



Workshop on
Systems Thinking and Integration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into
National Planning

16-17 April 2019, New Delhi, India

Concept Note

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 SDGs were developed through an inclusive and comprehensive process that considered diverse sector-based specializations and perspectives. The SDGs embed all 3 dimensions within their targets - economic prosperity, social justice and environmental protection in one “indivisible whole”. The SDGs and their targets are closely interlinked and require innovative, multidisciplinary and unconventional policy approaches, such as those focusing on the intersections (meeting points), interlinkages and complex causal relationships for developing effective strategies supportive of the implementation of 2030 Agenda.

This workshop on Systems Thinking and Integration of the SDGs into National Planning is designed to share ESCAP tools of the SDGs into national planning developed to support policymakers and sustainable development practitioners in developing strategies and plans to implement the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the 17 Goals. The Workshop will provide an overview of the aspects of the ‘Why’ and ‘How’ of integration and offer understanding and hands-on experience with ESCAP’s methodologies and tools, as well as examples of application of the methodology in other countries

The workshop sessions will also provide an overview of systems thinking methodology including, a step-by-step guide to systems thinking modelling and examples of application in countries of the Asia-Pacific region. Hands-on sessions and group work will help participants apply the tools for analysis of the interlinkages between the SDGs with a focus on SDG 5, and will help map stakeholders and institutions to be engaged in the process of implementation. These sessions will engage UNCT members to support the working groups and related debates, and quizzes.

By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Understand the essence of the integration of the three dimensions of the sustainable development
- Gain solid knowledge of the tools and methodologies available to apply concepts of integration into the policy-making and implementation
- Apply system thinking framework to SDG integration analysis to support the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development
- Have an overview of regional, national, local level system thinking applications in the Asia and the Pacific countries



Certificates of completion of the workshop will be presented to all participants.

The participants will also be introduced to the on-line e-learning course and will be encouraged to enrol at <https://sdghelpdesk-elearning.unescap.org/thematicarea/detail?id=11>. The e-learning course consists of three modules as described below.

The first module on Integration of the Three Dimensions of Sustainable Development is based on the UN ESCAP publication with correlating title - Integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development: A framework and tools and defines and articulates to policymakers the essence of integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely economic, social and environmental, across the policy cycle.

The second module on Systems Thinking Framework to Support the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the SDGs and briefly introduces the ESCAP experience in applying systems thinking to SDG integration analysis and provides examples and case studies from contributing partners.

The third module on ESCAP's Methodology for Applying Systems Thinking in Asia-Pacific Countries for Integrating SDG 6 into National Planning describes the practical application of the ESCAP analytical framework for integration of SDG 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation with the other 16 SDGs at the target level and describes the practical application of the methodology in pilot countries and lessons learned.

The proposed tentative programme is enclosed in this concept note.