

**Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals:
Meeting to identify Asia-Pacific regional and sub-regional priorities
Concept Note**

21-23 September 2015

United Nations Conference Center, Bangkok

Background

The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), established by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 46th session, is tasked with developing a global monitoring framework and a list of indicators. The IAEG has 22 member countries nominated to represent sub-regions across the globe. From Asia and the Pacific the following countries nominated through a process facilitated by the Bureau of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics with support from the secretariat, i.e. ESCAP Statistics Division:

Eastern Asia:	China
Central Asia:	Kyrgyz Republic
Oceania:	Fiji and Samoa
South-Eastern Asia:	Philippines
Southern Asia:	India

During the first meeting of the IAEG-SDGs on 1-2 June 2015 in New York, there was an expression of the need for holding thorough consultations with other countries in their respective subregions in order for the former to be able to carry out their role as IAEG-SDGs members which was highlighted in the conclusions of the first IAEG-SDGs meeting.¹ In the case of Asia and the Pacific, several countries approached ESCAP and the Bureau of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics to request for a regional consultation. This proposal was subsequently discussed by the Bureau of the ESCAP Committee on Statistics at their meeting on 13 July 2015. The present concept note is based on the guidance provided by the Bureau and exchanges with the IAEG member countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Objectives and Expected Outcomes of the Meeting

The objectives of the Asia-Pacific consultation are:

- (i) To clarify the IAEG-SDGs process to member States and agree on methods for providing future feedback to the IAEG-SDGs members from non-member countries;
- (ii) To facilitate an exchange among ESCAP member States on their priority issues for consideration as part of the global monitoring framework.

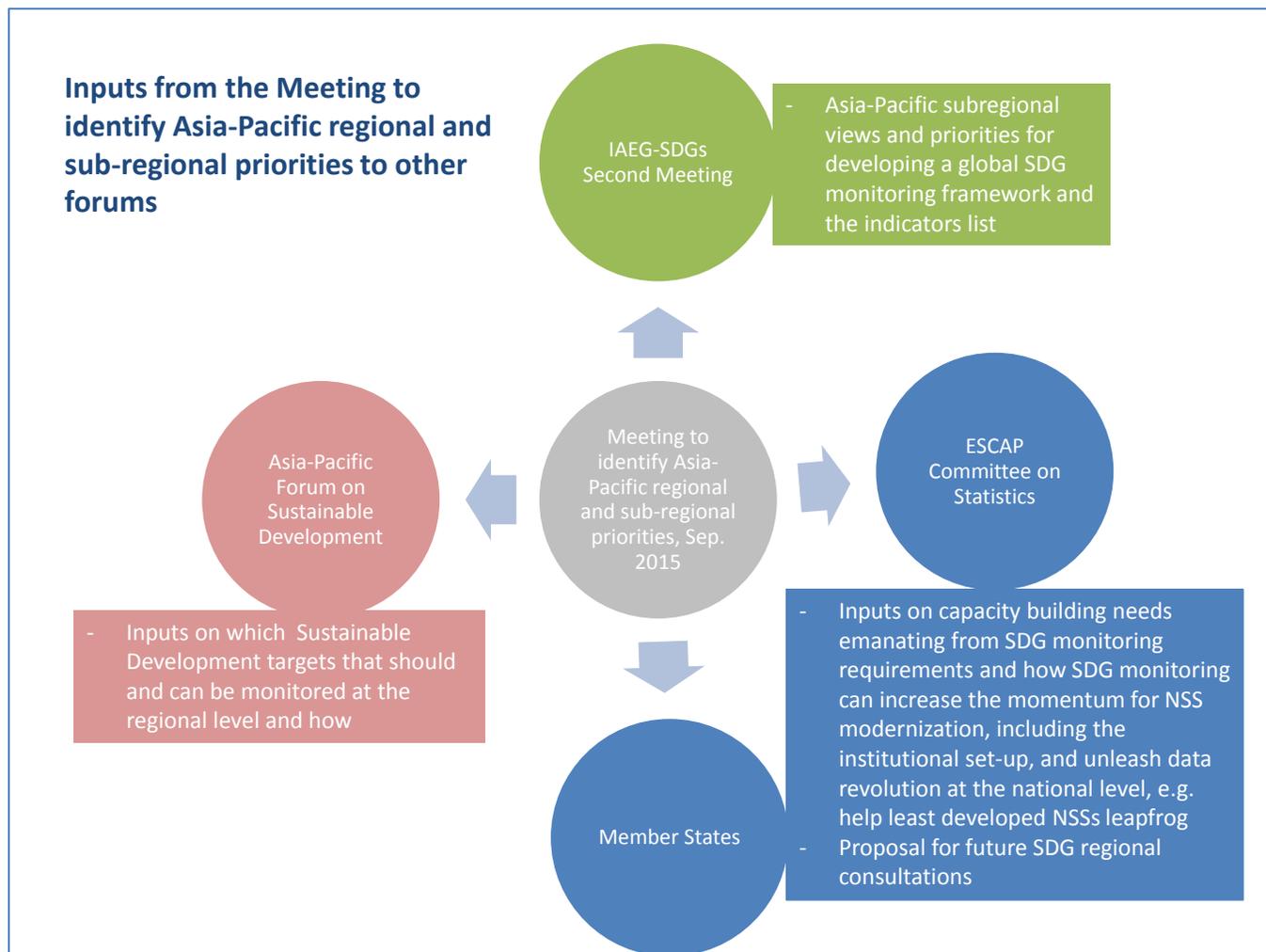
¹ The Report of the First Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goals can be accessed at <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/First%20meeting%20IAEG-SDGss%20-%20June%202015%20-%20Meeting%20report%20-%2024%20June%202015.pdf>

As a result of the meeting, Asia-Pacific countries are expected to:

1. Be informed on (i) the context and process for developing a global indicator framework and a list of indicators for monitoring SDGs; (ii) the criteria for selecting indicators; (iii) cross-cutting issues across goals and targets such as disaggregation and; (iv) possible monitoring arrangements so as to have an understanding of “who does what” to implement the global monitoring framework;
2. Formulate their inputs at the subregional level on the list of proposed indicators to be taken to the second meeting of the IAEG-SDGs which will take place on 26-28 October in Bangkok;
3. Identify key elements of developing an indicator framework to support regional monitoring and review of the SDGs;
4. Identify statistical capacity building requirements corresponding to SGDs monitoring;
5. Agree on modalities for providing inputs to the IAEG members in the future.

Beyond the contributions to the deliberations of the global IAEG-SDGs, the meeting is expected to produce inputs for the related regional forums; namely the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the ESCAP Committee on Statistics. The below diagram illustrates the interactions between the September meeting and the various bodies:

DIAGRAM: Linkages between the September meeting and other bodies



The outcomes of the meeting will be summarized in a report.

Documentation and substantive preparations

The background documents for the Regional Consultation will comprise the following:

1. Report of the first meeting of the IAEG-SDGs
2. Technical Notes on the cross-cutting technical, e.g. disaggregation
3. The latest available proposed SDG indicator list (to be updated by 21 September)

Participants

All member States are invited at the head-of-NSO level together with the regional IAEG-SDGs members. Development partners with relevant mandates and/or who are active in statistics in the region will be invited in their capacity as experts to respond to methodological and capacity building questions that may arise.

Format/tentative programme for the Consultation

The Consultation will be organized as a 3-day event where the first and last days will comprise regional-level presentations/discussions with subregional consultations to be held in parallel on the second day. For details, please see the draft annotated programme for the meeting.

Resource persons

The overall meeting will be chaired by the Chair of ESCAP Committee on Statistics, Ms Aisath Shahuda with support from other Bureau members.

Representatives of development partners are tasked with providing technical clarifications upon request from the countries and will be asked to attend various parallel subregional sessions according to the preliminary subregional priorities (presented as SDGs). They may also be called upon for facilitation of subregional discussions.

ESCAP Statistics Division will provide secretariat support throughout the meeting.
