**

26. In a wide ranging dialogue the session discussed several dimensions of a renewed global partnership for accountability relevant at the global, regional and national levels.

27. A renewed global partnership would need to address critical issues such as climate change, migration and unemployed youth, as well as challenge the status quo – moving from the conditionality of an agenda based on north-south relations, to one in which all will be accountable.

28. The fundamental importance of reducing the trust deficit was stressed. It was highlighted, that the legitimacy of any accountability system, would depend on the trust between society and the state and the society with the development community. Trust between governments and civil society also needed to be built. Increased levels of trust opened the way for dialogue – for example, a July meeting on financing for development under the Monterrey Consensus was held which would not have been possible just six months before. A partnership approach built
on trust would also better support the implementation of a universal development agenda.

29. Participants discussed the need for global partnership to respond to the diversity of stakeholders and adapt to specific needs. The Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation, has been evolving. This formerly donor-driven process was now included all stakeholders, and reflected the expanding variety of forms of cooperation. The Partnership provided a structure for action at the national level as well as incentives. Different sets of reporting approaches and principles among stakeholders had been adapted to the needs of each. The result of the most recent forum was strong commitment to accelerating country-level implementation as shown through the large number of initiatives resulting from the consensus outcome.

30. It was noted that the most vulnerable people should be put at the centre of the dialogue. Although the long-standing north-south divide seemed no longer workable or relevant, it was also pointed out that South-South cooperation should not replace North-South cooperation and development finance. The needs of the least developed countries and other countries with special needs must also remain in focus. Capacity and resource constraints were identified as the most prominent aspects of the wide and multi-stakeholder partnership needed to address vulnerability and economic growth challenges. In addition to “Leapfrogging” of the least developed countries, it would also require technology and institutional support. It was stressed that the global partnership should deliver on the commitments made, based on a real commitment to development, rather than political considerations. The need to make a difference in people’s lives was stressed.

31. It was noted that the asymmetry of knowledge, power relationships and deficit of expertise needed to be addressed to support vertical accountability. It was asserted that multilateral trade agreements should embrace all three pillars and respect the rights to food security, where rural populations and landless poor engaged in agriculture were growing increasingly vulnerable and marginalized by international agreements. Integrating environmental protection in the poverty alleviation agenda was critical and required a comprehensive approach.

32. With reference to existing international accountability frameworks, it was recommended that the Development Cooperation Forum play a much stronger role, and that the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in particular, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) while assuming the functions and building upon the experiences of Annual Ministerial Review should become key platform for dialogue based on a data-intensive and formal review of progress. The implication of a broad development agenda for resource needs was highlighted; the sources of funds needed to be clearly identified. More action was needed on other fronts - a good Doha Round, international financial architecture, pro-development intellectual property right regimes, and an effective United Nations Convention on Climate Change. It was stressed that the “teeth” in these international accountability frameworks would lie in the national ownership of the agenda. Open, participatory, intergovernmental space should be provided for review of partnerships developed in the name of sustainable development.
33. Moving from aspirations to a reality check, it was noted that a global partnership should be practical to be effective, and the voluntary nature of the sustainable development goals would require incentives for effective implementation. One participant cautioned against repeating the experience of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the impact of which was questioned. In particular, human rights commitments had not been translated operationally in the design of the MDGs and were not materialized despite emphasis on shared accountability. At the same time, positive impacts of the MDG framework had been seen in some areas, in particular where they provided a framework for country action.

34. The discussion highlighted the importance of national ownership as a basis for compelling national action, facilitated by a strengthened global partnership. While there was the view that binding commitments were necessary, it was shown that even non-binding commitments could influence significant national action. Kazakhstan was an example of a country in transition that had set itself ambitious development goals. The MDGs had been integrated as priorities into its development programmes and implementation reported at the global level, and had already been achieved in most cases. Resources were critical for developing countries for successful implementation. National action was supported by subregional cooperation in environmental, economic and social spheres, and international organisations. A strategy for a green economy was seen to support environmental protection.

35. The engagement of people was highlighted as essential for ensuring that national governments and international financial institutions can be held accountable. Global partnership should be inclusive and include proportional representation of civil society, including those most marginalized, in a non-discriminatory environment. In Kazakhstan, civil society involvement was strongly supported through special programmes, specific institutional structures for the engagement of civil society, and the provisions of the Aarhus Convention. One participant suggested that the prevailing view that national parliaments were critical should better reflect the complex reality in which they operate, and in particular to the lack of inclusive engagement of civil society, and in cases, their non-independence. It was underlined that CSOs can only be effective as fully independent development actors.

36. The dialogue brought governance issues to the floor. This raised important but difficult questions about the diversity of democratic contexts in which any accountability framework would have to operate in. The rights-based approach was encouraged as a key value for the future development goals that should be integrated and built into each of the sustainable development goals.

37. The disconnect between the grassroots levels and the global level was emphasized as a barrier to local-level impact, at odds with the emphasis on people-centred development. The forum was reminded that the digital world was still not fully inclusive. Developing a common understanding of accountability was seen as important, and it was underlined that such an understanding should be defined through an inclusive process that involved local officials and communities.

38. Various accountability mechanisms were furthermore discussed and recommendations were shared. The need to establish a mechanism that went beyond inter-governmental review was stressed. One of the
opinions expressed that such a mechanism should fully take into account and should utilize the strong features of previous National Voluntary Presentations within ECOSOC that in general got a wide recognition as a useful and effective review mechanism. An independent review process based on better data and a focus on the global partnership was proposed to address the conflict of interest of intergovernmental review. Space for open and multi-stakeholder dialogue to foster learning and improvement was also proposed to support changes in behaviour and mind-sets and complement monitoring and identifying. Although there is support for peer reviews that have worked well, objective examination of the peer review mechanism to determine actual impacts is still needed.

39. Other recommendations regarding accountability mechanisms included: a global reporting mechanism that comprises the voices of civil society; the establishment of an open, transparent and participatory intergovernmental space for oversight, monitoring and to review any partnership developed in the name of sustainable development; and to utilize the human rights architecture, including treaty bodies, special procedures including special rapporteurs, and the universal periodic review mechanisms for accountability for sustainable development. Where accountability should also deliver justice, legal measures are needed, such as the legally-binding obligations for transnational corporations which were positively noted.

40. The role of internationally-recognized standards was highlighted. It was suggested that key principles should be used to establish conditions to strengthen accountability, such as the Principles on Responsible and Sovereign Lending and Borrowing developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Special commitments to LDCs have been violated in the past decades, and any new framework should ensure that the international community upholds its commitments.

41. It was further stressed that additional work was needed to get the sustainable development goals framework right to support transparency and stakeholder engagement, was issued. One preliminary review had shown significant deficits in the data that would be needed to support the current sustainable development goals proposals. Investments in information and data capacity should also be a top priority.

42. The importance of ensuring a common understanding of accountability was highlighted as being fundamental to successful implementation. It was recommended that a shared vision of accountability be developed through participatory processes, including grassroots communities. Similarly, greater awareness and understanding of rights-based approaches to development, which emphasizes equality, non-discrimination, inclusion, participation, accountability, transparency, attention to vulnerable groups, and the rule of law, is needed. The rights-based approach should be incorporated into the implementation of all the goals, and the United Nations Development Group should organize a dialogue on a rights-based approach to the development agenda beyond 2015.
Innovations and partnerships for the future we want -
The role of the private sector

43. In recognition of the breadth and complexity of sustainable development goals, panellists emphasized the need for multiple actors to be engaged in addressing the global and regional development challenges, inclusive of the private sector and philanthropic organizations. It was noted that there has been growing recognition of, and commitment to, corporate social responsibility principles and social investment within the private sector, related to these commitments will contribute to business growth.

44. The private sector and philanthropic institutions are recognized as contributing factors to both human and financial capital, with an emphasis on building knowledge and capabilities, taking risks and long-term perspectives; undertaking research; applying innovative means of unlocking resources and finance; targeting action in recognition that one entity cannot solve all development challenges, such as renewable energy and climate change; and operating at different levels, from the local to global. It was also observed that attention needs to be given to the challenge of balancing what is deemed to be a public good with profit motivation of private sector companies.

45. Within the context of multi-stakeholder engagement and public-private partnerships, panellists identified challenges in achieving global development goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, including defining “the future we want”; fostering understanding of the sustainable development goals across stakeholders; addressing the complexity of development challenges through common language and understanding; ensuring accountability of all actors, including of the private sector and local communities, and attending to the balance between collective welfare and individual interests.

46. In her intervention, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP emphasized the importance and effectiveness of partnership between the United Nations and the private sector; harnessing the comparative advantages of the various stakeholders to achieve the ambitious sustainable development goals. She noted that partnerships with the private sector should be workable, simple and deliverable. It was further noted that ESCAP has a role to assess and share the Asia-Pacific region’s good practices in partnerships with the private sector in meeting development goals, including through measurement and evidence of impact of effective partnerships and models.

47. In terms of pursuing inclusive and equitable sustainable development, dialogue with critical review of the prevailing narratives and practices, the engagement of the private sector should go beyond giving. Reinforcement of the central role and accountability of governments, utilization of regional and local capital, and attention to rights were identified as key to successful outcomes.

48. The session concluded with a summary of the key messages, specifically that there is a real potential to align business and development objectives to maximize development impact and support inclusive growth; that the engagement of the private sector creates opportunities for innovative financing mechanisms for development that move beyond the reliance on official aid, and that continued multi-stakeholder public-
private dialogue is critical within the context of a development agenda beyond 2015 in order to ensure “The Future We Want”.

Conclusions

49. The following conclusions emerged from the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation, with regard to the strategies and actions for promoting accountability for the development agenda beyond 2015 in Asia and the Pacific:

(a) The United Nations system should play a role in furthering the process to shape an effective accountability framework for the development agenda beyond 2015. Such support can include analysis of comparative advantages of different accountability mechanisms such as national voluntary presentations, peer reviews, sharing of experiences on successful mechanisms, and continuing the dialogue in key areas, such as for developing a shared understanding of accountability, and on the application of a rights-based approach to the implementation of the sustainable development goals. Platforms should be created at the regional level for young people to engage in accountability processes.

(b) ESCAP together with other United Nations regional commissions should have more specific tasks to support the development of effective regional accountability frameworks while linking national and global efforts and one that will complement and reinforce in particular the voice of the youth, civil society and private sector and their efforts to reshape national systems. It would provide a platform for a collective multi-stakeholder review of regional progress on the development agenda beyond 2015, based on national assessments of progress. It should also be engaged in the global development cooperation framework, through inter alia transmitting regional voices to global deliberation processes.

(c) The annual APFSD should evolve into an effective regional platform for monitoring and accountability on sustainable development and sustainable development goals, while complementing national efforts for regular assessments, and providing the space for existing subregional mechanisms to support the regional platform with the aim to make a valuable contribution and strengthen the monitoring functions of HLPF. To save resources and time, it is better to mainstream regional monitoring and accountability into the APFSD.

(d) ESCAP Statistics Committee should be strengthened, including through closer collaboration with sub-regional statistical bodies. All national, regional and international partners should prioritize and work together to bridge the data gaps related to the proposed sustainable development goals.

(e) Subregional consultations and processes should be facilitated to support regional deliberations on accountability mechanisms for the development agenda beyond 2015.
1. Welcome remarks were delivered by Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and Ms. Amina Mohammed, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning.

2. In her opening remarks, Dr. Akhtar emphasized the centrality of effective accountability and monitoring in successful implementation of the development agenda beyond 2015. She underscored that the lack of a complete framework of inter-related institutional commitments contributed to the underachievement of the Millennium Development Goals and that lessons from this experience need to be taken into consideration while discussing the development agenda beyond 2015. She highlighted that, in order to ensure successful implementation, an effective monitoring and accountability framework should encompass all intergovernmental tiers, involving global, regional and national players as well as key stakeholders. The framework should be supported by stakeholders’ ownership on goals and targets and clearly lay out commitments of all stakeholders and its functions. A focus on development cooperation is also important to reinforce the means of implementation. She called for a complete framework that includes mechanisms to redress and remedy. She solicited the participants’ views and experiences which will be captured in the outcome document to be reported to the High-Level Stocktaking Event planned by the President of the General Assembly in September, and included in the Secretary-General’s Synthesis Report later this year.

3. Ms. Amina Mohammed provided the context of the discussion on accountability for the development agenda beyond 2015 by recapitulating the discussions at the Open Working Group. She stressed the complexity of the development challenges to be addressed and the high-levels of ambition of the development agenda beyond 2015. The principles of universality, inclusiveness, and a transformative agenda have been weaved into the proposed goals by the Open Working Group. A great number of contentious issues remain in the proposed goals including goals on climate change, peace and justice, as well as environmental issues for further deliberation at the General Assembly, and the means of implementation are discussed over each development goal. Highlighting the result of the My World Survey, which showed people’s strong call for an honest and responsive government, she expressed her hope that an accountability framework would engage all stakeholders, be inclusive and benefit from broad based ownership and engage the community at all levels. She also underscored that a data revolution is needed and the United Nations Secretary-General would establish, in response to this need, an independent advisory group of experts on the data revolution. She outlined the inputs to the stock-taking event that will be hosted by the President of the General Assembly to bring together all of the inputs from 11-12 September 2014. The last session of the two day stocktaking will be informed by this session.

Annex

Proceeding of discussions at the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

1. Welcome remarks were delivered by Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and Ms. Amina Mohammed, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning.

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Session 1 - National Leadership on Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

4. A diverse panel of government, civil society, statisticians and United Nations agencies deliberated on the role and innovative mechanisms for a strengthened ownership and effectiveness of national accountability mechanisms for the development agenda beyond 2015. Overall, the discussion highlighted that accountability should foster an enabling environment of meaningful democratic participation and people’s active engagement in shaping, monitoring and challenging development policies, programmes and results.

5. The panel, moderated by the Chair of the meeting, was composed of Ms. Amina Mohammed, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning; Ms. Noumea Simi, Assistant CEO of Finance (Aid Coordination Debt Management), Ministry of Finance, Samoa; Ms. Gemma Van Halderen, First Assistant Statistician, Population, Education and Data Integration Division, Australia; and Ms. Emmeline Verzosa, Executive Director, Philippine Commission on Women. Ms. Nobuko Horibe, UNFPA Regional Director representing Regional the United Nations Development Group Asia-Pacific Team and Prof. Leonor M. Briones, Social Watch, Southeast Asia, Philippines participated as key discussants to the panel session.

Session II - Regional Platforms for Accountability - Role and Functions for Asia and the Pacific

6. The purpose of the session was to examine and to draw on the best practices and lessons learned of existing subregional cooperation platforms and accountability mechanisms, including formats for monitoring and review, statistical standards for cross-national data comparability, reporting requirements and engagement of civil society and private sector. The session also examined the critical role and future format of regional platforms for accountability, and in particular that of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, as well as the opportunity for data revolution at the regional level.

7. The session was moderated by Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP. Panellists on this session, following the order of speaking were Mr. Djalil Buzrukov, Head of the Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD) for Central Asian Countries, Tajikistan; Mr. Alfred Schuster, Development Cooperation Advisor, Pacific Island Forum Secretariat; Dr. Malee Wongsaroje, Deputy Director-General, National Statistical Office, Thailand; and Ms. Govind Kelkar, Senior Advisor to LANDESA Rural Development Institute, India and a Member of the Regional Council of the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development. Discussants on this session, following the order of speaking were Mr. John Hyde, Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development; Mr. Jerry Bernas, Programme Director of the ASEAN CSR Network; and Ms. Anuradha Rajivan, Advisor, Strategy and Policy Department, Asian Development Bank.
Session III - Accountability and a Renewed Global Partnership

8. The panel was intended to discuss how renewed global partnerships can learn from the past and play a key role by incorporating effective accountability in the development agenda beyond 2015.

9. The panel was moderated by Ms. Amina Mohammed, Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning. Panellists in this session were: H.E. Mr. Bektas Mukhamedzhanov, Vice Minister of Environment and Water Resources, Kazakhstan; Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS; Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue and Chair, Southern Voice; and Ms. Marjolaine Nicod, Senior Policy Adviser, Global Partnerships and Policy Division, Development Co-operation Directorate. Ms. Virginia Dandan, United Nations Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity contributed as discussant.

Special Session - Innovations and partnerships for the future we want - The role of the private sector

10. The fourth session of the special event on accountability for the development agenda beyond 2015 addressed the issue of the engagement of the private sector in achieving the proposed goals. The purpose of this session was threefold: (a) to increase awareness on the role of philanthropic organizations, and the private sector, in support of the development agenda beyond 2015; (b) to enhance knowledge on innovative delivery and partnerships, including how the comparative advantage of philanthropic organizations and the private sector are being used to achieve development objectives; and (c) to identify the role that the United Nations, including such entities as ESCAP, can play in supporting a more effective, inclusive and strategic philanthropic and private sector engagement in a development agenda beyond 2015.

11. The fourth session was moderated by Ms. Gwen Robinson, Senior Asia Editor for the Nikkei Asian Review and Senior Fellow at the Institute of Security and International Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.

12. The panellists of the fourth session of the special event on accountability were Ms. Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, Chairperson, Toshiba Thailand Co. Ltd.; Mr. Ashvin Dayal, Associate Vice President, Managing Director, Asia, Rockefeller Foundation; Mr. Chandran Nair, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Global Institute for Tomorrow, and Mr. Andrew Muirhead, Executive Vice Chairman, Asian Venture Philanthropy Network.

Closing Session

13. In her closing remarks, Dr. Akhtar expressed appreciation to the participants for their active participation in the consultation. She particularly recognized the presence of member States as well as civil society, private sector and philanthropic organizations in the consultation.
14. A representative of Regional CSO Coordination Mechanism highlighted the importance of people-centered, bottom-up approach to accountability issues, national leadership, the role of the media, and the role of CSO in ensuring accountability for the development agenda beyond 2015.

15. The chair thanked the participants for their active participation acknowledging that the topic of discussion was not easy. She highlighted the importance of accountability issues by stating that without accountable monitoring, we can’t deliver results. She also stressed the role of the United Nations Regional Commissions as a platform for collective actions and for linking the national and global accountability platforms. She also mentioned that for Asia and the Pacific, regional platforms such as the APFSD have a potential to be an effective monitoring accountability platform.