MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

AND

THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCED STUDY OF SUSTAINABILITY

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”, through the present Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) affirm their desire to work together in areas of mutual interest for the promotion of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

II. PURPOSE OF COOPERATION

2. As both Parties have been established with mandates to address environmental and sustainable development challenges through the promotion of international cooperation, analytical works, knowledge sharing, capacity development, policy dialogues and provision of policy recommendations, the Parties plan to work together:

   (a) to synergize and increase the effectiveness and impact of their respective work on environment and development issues and particularly on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific with a focus on its environmental dimension; and
   (b) to support, enhance and promote science-policy interface in Asia and the Pacific in the areas of environment and sustainable development through joint analytical work and development of evidence-based instruments that support policymakers and other stakeholders to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

III. GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR COOPERATION

3. The Parties will be guided by the following general principles:

   (a) focus on shared strategic and operational priorities;
   (b) apply the comparative strengths and advantages of each organization in the delivery of results; and
   (c) this MoU imposes no legal obligations upon any Party hereto.
IV. JOINT ACTIVITIES

4. The priority areas of joint activities for the support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the SDGs, include, but are not limited to, a regional platform for science-policy interface; integrated approaches for SDG planning; and evidence-based policymaking, monitoring, follow up and review. This focus may be amended by the mutual written consent of the Parties.

- Regional platform for science-policy interface: ESCAP provides an excellent regional platform for dialogue and strengthening the science-policy interface through engagement with leading universities and research networks, which UNU-IAS can effectively mobilize;
- Integrated approaches for SDG planning: UNU-IAS is leading a global process for promoting tools and methodologies for integrated SDG planning, and has engaged ESCAP in these discussions. Opportunities for establishing a regional network to support ESCAP’s work on integrated SDG implementation will be explored;
- Evidence-based policymaking, monitoring, follow up and review: Collaboration between UNU-IAS and ESCAP will be explored while jointly developing methodologies and tools, and conducting capacity development activities.

5. Collaborative activities may include the production and dissemination of analytical works and policy tools, the promotion of knowledge sharing and regional cooperation, and the organization of policy dialogue sessions with appropriate audiences and high-quality policy recommendations in order to assist ESCAP member States in sustainable development, in particular, the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For that purpose, the Parties may also promote sharing of scientific knowledge on analytical models for policy review and development.

6. Notwithstanding paragraph 15 below, the joint activities will align with the priority areas as outlined above, and may include: (i) strengthening partnerships aimed at supporting the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, and developing related activities and products; as well as (ii) aiming to strengthen the capacity of policymakers in the region of Asia and the Pacific to formulate evidence-based policies and support effective integrated implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

V. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

7. The Parties recognize that effective cooperation depends on open, comprehensive and regular exchange of information at the institutional level. When considered of mutual interest, the Parties agree to disseminate, through direct communication and publication on the respective websites, information regarding:

(a) conferences, seminars and workshops being organized or sponsored;
(b) regional, country, sector and thematic policy/strategy documents;
(c) programme and project approval documents; and
(d) regional programme, country programme, sectoral, project and other evaluations.

VI. RECIPROCAL INVITATIONS

8. The Parties recognize that appropriate representation is important for the purpose of joint positioning and advocacy. The Parties agree that reciprocal invitations will be extended to attend meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops relevant to cooperation in the priority areas, where appropriate, such as the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

VII. PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS

9. The Parties recognize that it is important to convene periodic consultations to review what is being planned, what is being implemented, and what is being achieved in terms of results as well as to discuss new challenges, opportunities and problems. The Parties agree to hold such consultations periodically as required and not less than once every two years. These consultations will serve as an opportunity to identify emerging issues in the region of Asia and the Pacific and to realign the focus of the joint activities, if necessary.

VIII. FOCAL POINTS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE MOU

10. The Parties agree to designate as focal points for the activities under this MoU:

   (a) for ESCAP: Director, Environment and Development Division
   (b) for UNU-IAS: Project Manager, Governance for Sustainable Development

IX. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE MOU AND JOINT ACTIVITIES

11. The Parties will prepare annually a list of existing and planned operational cooperation activities that are considered of mutual interest.

12. The Parties agree:

   (a) to conduct a joint review or evaluation of this cooperation two years after signature of this MoU; and
   (b) to consider further areas for cooperation, including any necessary amendments to this MoU, following the result of the said joint review and evaluation.
X. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND USE OF INSTITUTIONAL EMBLEMS

13. The Parties recognize that their involvement in joint cooperation activities needs to be publicized and agree that:

(a) each Party will acknowledge the role and contribution of each Party to cooperation projects in all public information and documentation related to such cooperation; and

(b) the use of emblems of each Party in documentation related to cooperation will be in accord with the current policies of each Party concerning such usage.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS

14. The term of this MoU will be from the date of its last signature until 31 December 2020.

15. Any specific activities under this MoU shall be covered by a project document or shall be the subject of a special written agreement, as the case may be.

16. This MoU may be amended by mutual written consent of the Parties.

17. This MoU may be terminated by either Party giving six months’ notice in writing.

For the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

\[Signature\]

Shamshad Akhtar
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP
Date: 5 September 2017
Place: Bangkok, Thailand

For the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability

\[Signature\]

Kazuhiko Takemoto
Director of UNU-IAS
Date: 20 September 2017
Place: Tokyo, Japan
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For the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability

[Signature]
Kazuhiko Takemoto
Director of UNU-IAS
Date: 20 September 2017
Place: Tokyo, Japan

For the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

[Signature]
Shamshad Akhtar
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP
Date: 5 SEP 2017
Place: Bangkok, Thailand