

***Workshop on
Supporting Cambodia in meeting the challenge of resource
mobilization for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development
Concept note***

**5-6 November 2018
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Venue: Hotel Cambodiana**

Background:

Financing needs in the least developed countries are disproportionately large relative to the size of their economies. To tackle these needs, the 12 *least developed countries* (LDCs)¹ of the Asia-Pacific region require greater domestic resource mobilization, complemented by strong international support, to improve tax and other revenue collection. Countries also need to identify additional and innovative financing sources, as well as develop their financial markets in an efficient, fair and predictable manner.

These challenges have been highlighted by the global community through the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (AAAA). The United Nations has already embarked on a number of plans of action to support the development challenges faced by LDC, including that of mobilization of domestic resources- namely the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs (IPoA, 2011-2020). Such policy issues for LDC have also been highlighted in ESCAP's Regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. ESCAP, as a United Nations Regional Commission, is critically placed to assist LDCs in the region in this subject due to its role as an intermediary in implementing the internationally agreed global and regional policy agendas at the country level in support of the United Nations country teams.

Cambodia, as an LDC, faces similar challenges. According to ESCAP research and analysis, it could cost around 12.7% of GDP per year to meet the infrastructure investment needs for Cambodia. Therefore, there is a need of mobilizing financial resources for Cambodia in order

¹ These are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

to narrow development gaps and to address the SDGs. Consequently, using the existing resources effectively and raising additional resources is a top priority for Cambodia.

Objectives:

1. To identify gaps and assess policies to allocate and utilize existing financial resources for sustainable development more effectively in Cambodia,
2. To discuss some LDC-specific international support measures (such as concessional finance and preferential market access) for Cambodia and the extent to which countries are aligning their existing national financial architectures,
3. To present the current resource mobilization situation of Cambodia and identify action areas which are part of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda where Cambodia could identify particular challenges and opportunities in its development,
4. To facilitate discussion on enhancing regional economic cooperation and integration of Cambodia to smoothen its transition to graduation. To identify gaps and assess policies to allocate and utilize existing financial resources for sustainable development more effectively in Cambodia

Organization and Participation:

The participants will comprise government officials from government departments in Cambodia, particularly relevant officials that are in charge of national planning/development planning and finance. The event will include presentations given by experts/researchers and practitioners of development cooperation with Cambodia, along with participants from relevant International and/or regional organizations.

Documentation:

ESCAP will disseminate technical background notes for the event. Please visit the ESCAP website for further information about the least developed countries and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to see other documents related to the workshop: <http://www.unescap.org/events/csn-ldc-workhop-in-cambodia>.