

“North and Central Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”

27-28 September 2017, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Concept Note

Background and rationale

The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs embody the strategic vision and aspirations of all countries for the future of development and its implementation will require implementation action at the global, regional¹ and subregional levels, as indicated in General Assembly Resolution 70/1 on Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The “North and Central Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals” provides a unique opportunity to share perspectives on “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies” the theme of the next session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2018 and the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD).²

The forum will also discuss how social protection can serve as a key instrument towards sustainable and resilient societies and provide a solid foundation for the realization of the 2030 Agenda, by contributing to inclusive growth, countering social exclusion, promoting environmental sustainability and reducing poverty and inequalities.

The SDGs selected for in-depth review at HLPF 2018



The forum also provides an opportunity to discuss how the North and Central Asia subregion can cooperate to assess progress on the thematic SDGs for review by the HLPF in 2018, i.e. SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 11

¹ ESCAP resolution 72/6 on Committing to the Effective Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, calls upon member States to cooperate at the regional level in the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

² The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development is an inclusive regional intergovernmental forum which supports the preparations for the HLPF, discussing national and sub-regional perspectives and sharing good practices; providing perspectives for implementing the 2030 Agenda; and assessing progress and providing opportunities for peer learning related to the thematic goals of the HLPF. The ESCAP-ADB-UNDP has established a partnership to support the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Asia and the Pacific through knowledge products to strengthen regional follow-up and review and national implementation efforts. Under this partnership, an annual thematic report will support discussions at the APFSD and the HLPF, presenting regional perspectives.

on sustainable cities and communities, SDG12 on responsible consumption, SDG 15 on life on land and SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals.

In view of the ongoing process to develop a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and given historic highs of international migration that provides vital support to countries such as Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan for building sustainable and resilient societies, this Forum will provide a valuable opportunity to explore subregional perspectives on key issues and priorities to ensure that reduced inequality and migration contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Objectives

The subregional preparatory meeting will:

- Enhance awareness and understanding of the theme of the APFSD and related key challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through sharing of experience;
- Provide subregional perspectives and good practices on the cluster of goals under review at the HLPF in 2018;
- Provide subregional views on the 2018 Annual Thematic Report prepared jointly by ESCAP, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support discussions at the APFSD and the HLPF;
- Provide inputs to the preparatory process of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Participants

- Experts involved in national coordination of SDGs
- Non-government and private sector organizations
- Think tanks and academia
- Regional and sub-regional organizations and stakeholders involved in SDG implementation at national, regional and global levels.

Programme Outline

Timing	Session
27 Sept	
9.00-09.30	Opening Session <p>Opening Remarks by a representative from ESCAP Environment and Development Division and Head, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia</p> <p>Remarks from UNCT</p> <p>Remarks from ECE (TBC)</p>
09:30- 10:15	Session1: Global to regional and subregional context of follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda <p><i>The session's aim is to enhance awareness and understanding of the key challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region by sharing the results of regional and sub-regional level discussions. The Session will provide inputs to discussions on the road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.</i></p>
09:30- 09:45	Global to regional and sub-regional context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs: a road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific , Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, Sustainable Development Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
09:45- 10:00	Implementation of the SDGs at the sub regional level: the EAEU focus , Eurasian Economic Commission
10:00- 10:15	Q&A
10:15- 10:30	Coffee break
10:30-12:00	Session2: National progress, achievements and challenges with respect to the 2030 Agenda <p><i>The session will help reflect on how the regional and sub-regional processes can support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level.</i></p> <p><i>To strengthen the capacity of countries in the sub region considering making presentations at the HLPF 2018, the session will feature presentations from countries who have recently participated in the Voluntary National Reviews at the HLPF.</i></p>
10:30-10:45	Voluntary National Reviews and main messages from the 2017 reporting countries from Asia and the Pacific , Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, Sustainable Development Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
10:45-12:00	Voluntary National Reviews Roundtable
12.00-13.30	Lunch Break

Timing	Session
13.30-15.00	Country presentations
15.00-15.30	Coffee Break
15.30-16.00	Session3: Monitoring and measuring progress: Statistical data for Follow up and review
18.00-20.00	Reception dinner
28 Sept	
09.00-12.30	Session 4: North and Central Asian Perspectives on the 2018 HLPF theme
	<i>The session's aim is to gather inputs to the ESCAP-ADB-UNDP 2018 thematic report and the ESCAP Commission Theme Study in the form of priorities, good practices and initiatives (sub regional thematic profiles)</i>
09.00-09.15	ESCAP-UNDP-ADB Thematic Report 2018 "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies" , Ms. Hitomi Rankine, Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
09.15-09.30	Social protection as a means to achieving sustainable and resilient societies , Ms. Therese Bjork, Social Development Division, ESCAP
09.30-10.30	Working groups
10.30-10.45	Coffee Break
10.45-12.30	Working groups
12.30-14.00	Lunch Break
14.00-16.00	Session 5: North and Central Asian Perspectives on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
	<i>The session will aim to provide participants with an overview of the process of developing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and how North and Central Asian countries can participate in this process in line with their priorities, and stimulate a discussion to develop a list of key issues and priorities for North and Central Asia which can be presented to the ESCAP regional preparatory meeting for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration</i>
16.00-16.30	Coffee Break
16.30- 17.00	Session 6: Wrap up: Strengthening cooperation in North and Central Asia towards achieving the 2030 Agenda