



## UN Regional Coordination Mechanism for Asia-Pacific

### What is the role of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism?

The role of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) is to strengthen policy and programme coherence of the United Nations (UN) at the regional level. The RCM fosters and enhances interagency collaboration, as mandated by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC resolution 1998/46). The RCM brings together Regional Directors from some thirty-five United Nations entities (see annex 1). It focuses especially on ensuring policy coherence, regional and subregional programming of UNDS and promoting UNDS support to regional and subregional agendas and policy frameworks. It provides a platform for exchanging views on major strategic developments and challenges facing the region with the focus on the global UN agendas, particularly the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, and in her absence, it is convened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP. ESCAP serves as the secretariat.

### How does it work?

The RCM operates at two levels:

- (i) *Executive-level* - to interpret and implement policy level consensus on opportunities for increased regional inter-governmental cooperation, and what the UN system can do to support this process. This includes interaction between regional and country level developments, and interaction between humanitarian, security and development issues.
- (ii) *Operational-level* – seven Thematic Working Groups that focus on specific operational programmatic issues aligned with the 2030 Agenda (see annex 2).

### How often does the RCM meet?

Annually, one to two regular executive-level meetings are convened. The RCM makes every effort to hold its meetings back-to-back with the regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group Asia-Pacific (UNSDG). In 2018, the RCM and UNSDG held a joint meeting which focused on the regional dimension of the UN development system reform.

In addition to the regular meetings of the RCM, the occasional *ad hoc* meetings are organized with the focus on a specific topic. For example, in 2016 the RCM held 11 informal and working-level meetings which mainly focused on two issues: (a) realignment of the structure of the Mechanism to better address the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and (b) formulation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations (2016-2020), as it relates to the economic, sociocultural and cross-sectoral sections.

### What Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) operate under the RCM?

- Statistics (Co-chairs: ESCAP & UNFPA)
- Resource Efficient Growth (Co-chairs: UNDP, UN Environment, ESCAP)
- Sustainable Societies (Co-chairs: IOM, UNFPA, ESCAP)
- Inclusive Development and Poverty Eradication (Co-chairs: FAO, UNDP, ESCAP)
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience (Co-chairs: UNDP, UNISDR, ESCAP)
- Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (Co-chairs: UN Women, ESCAP)
- Education 2030+ (Co-chairs: UNESCO & UNICEF)

Further information and joint knowledge products can be found at: <http://www.unaprcm.org/>



## Annex 1: UN RCM Asia and the Pacific Members

- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
- United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Development Programme in Asia and the Pacific
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-WOMEN)
- United Nations University (UNU)
- United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
- Universal Postal Union (UPU)
- World Bank (WB)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Health Organization (WHO)

## Annex 2: Thematic Working Group Chairs and Membership

TWGs	Lead Agencies	Member Agencies	SDGs
<b>Statistics</b> <i>Focus areas: SDG monitoring and statistical capacity development</i>	Co-chairs: ESCAP & UNFPA	ESCAP, FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UN Environment, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO	17
<b>Resource Efficient Growth</b> <i>Focus areas: climate change mitigation, green economy, urbanization, consumption/production; conservation; water; energy</i>	Co-chairs: ESCAP, UNDP & UN Environment	ESCAP, FAO, IOM, UNCCD, UNCRD, UNDP, UN Environment, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO	2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
<b>Sustainable Societies</b> <i>Focus areas: demographic change (migration, youth, aging), human rights, urbanization</i>	Co-chairs: ESCAP, IOM, UNFPA	ESCAP, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNICEF UNISDR, UNODC, UNV, UN Women, WHO	1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 16, 17
<b>Inclusive Development and Poverty Eradication</b> <i>Focus areas: inequality, poverty alleviation, food security, decent work for all; health and well-being and governance</i>	Co-chairs: ESCAP, FAO & UNDP	ESCAP, FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNCRD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, WHO	1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 16
<b>Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience</b> <i>Focus areas: Sendai implementation; climate change adaptation</i>	Co-chairs: ESCAP, UNDP & UNISDR	ESCAP, FAO, IOM, OCHA, UNAIDS, UNDP, UN Environment, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNISDR, UNODC, UNOPS, UNV, WFP, WHO, Pulse Lab Jakarta, IPPF	17
<b>Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women</b>	Co-chairs: ESCAP & UN Women	ESCAP, FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNCDF, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNISDR, UNOPS, UNV, UN Women, WHO	3, 5, 8, 10
<b>Education 2030+</b> <i>Focus area: Education for All initiative</i>	Co-chairs: UNESCO & UNICEF	ESCAP, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNV, WHO	4, 5, 13, 16