

**Suggested Handling - APSFD Notes***Suggested talking points:*

- We thank the Secretariat for drafting this note on the form and function of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) beyond 2015
  - it is a useful starting point for considering how APFSD can best support implementation of our sustainable development agenda in the future.
- *Australia supports the Secretariat's recommendation, to hold an APFSD in 2016; however we have some concerns regarding agreeing its function at this point in time.*
- Australia is actively participating in the United Nations (UN) led negotiations to agree the post-2015 development agenda.
- The final outcome, which will be agreed in September 2015, will include principles for follow-up and review of both the goals and targets and means of implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.
- There is no doubt that regional fora have an important role to play in supporting implementation of the post-2015 development agenda at the regional level
  - but it is critical that we consider follow-up and review holistically
    - : this will ensure we avoid creating duplicative structures, institutions or processes
    - : and ensure we don't impose burdensome reporting requirements, particularly on countries with low capacity.
- To ensure that we maximise APFSD's efficiency, we should defer agreeing the form and function of APFSD in 2016 until the post-2015 development agenda has been finalised.

*Australian accountability principles:*

- As noted in Australia's intervention in the previous session, we need an accountability system that is fit for purpose, providing regular updates on progress against the agenda and generating information that is useful to policymakers in planning and prioritising investments.
- The scope of the proposed agenda predicates a large number of indicators; its complexity necessitates the evolution of more sophisticated metrics
  - this is long-term work requiring careful consideration and consultation; we should not rush processes in the context of our own busy timetable
- Just as we consider how best to deploy resources to ensure the accountability system is fit for purpose, we should also consider how to draw on existing processes, institutions and coordination efforts to maximise the quantity and quality of information available
- The High Level Political Forum will play an important role in follow up and review from 2016. There are a number of issues for the Forum to consider in 2015 in order to enable it to fully function from next year, including:
  - what role the Forum plays within the wider follow up and review system that also encompasses activities at regional and national level
- Australia's view on the draft note on the form and function of the APFSD beyond 2016 is to ensure maximum efficiency of the APFSD, we should defer agreement on its form and function until the post-2015 development agenda has been finalised