Overview

- The 2030 Agenda and its Implementation in Asia and the Pacific
- The Follow-up and Review Architecture
- Unpacking the Theme of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and of the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)
The 2030 Agenda and its implementation in Asia and the Pacific
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

On 25 September 2015 world leaders agreed to the new Agenda

Builds on lessons from the Millennium Development Goals MDGs

Through 17 transformative Sustainable Development Goals

To build people-centred, inclusive, peaceful and prosperous societies

To end all poverty, everywhere, in all its dimensions
“The 17 goals represent an indivisible tapestry of thinking and action that applies in every community everywhere in the world. They are universal... and also indivisible. Though they are presented as individual goals, they actually represent a total, completely intertwined lattice of action that is relevant for every human being everywhere.”

DAVID NABARRO
Under-Secretary General
Special Adviser on 2030 Agenda
...requiring integrated policy approaches
Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society embedded throughout the Agenda

2030 Agenda commitments

“Leave no one behind”; Inclusion; partnership, participation

Three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental

Transparency & accountability
A Regional Road Map for Asia and the Pacific

Expected Impacts

- Strengthened regional cooperation on priority issues
- Continued and more efficient and coordinated support
- More effective knowledge sharing

Practical means of implementation

- Data and statistics
- Technology
- Finance
- Policy coherence
- North–South, South–South, international and regional partnerships

Thematic areas

- Leave no one behind
- DRR & resilience
- Climate change
- Management of natural resources
- Connectivity
- Energy
Implementation is faster post-MDGs

- Integration into national development plans & policies and national laws
  - China, Philippines, Azerbaijan, others
  - Indonesia, Pakistan

- Adaption to national context
  - Cambodia, Lao PDR

- Institutional strengthening & coordination
  - Mapping responsibilities
    - India
  - Creation of coordination bodies
    - Azerbaijan, Japan, Indonesia, Philippines, Turkmenistan, Armenia, China
  - Creation of dedicated ministry
    - Sri Lanka

- NGO involvement in implementation structures
  - Indonesia, Sri Lanka
The Follow-up and Review Architecture
Guiding principles for Follow-up and Review

Voluntary and country-led

Track progress in a holistic and integrated way

Longer-term orientation

Support reporting by all relevant stakeholders

People-centered, gender sensitive, respecting human rights, leave no one behind

Building on existing platforms and processes

Rigorous, evidence-based, high quality data

Enhance capacity-building support for developing countries

“Active support” by the UN system and other multilateral institutions
Follow-up and review at the global level: HLPF

- Central role in overseeing follow-up and review processes at the global level
- Meets annually in New York
- Conducts two types of reviews:
  - Thematic reviews of progress on SDG
  - National reviews which are
    - voluntary, while encouraging reporting and include developed and developing countries, as well as relevant United Nations entities
    - state-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants
    - provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders
National, regional and global follow-up and review processes

National Reviews
- VNR
- National SDG progress report

APFSD
- Regional SDG progress report (ESCAP)
- Thematic report (ESCAP/ADB/UNDP)
- Goal profiles (UN system)

HLPF
- 47 VNRs (2018)
- 51 VNRs (2019)
- SDG global progress report (annual)
- Global Sustainable Development report (quadrennial)
Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)

- Annual, inclusive and intergovernmental
- Support countries & enhance their capacity for implementation of the 2030 Agenda
- Provide regional perspective, identify regional trends, share best practices and lessons learned
- Support follow-up and review, assess progress and enable peer learning related to HLPF themes.

Sub-regional Preparatory Meetings

People’s Forum organized by Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism

Partnerships on Knowledge Products
## Stakeholder participation at the APFSD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Participants</th>
<th>Major Group and Stakeholder Participants</th>
<th>Participants from academia/research/universities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>803</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>509</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Highlights of the 2019 APFSD
Empowering people for a more inclusive and equal Asia-Pacific

27–29 March 2019
> 1000 participants
35 side events
7 pre and associated events
Engagement space
VNR Learning Café
Key messages from the 2019 APFSD

- Empowerment & inclusion to address inequalities spanning the 3D of SD
- Accountability & multi-stakeholder dialogue key to LNOB
- Positive impact of VNRs on policy development processes and review of progress
- APFSD as a regional platform for sharing best practices and building regional capacities for VNRs
- Reviewed progress on the regional road map
- ESCAP Resolution 75/2 to strengthen the links between national, regional and global follow-up to and review
Highlights of the 2019 HLPF

Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality

# HLPF 2019

- **8** days
- **47** voluntary national reviews
- **>125** Heads and Deputy Heads of State and Government, Ministers, Vice-Ministers & Other Ministerial Level Officials
- **130** speakers in panels
- **>2000** registered participants
- **6** SDGs under review
- **33** meetings
- **156** side events
- **8** special events
- **36** exhibitions
- **17** VNR labs
Voluntary National Reviews at the 2019 HLPF

Highlights of the 2019 HLPF
Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality

- Throughout discussions at the HLPF, the important role of Regional Commissions, and especially the Regional Fora on Sustainable Development, was recognized.

- The need to better use the inputs developed for the HLPF, including the outcome documents from the Regional Forums for Sustainable Development, was emphasized.

- The need to strengthen the link between the Regional Forums and the HLPF, as reflected also in ESCAP resolution 75/2, was recognized.

- The Political Declaration which will formally be adopted by consensus at the opening of the SDGs Summit “Gearing up for a Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development” on 24 September welcomes efforts at the regional level, explicitly mentioning the Regional Commissions and the Regional Fora for Sustainable Development (para.18)
Unpacking the Theme of the 2019 HLPF and APFSD
The 2019 High-Level Political Forum (and APFSD)

Theme: *Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*

SDGs under review:

**Goal 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

**Goal 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

**Goal 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries

**Goal 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

**Goal 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

**Goal 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development
Three central concepts of the HLPF 2019 theme

- **Empowerment**
  - Expansion of freedom of choice and action, increasing control over resources and decisions that affect one’s life

- **Inclusion**
  - Ensure *no one is left behind*

- **Equality**
  - Address enormous disparities of opportunity, wealth and power
## Elements of an empowerment and inclusion framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Rights and justice</strong></th>
<th>Freedom to participate in political activity and community life, to access public resources and services, and to contribute to decisions that impact an individual, as well as the ability of individuals and groups to represent themselves and be heard.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Participation and voice</strong></td>
<td><strong>Resources and capabilities</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Norms and institutions</strong></td>
<td>Informal rules, practices, and shared social expectations that shape individual and societal attitudes and behavior, as well as formal structures, laws and regulations that underpin societal functioning.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Encompassing knowledge and protection of one’s rights, why they matter and how to ensure access to justice.

Essential and productive resources including social protection and safety nets, as well as capabilities to control them and have a choice in their use.

The framework is grounded in a review of relevant SDG targets, and consultations with more than 600 participants in a series of workshops held in Nadi, Ulaanbatar, Bangkok, New Delhi and Tbilisi, including government officials, representatives of civil society, business, think tanks and other stakeholders.
### Vulnerable groups

- Women and girls
- Children & youth
- Informal workers
- Persons with disabilities
- People living with HIV/AIDS
- Older persons
- Indigenous peoples
- Refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants

& others?
Empowerment, inclusion and equality can accelerate progress towards SDGs

- Where women have a say in decision-making on major household purchases there are better health outcomes for children

- Recognizing environmental rights linked to better environmental performance in countries in the region
What does this mean for policy making?

- Integrating fundamental rights into modern legal frameworks;
- Eradicating prejudice from our societies and institutions;
- Giving vulnerable groups more power over productive resources; and
- Institutionalizing civil society’s role in shaping policies and public services.
Reflections on the review process

HLPF under review in 2019 - member countries and other stakeholders to reflect on the success and limitations of the current process;

Role of the stakeholders to be strengthened - to allow a wider contribution from the different actors at the country level;

Need of a stronger regional and sub-regional follow-up and review - to allow countries to discuss and exchange perspectives in a smaller setting;

Role of South-south cooperation and twinning of countries to support the VNR process.
Thank you!
mesiano@un.org