



The State Great Hural of
Mongolia
Sub-Committee on SDGs



North-East Asian Multistakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development Goals

Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality

5-6 September 2018
Holiday Inn, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Concept Note

Background

The North-East Asian subregion as a group is ahead of other subregions in Asia and the Pacific in achieving many of the SDGs in terms of population living in poverty, unemployment rates, enrolment ratio for secondary education, access to basic services, and strong public institutions. Yet, within the subregion and within each country there are many pockets of areas or population that are still left behind. For instance, ESCAP study on decent work¹, which used access to full-time employment as a proxy, revealed a significant gap between the most and least advantaged groups in China, Japan and Mongolia. Similar studies by ESCAP on inequalities of access to education and clean energy found significant discrepancies within countries among most advantaged and disadvantaged groups². In contrast to the economic growth of the subregion, income inequality is widening in the subregion, rather than reducing. While data availability is limited, Gini coefficient of the economies in the subregion shows some upward trend over the past 20 years³. Labour share of GDP has continued to decrease over the last 15 years in the high-income economies of the subregion (HK, Macao, Japan, ROK) for which the data is available.

Regional and Global context of the North-East Asia Forum

The **North-East Asia Multistakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development Goals** is a part of the preparatory process for the 6th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) in 2019, which

¹ ESCAP, *Inequality of Opportunity in Asia and the Pacific: Decent Work*, Social Development Working Paper Series, 2018/03 <http://www.unescap.org/resources/inequality-opportunity-asia-and-pacific-decent-work>

² ESCAP, *Inequality of Opportunity in Asia and the Pacific: Education*, Social Development Working Paper Series, 2018/03 <http://www.unescap.org/resources/inequality-opportunity-asia-and-pacific-education> and *Inequality of Opportunity in Asia and the Pacific: Clean Energy*, Social Development Working Paper Series, 2018/03 <http://www.unescap.org/resources/inequality-opportunity-asia-and-pacific-clean-energy>

³ <http://databank.worldbank.org> accessed on 9 February 2018 and CIA The world factbook <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2172rank.html> accessed 1 Feb 2018.

itself is one of the regional consultations towards High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2019. Thus, in line with the theme and focus of these Forums, the discussion in the North-East Asian Forum will place a special focus on 6 SDG Goals under the overall theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. The selected SDGs for review are quality education (Goal 4), decent work and economic growth (Goal 8), reduced inequalities (Goal 10), climate action (Goal 13), and peace and justice (Goal 16) as well as the means of implementation and partnership (Goal 17).

The Forum will bring together and connect key stakeholders from government, academia, civil society, the private sector, and international community in the North-East Asia, and discuss national and subregional perspective in people’s empowerment, inclusiveness and equality in achieving SDGs with particular focus on the selected goals (4, 8, 10, 13, 16), as well as assisting other countries to achieve SDGs (goal 17).

The Selected SDGs for In-Depth Review at HLPF 2019



Objectives

The main objective of the Forum is to enable an inclusive dialogue among multistakeholder groups in North-East Asia on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to reflect subregional perspectives into the relevant regional and global processes. To achieve this, the forum will:

1. Enhance awareness and understanding of the key challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in North-East Asia and the Regional Roadmap⁴ through sharing of experiences and knowledge.

⁴ The Regional Roadmap for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific identifies opportunities for regional cooperation on identified Means of Implementation, and thematic issues. The means of implementation include (a) Data and statistics, (b) Technology, (c) Finance, (d) Policy coherence, and (e) North-South, South-South, international and regional partnerships. The identified thematic issues are (a) Leaving no one behind, (b) Disaster risk reduction and resilience, (c) Climate change, (d) Management of natural resources, (e) Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda, and (f) Energy.

2. Provide national and subregional contexts and provide good practices on the theme and the cluster of goals under review at the HLPF and the APFSD 2019
3. Support capacity building for countries in the subregion ahead of their presentations in 2019, building on presentations from VNR countries at the HLPF

Intended Participants

1. Government experts, representatives of institutions in ESCAP member States responsible for various aspects of implementing the SDG in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2. VNR focal points and ESCAP focal points for sustainable development
3. Representatives of local government (mayors, representatives of the municipality)
4. Representatives of civil society organizations and private sector organizations
5. Representatives of regional and sub-regional organizations that support SDG implementation
6. Experts from think tanks and academia; and
7. Other stakeholders involved in SDG implementation at national, regional & global levels

Organization

The Forum will be conducted in English, and all documentation will be in English. Depending on the session focus, presentations may be delivered by resource persons and experts.

Expected outcome

The outcome of the Forum will consist of a summary of key topics and issues, as well as recommendations and presentations. The materials will be sent to participants and also be made available on the ESCAP Website.

Provisional agenda

1. Opening
2. Review of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the subregion
3. Review of selected Goals for HLPF 2019 in the subregion
4. Special session A - Review of Mongolia's experience in implementing the 2030 Agenda (*to be led by NDA and UNCT Mongolia*)
5. Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and inequality: perspectives from governments and multistakeholders
6. Special session B - Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and inequality: perspectives and roles of knowledge institutions' network (*to be led by SDSN*)
7. The way forward