

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC****North and Central Asian Multi-Stakeholder Forum
on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals****21-22 August 2019, Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan****Background and rationale**

ESCAP resolution 73/1 states that Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) “may consider subregional perspectives on the themes addressed” by APFSD and “preparatory meetings of stakeholders may be convened, within existing resources”. In response, ESCAP has institutionalized the preparatory meetings under subprogramme 4 (environment and development) to feed subregional perspectives into APFSD.

Since 2017, ESCAP has organized two preparatory meetings, entitled North and Central Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (hereafter the Forum). The first Forum was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in 2017 and the second Forum was in Tbilisi, Georgia, in 2018.

The Forum provided an opportunity to discuss the current situation of implementation of the SDGs in the North and Central Asia countries and possible actions and solutions for the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda. Participants discussed, also, the regional and sub-regional follow-up and review mechanisms and the necessity to strengthen the regional dimension.

The outcomes of the Forum will contribute to the seventh APFSD, main platform for follow-up and review of the SDGs in the region, to be held in Bangkok on 25-27 March 2020.

Meeting objectives

The North and Central Asian Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals aims to foster deepened and shared understanding of member States and other stakeholders in North and Central Asia on cross-border challenges and ways forward to accelerate the balanced implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national and subregional level. Moreover, the results of this meeting will be used for the conceptual content of the seventh APFSD in 2020.

To achieve this, the meeting:

1. Discussed the 5-year implementation of the SDGs in North and Central Asia: Perspectives from the regional and global forum for sustainable development;
2. Shared national experiences in the SDGs implementation: voluntary national reviews, progresses and challenges;
3. Developed recommendations for accelerating progress towards SDGs;
4. Identified cross-border challenges in the implementation of the SDGs and unlocked the means of implementation to overcome these challenges.

Moreover, the sub-regional meeting provided an opportunity for identifying additional training and capacity building needs, including training materials and tools, i.e. on stakeholder engagement, SDG interlinkages and Follow-up and Review.

Participants

By invitation and in their individual expert capacity, the meeting was attended by:

1. 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 various United Nations Agencies, regional and sub-regional organizations that support SDG implementation; and
4. Experts from think tanks and academia.

At the Forum strong emphasis was placed on gender mainstreaming. Thus, among the participants of the Forum there was almost equal number of men and women (48% of men and 52% of women). Moreover, guided by the principle of Leaving No One Behind representatives of different vulnerable groups were invited and there were created the necessary conditions for people with disabilities.

Duration and venue

The meeting was held on 20-22 August 2019 at the Aurora Plus Hotel located in the Bulan Syagatu village, Issyk-Kul region, Kyrgyzstan.

Summary of proceedings

Opening session

In a video message to the forum participants Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP, highlighted three strategic policy directions that participants should pay special attention to: mobilize additional and targeted investment in areas such as social protection, universal health care, and cleaner energy and climate resilient infrastructure; focus on reversing existing trends in gender equality, and; emphasize the importance of sustainable cities and communities, along with other environmental risks, including air pollution.

The following panellists made remarks during this session, Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, Officer-in-Charge, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, ESCAP; Mr. Avtandil Alybaev, Deputy Minister of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic; Mr. Renat Agliullin, Counsellor on Economic Affairs, the Embassy of the Russia Federation in the Kyrgyz Republic; Mr. Vladimir Potapenko, Deputy Secretary General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization; Mr. Ozonnia Ojielo, United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, Officer-in-Charge, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, ESCAP, opened the Forum. He underscored the priorities identified at the Sixth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the 75th session of the United Nations Economic and social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in particular to strengthen cooperation in the priority areas identified in the Regional Road Map for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific; opportunities for collaborative learning, and; the need for harmonization the Regional road map with other

international, subregional and national processes, in particular those that can contribute to follow-up and review. Furthermore, the chairman noted the importance of the Workshop on Leaving No One Behind, held the day before the Forum, which stressed the importance of solving social problems in the region to achieve all SDGs.

Mr. Avtandil Alybaev, Deputy Minister of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic, welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of joint working since it is impossible to achieve all SDGs only by mobilizing domestic resources. The Deputy Minister highlighted the work carried out by the government on the implementation of the SDGs in state policy documents as well as building a national architecture for managing the process of achieving the SDGs. Moreover, he indicated that Kyrgyzstan will present a Voluntary National Review at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2020.

Mr. Renat Agliullin, Counsellor on Economic Affairs, the Embassy of the Russia Federation in the Kyrgyz Republic, shared the outcomes from the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum 2019, which showed that there are no unified recipes for achieving the SDGs. In this context, the importance of exchange of experience and best practices, especially at the regional and sub-regional sites of the United Nations, is greatly increased. Furthermore, an important component in achieving the SDGs and reducing the imbalance between countries is the ongoing work of ESCAP on the integrated development of information and communication, transport, energy, and trade within the Asian and Pacific region as well as on the Eurasia platform.

Mr. Vladimir Potapenko, Deputy Secretary General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, delivered the address from Mr. Vladimir Norov, the Secretary General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization. According to the address, despite some successful examples of SDGs implementation, the SCO member States are acutely faced with the problems of poverty reduction, inequality, climate change and environmental pollution. The SCO is firmly committed to cooperation in the interests of countries on a more inclusive and sustainable basis.

Mr. Ozonnia Ojielo, United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Kyrgyz Republic, was extremely delighted with the quality of the Forum participants, because engaging High-level Government officials, UN and intergovernmental organizations, civil societies, academia is a tremendously important step to achieve the SDG.

Session 1: Where North and Central Asia stands in the 5-year implementation of the SDGs? Perspectives from the regional and global forum for sustainable development

The following panellists made remarks during this session, Gemma Van Halderen, Director, Statistics Division, ESCAP; Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, Sustainable Development Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP and Ms. Gulnara Kadyrkulova, Head of Office UNFPA Almaty. The session was moderated by Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, Officer-in-Charge, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, ESCAP.

This session discussed the five-year progress made by the North and Central Asia countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the necessary further actions. So it was noted that today North and Central Asia has made progress to ensure quality education (SDG 4), clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), reduction inequality (SDG10), but regress in gender equality (SDG 5), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), sustainable urbanization (SDG 11). At the same time, the big challenge for the North and Central Asia countries is that the most of the available data are unreliable (only 36% sufficient data), in particular for SDGs 13, 14 and 15. The current situation on unreliable data has a negative impact on the study of progress towards the SDGs and building further steps to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, participants called for efforts to improve statistical database. At the same time, it is necessary to disaggregate statistical data in order to identify the most vulnerable groups, in this context, a very important tool is the census.

Moreover, it was highlighted that, along with the challenge of collecting reliable data, there is a gap in mobilizing all actors to achieve all SDGs. Therefore, at the Forum the importance of the followings were stressed: sharing experiences and best practices on regional and subregional platforms with the involvement of all stakeholders; National, regional and global follow-up and review processes; enhance capacity-building support for developing countries; “active support” by the United Nations system and other multilateral institutions.

Session 2: Enhancing Financing in support of SDGs for the North and Central Asia

The following panellists made remarks during this session, Mr. Ulukbek Usubaliev, Economic Affairs Officer, MPFD, ESCAP; Mr. Roman Mogilevskii, Associate Director and Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Public Policy and Administration and Mr. Leonid Efimov, the Eurasian Development Bank. The session was moderated by Mr. Ozonnia Ojielo, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kyrgyzstan.

This session was aimed at discussing one of the main issues needed to achieve the SDGs - Financing in the North and Central Asia countries. During the session, following key challenges on financing for development-related issues were identified: (a) weak economic diversification which reduces financial resources; (b) large required investment gap and its estimating issues; (c) limited public and private resources for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Panelists pointed out that countries need to improve the efficiency of state budget expenditures (prioritization) and efficient mobilization of public and private resources for the financing sustainable development in achieving the 2030 Agenda. In this context, key priorities were highlighted: (a) comprehensive financing strategies and integrated policy frameworks; (b) mobilization of domestic resources – increasing tax revenue through tax reforms and better administration, leveraging private finance through public-private partnerships (PPPs) and domestic capital markets development; (c) scale-up climate finance.

Session 3: Sharing national experiences in the implementation of the SDGs: voluntary national reviews, progresses and challenges

Representatives from the following member states acted as panellists, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan. This session was moderated by Mr. Emin Mammadov, Head of UN and Global Economic Organizations Division of the Economic Cooperation Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, and Mr. Mikheil Patashuri, Counsellor of Division for Multilateral and Regional Economic Cooperation, the Department of International Economic Relations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia.

Countries shared their experiences in preparing VNR and challenges to achieve the SDGs. During HLPF in 2020 Armenia and Georgia have committed to present a second VNR, while Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Uzbekistan will present for the first time.

Countries highlighted the importance of integrating the SDGs into national strategies and programs as well as harmonizing budget planning with SDG objectives and indicators. In this context, countries indicated gaps in statistic database, fragmented interaction of all interested parties, the need to nationalize methodologies on SDGs, insufficient funding for the necessary activities to achieve the SDGs.

It referred to the creation of knowledge-intensive and innovative platforms for all stakeholders in order to discuss and implement new approaches and methodology to achieve the SDGs. Representatives of the countries shared their experience in creating such platforms and their impact on the development of fundamental sectors of the economy, as well as public administration. Moreover, in order to build an innovative economy, the countries stressed the importance of the development of information technologies for the implementation of the

SDGs, which leads to accumulate available data and experience on projects, conduct analytical work, attract human and other capital, etc.

Session 4: Progress towards SDGs

The following panellists made remarks during the session, Mr. Bakhodur Eshonov, Expert; Mrs. Anastasiia Khazhgerieva, Consultant to the Economic Policy Strategies Section, the Department of Macroeconomic Policy, Eurasian Economic Commission. The session was moderated by Ms. Zhuldyz Pernebayeva, Director, the Department of Social Policy and State Entities' Development, the Ministry of National Economy of Kazakhstan.

Highlighting the importance of financing the SDGs, this session addressed the feasibility of existing and new drivers of economic growth in the North and Central Asia countries. Today countries have been adopting National Development Strategies with the implementation of the SDGs, which are ambitious and set high growth plans. The issues of revision of these strategies were discussed considering their natural resource dependence, experience of other countries (urbanization and industrialization), economic growth of neighboring countries.

In order to expand the assessment of the economy, the Inclusive Development Index was discussed. This approach is more comprehensive and allows countries to take into account not only traditional macroeconomic indicators, but also the welfare of the population and the quality of life. A composite index of inclusive growth in the EEC countries and its role in determining joint priorities of socio-economic development were considered.

Session 5: Cross-border challenges in the implementation of the SDGs and unlocking the means of implementation to overcome these challenges

The following panellists made remarks during the session, Mr. Talaibek Makeev, Expert; Batyr Mamedov, Head of Secretariat, Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development, and; Mr. Andrey Panteleev, Head of Economic Policy Strategies Section, the Department of Macroeconomic Policy, Eurasian Economic Commission. The session was moderated by Ms. Aliza Soltonbekova, Deputy Minister, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Kyrgyzstan.

This session addressed the main transboundary issues in the region: the use of water and land resources, ecosystems, infrastructures. Participants called for efforts to expand regional cooperation, including through the use of existing instruments. Regional economic integration contributes to the achievement of SDGs and becomes an additional tool for maintaining the quality and sustainable growth of countries. For example, monitoring the implementation of SDGs in the EEC has shown: progress in achieving the SDGs 8 and 9; identified problems in the low shares of world GDP, a high share of poverty; return on assets (SDG 10) is at an acceptable level, however, foreign investment is directed to short-term and urgent projects, which is associated with increased investment risk.

The forum participants suggested to systematize communication between intergovernmental groups and cross-border issues, to report on practical solutions and to plan these solutions in the following regional, subregional and international arenas.

Session 6: Interactive group exercise

Reports from each sub-groups were made by Ms. Gulnara Kadyrkulova, Head of Office UNFPA Almaty and Population and Development Specialist, Kazakhstan; Mr. Gevorg Mantashyan, Strategy Expert, Corporate and Public Management Consulting International, and; Ms. Zhanar Sagimbayeva, UNICEF Evaluation and Monitoring Specialist, UN RCO Uzbekistan. The session was moderated Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, Officer-in-Charge, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, ESCAP and Ms. Yulduz Abduganieva, Deputy Head, Consolidated Department of Demography, Labour Market and the Standard of Living of the People, the Ministry of Economy and Industry of Uzbekistan.

This session was a practical group exercise with consideration 4 themes: Leaving no one behind; Disaster risk reduction, resilience and climate change; Management of natural resources, energy; Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda. Participants were divided into 4 sub-groups to identify some of the key cross-border challenges in the implementation of the SDGs and discussed how the means of implementations in the Regional Road Map for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific can address these challenges.

In a group discussion, they discussed the above topics in detail with a review of best practices in countries, the participants conveyed their views on the expansion, in particular:

- the group “Leaving no one behind” identified the lack of data and capacity to identify most left behind and vulnerable groups and developed the following recommendations: analysis of vulnerable groups and public policy measures; situation analysis on internal and external migration processes; development of an integrated database system (secured) on social protection support; data disaggregation; revise the definition of “Poor” and establish the definition “Most Left behind”; state policies on protecting most vulnerable; review criteria of input workers engaged in shadow sector to economic development and introduce appropriate policy measures to social protection; engagement of private sector, especially in financing social projects;
- the groups “Disaster risk reduction, resilience and climate change” and “Management of natural resources, energy” pointed out the need to build capacity to conduct forecast data as well as access to water data in Central Asia; to increase funding in support of the SDGs for North and Central Asia, it is necessary to use opportunities of climate financing, including Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Fund, bilateral opportunities for development and implementation of projects/technologies; to implement advanced technologies focused on the development of the cycle in municipal development, industry and agriculture, diversification of energy sources, mutual energy supply; policy coherence on bilateral and multilateral agreements on integrated water resources management; gradual decision-making towards the depoliticization of water relations and their economic basis, including international obligations and national legislation on the safety of mining operations; to develop North-South and South-South for capacity building and pilot programs;
- in the group “Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda” considered the need to harmonize the legislation of the North and Central Asia countries; conduct joint geopolitical analyses; identify of joint priorities and interests in the region; take into account the best practices in the region during the development of national strategies and programmes; use and expand the activities of intergovernmental organizations.

Session 5: The way forward and closing

The session discussed the way forward, including the process leading to the APFSD and HLPF. The representative from Governments appreciated ESCAP for organizing the forum and said it helped member states to exchange experiences and lessons learned on promoting SDGs and also preparation of VNRs.

**Transcript of Video message by Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana,
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP**

21 August 2019

Excellencies, Distinguished participants,

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development places the principles of empowerment, inclusion and equality at the heart of our efforts.

Four years after its adoption, governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders have been making sustained efforts to address the challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Today, we are not yet on track to achieve any of the SDGs in the Asia-Pacific region. We must accelerate progress now.

In September this year, world leaders will gather at the United Nations headquarters in New York for the 74th Session of the General Assembly to take stock of the key global issues such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this context, the UN Secretary-General urged world leaders “to come to the September summits not with beautiful speeches, but with concrete actions, plans and commitments to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change”.

UN ESCAP analysis shows that on its current trajectory, the Asia-Pacific region will not achieve any of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Each one of us has a valuable contribution to make, and we must consider how to overcome the challenges still faced by our region. The North and Central Asia is a central part of that policy dialogue in making the progress on various SDGs.

I urge policymakers and stakeholders to act together to find sustainable solutions.

In North and Central Asia, countries are doing well in eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, and in providing quality education.

Moreover, the overall progress of this subregion is relatively better compared to other subregions of Asia and the Pacific in several SDGs: clean water and sanitation (Goal 6), reduced inequalities (Goal 10), responsible consumption and production (Goal 12), climate action (Goal 13), life below water (Goal 14) and peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16).

Yet, urgent action must be taken to reverse negative trends to achieve gender equality (Goal 5), support decent work and economic growth (Goal 8), and build sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11).

We must do more, and there are plenty of opportunities for the Governments in the North and Central Asia to accelerate progress.

To accelerate SDGs progress further, you may wish to consider three possible strategic policy issues:

First, mobilize additional and targeted investment in areas such as social protection, universal health care, and cleaner energy and climate resilient infrastructure.

Second, focus on reversing existing trends in gender equality.

Third, emphasize the importance of sustainable cities and communities, along with other environmental risks, including air pollution.

UN ESCAP is working closely with our member States from the North and Central Asia in supporting the SDGs policy designs and programmes.

Over the past several months, I had the good opportunity to meet the Presidents, Prime Ministers, Foreign Ministers, senior Ministers and officials from the North and Central Asia to explore further collaboration opportunities focused on SDGs and regional cooperation.

I am optimistic that our collaborative approach and partnerships with the Governments and stakeholders will bear large benefits to the people and societies.

Furthermore, I plan to strengthen deeper economic cooperation between North and Central Asia and the rest of the Asia-Pacific region that would boost economic growth and sustainable development.

Supporting improved and sustainable transport infrastructure and trade facilitation measures are also part our efforts to deliver on the promotion of the economic diversification and spur productivity growth.

UN ESCAP is equally committed in collaborating with other intergovernmental organizations such as the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The economies of the North and Central Asia have great potential to take the sustainable development agenda a step further.

We all need to be together in our efforts to fulfill the aspirations of our societies.

I am looking forward to hearing the outcome of this subregional SDGs forum, and to joining forces with all of you to accelerate this work to achieve to 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific.

I wish you a successful Forum.

Thank you.

Programme

Timing	Session
Day 1, Wednesday, 21 August 2019	
09:00 – 09:30	Registration of participants

9:30 – 10:00	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>Welcome remarks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov - Officer-in-Charge, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, ESCAP (5 min) <p>Video message from Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP</p> <p>Opening Remarks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Avtandil Alybaev, Deputy Minister of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic (5 min) - Mr. Renat Agliullin, Counsellor on Economic Affairs, the Embassy of Russia Federation in the Kyrgyz Republic (5 min) - Address from Mr. Vladimir Norov, the Secretary General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, delivered by Mr. Vladimir Potapenko, Deputy Secretary General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (5 min) - Mr. Ozonnia Ojielo, United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Kyrgyz Republic (5 min)
10:00 –10:20	<p>Group photo</p> <p>Coffee break</p>
10:20 – 11:30	<p>Session 1. Where North and Central Asia stands in the 5-year implementation of the SDGs? Perspectives from the regional and global forum for sustainable development</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov - Officer-in-Charge, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, ESCAP</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Where North and Central Asia stands in the implementation of the SDGs?: findings from recent ESCAP assessments” by Ms. Gemma Van Halderen – Director, Statistics Division, ESCAP (15 min) - “Outcomes of the sixth APFSD and the 2019 HLPF under ECOSOC” by Mr. Riccardo Mesiano - Sustainable Development Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP (15 min) - “Data needs for SDG monitoring” by Ms. Gulnara Kadyrkulova Head of Office UNFPA Almaty (15 min) <p>Plenary discussion</p>

11:30 – 13:00	<p>Session 2. Enhancing Financing in support of SDGs for the North and Central Asia</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Ozonnia Ojielo - United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kyrgyzstan <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Secretary-General’s strategy for financing the 2030 Agenda, and financing challenges and opportunities in North and Central Asia” by Mr. Ulukbek Usubaliev – Economic Affairs Officer, MPFD, ESCAP - “Public social spending in Central Asia” by Mr. Roman Mogilevskii – Associate Director and Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Public Policy and Administration - “Contribution of the Eurasian Development Bank to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Partnership between UN agencies and international financial institutions” by Mr. Leonid Efimov – the Eurasian Development Bank <p>Panel discussion</p> <p>Plenary discussion</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 14:15	<p>Session 3. Sharing national experiences in the implementation of the SDGs: voluntary national reviews, progresses and challenges</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Emin Mammadov - Head of UN and Global Economic Organizations Division of the Economic Cooperation Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan <p>Presentations by (15 min each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative of Armenia - Ms. Emma Harutyunyan - Representative of Azerbaijan - Mr. Vusal Garayev - Representative of Georgia - Mr. Mikheil Patashuri - Representative of Kazakhstan - Ms. Shakharbanu Zhakupova - Representative of Kyrgyzstan – Mr. Avtandil Alybaev
15:15 – 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 – 17:30	<p>Session 3 (cont.)</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Mikheil Patashuri - Counselor of Division for Multilateral and Regional Economic Cooperation, the Department of International Economic Relations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Georgia <p>Presentations by (15 min each):</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative of Russia - Mr. Dmitry Kulikov - Representative of Tajikistan - Mr. Khayom Eshonov - Representative of Turkmenistan - Ms. Sofiya Yuvshaneva - Representative of Uzbekistan - Ms. Yulduz Abduganieva <p>Plenary discussion</p>
Time	Session
Day 2, Thursday, 22 August 2019	
09:00 – 10:15	<p>Session 4. Progress towards SDGs</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Zhuldyz Pernebayeva – Director, the Department of Social Policy and State Entities’ Development, Kazakhstan <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Recommendations for accelerating progress towards SDGs for NCA” by Mr. Bakhodur Eshonov – Expert - “Approaches to inclusive economic growth assessment: EEC-UNCTAD joint research outcomes” by Mrs. Anastasiia Khazhgerieva- Consultant, Economic Policy Strategies Section, the Department of Macroeconomic Policy, Eurasian Economic Commission <p>Plenary discussion</p>
10:15 –10:30	Coffee break
10:30 –12:00	<p>Session 5. Cross-border challenges in the implementation of the SDGs and unlocking the means of implementation to overcome these challenges</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Aliza Soltonbekova - Deputy Minister, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Kyrgyzstan <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Key cross-border challenges in the region” by Mr. Talaibek Makeev – Expert - “Regional initiatives to achieve the SDGs” by Mr. Batyr Mamedov - Head of Secretariat, Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development - “SDGs achievement in Eurasian Economic Union: assessments and opportunities” by Mr. Andrey Panteleev, Head of Economic Policy Strategies Section, the Department of Macroeconomic Policy, Eurasian Economic Commission <p>Plenary discussion</p>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch break

13:00 – 14:15	<p>Session 6. Interactive group exercise</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov - Officer-in-Charge, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, ESCAP</p> <p>Description of Interactive group exercise Divide participants into 4 sub-groups to identify some of the key cross-border challenges in the implementation of the SDGs and discuss how the means of implementations in <i>the Regional Road Map for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific</i> can address these challenges.</p> <p>Themes for 4 sub-groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>Leaving no one behind</u> – led and facilitated by Mr. Pedro Pablo Villanueva, UNFPA Representative in Uzbekistan and Country Director for Tajikistan, and Ms. Gulnara Kadyrkulova, Head of Office UNFPA Almaty 2) <u>Disaster Risk Reduction, Resilience and Climate Change</u> - led and facilitated by Ms. Ekaterina Perfilyeva, SDGs Specialist, UN RCO in Kyrgyzstan 3) <u>Management of Natural Resources, Energy</u> - led and facilitated by Mr. Talaibek Makeev, Expert 4) <u>Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda</u> - led and facilitated by Mr. Bakhodur Eshonov, Independent Consultant <p>Also, each group should consider proposals to unlock the Means of Implementation to overcome the cross-border challenges in the implementation of the SDGs.</p>
14:15 – 14:30	Coffee break
14:30 – 16:30	<p>Session 6 (cont.)</p> <p>Moderator: - Ms. Yulduz Abduganieva - Deputy Head, Consolidated Department of Demography, Labour Market and the Standard of Living of the People, the Ministry of Economy and Industry, Uzbekistan</p> <p>Reports of 4 sub-groups (presentation and discussion) (15 min each)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>Leaving no one behind</u> by Ms. Gulnara Kadyrkulova, Head of Office UNFPA, Almaty and Population and Development Specialist, Kazakhstan 2) <u>Disaster Risk Reduction, Resilience and Climate Change</u> by Ms. Ekaterina Perfilyeva, SDGs Specialist, UN RCO in Kyrgyzstan 3) <u>Management of Natural Resources, Energy</u> by Mr. Talaibek Makeev, Expert 4) <u>Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda</u> by Mr. Bakhodur Eshonov, Independent Consultant <p>Plenary discussion</p>

16:30 – 17:00	Closing session Closing remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov - Officer-in-Charge, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, ESCAP – Mr. Avtandil Alybaev - Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan
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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#	Name	Title
	Armenia	
	Ms. Diana Martirosova	Adviser to the President, Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia
	Ms. Astghik Minasyan	Head, Social Assistance Department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
	Ms. Emma Harutyunyan	Attaché, Department of Multilateral Policy and Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia
	Mr. Babken Der Grigorian	Country Economist, UN RCO, Armenia
	Mr. Gevorg Mantashyan	Strategy Expert, Corporate and Public Management Consulting International
	Azerbaijan	
	Mr. Vusal Garayev	Head of Sustainable Development Issues Division of the Sustainable Development and Social Policy Department, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Secretariat of National Coordination on Sustainable Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan
	Mr. Emin Mammadov	Head of UN and Global Economic Organizations Division of the Economic Cooperation Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
	Mr. Parviz Safarov	Deputy Head, Social Security Policy Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan

	Mr. Arif Ibishov	Deputy Head, Unit of Sustainable Development Statistics, State Committee on Statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan
	Georgia	
	Ms. Lia Dzebisauri	Deputy Executive Director at National Statistics Office of Georgia
	Mr. Mikheil Patashuri	Counselor of Division for Multilateral and Regional Economic Cooperation of the Department of International Economic Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia
	Kazakhstan	
	Ms. Shakhbanu Zhakupova	Deputy Chairman of the Board, JSC “Economic Research Institute”, Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
	Ms. Zhuldyz Pernebayeva	Director of the Department of Social Policy and State Entities’ Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan
	Ms. Gulzira Yerbolova	Senior Expert of the Department of Social Policy and Development of State Bodies, Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
	Ms. Natalia Novokshanova	Leading Expert, Center for Strategic Developments and Sustainable Development, JSC "Economic Research Institute", Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
	Ms. Lyazzat Kaltayeva	Chairperson, Association of Women with Disabilities “Shyrak”
	Ms. Inkara Mukatova	Program Coordinator, ARGO Civil Society Development Association
	Ms. Dina Khasanova	Coordination Analyst, RC Office in Kazakhstan
	Ms. Gulnara Kadyrkulova	Head of Office UNFPA Almaty and Population and Development Specialist, Kazakhstan
	Mr. Oleg Chestnov	Head of WHO office in Kazakhstan
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