

FOREWORD

The *Asia and the Pacific Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Progress Report 2019* assesses the region's progress towards the SDGs and the gaps which must be closed for these to be achieved by 2030. This assessment is designed to ensure the region's actions remain on target, shortcomings are addressed as they arise, and all interested parties remain engaged.

The report's findings are a call to action. On its current trajectory, Asia and the Pacific will not achieve any of the 17 SDGs by 2030. Accelerated progress is required on all fronts. Steps have been taken towards ending poverty (Goal 1), ensuring all have access to quality education and lifelong learning (Goal 4), and to delivering affordable and clean energy (Goal 7). Yet even in these areas, success can only be achieved by 2030 if progress is accelerated.

For many more Goals progress is stagnating. For three Goals negative trends must be reversed if we are to provide clean water and sanitation (Goal 6), ensure decent work and economic growth (Goal 8) and support responsible consumption and production (Goal 12). Urgent action is needed to strengthen environmental protection and combat climate change (Goal 13). The mismanagement of natural resources explains some of the most important gaps which need to be closed by 2030.

There are major differences between the subregions of Asia and the Pacific which have recorded different successes and face different challenges. Progress towards different Goals has been made by all subregions, but all subregions need to reverse negative trends. The lack of sufficient progress on strengthening global partnerships and means of implementing the 2030 Agenda (Goal 17) is something all subregions have in common. Progress towards this Goal is necessary to ensure our region has the means to finance, target and implement policy solutions to achieve all Goals. Today, all of Goal 17's underlying targets need to be accelerated.

Across all Goals and in all subregions, the lack of reliable data is one of Asia and the Pacific's biggest challenges. We have worked to incorporate significantly more SDG indicators than in our previous report and to provide more disaggregated data by age, sex and location. Data gaps nonetheless remain for two thirds



of global SDG indicators. With these challenges in mind, I hope this report will contribute to targeting our effort to accelerate progress towards all Goals and to strengthen the region's commitment to improving the quality of data and statistics essential to measuring progress. Our success in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development depends on it.

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