

South Asia Forum on Sustainable Development Goals

Subregional preparatory meeting for the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) New Delhi, 4-5 October 2018

Silver Oak, India Habitat Centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003

Programme

Day 1: 4 October 2018	
9:00-09.45	Registration and Tea/Coffee
Inaugural Session	
09.45- 10.45	<p>Session 1: Setting the scene</p> <p><i>The objective of the opening session is to reflect on the current situation of the subregion in terms of assessment of progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This will help in setting the context for the subsequent discussions and enhance awareness and understanding of the key challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the subregion.</i></p> <p>Opening Remarks (5 minutes each):</p> <p>Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director & Head, UNESCAP South and South West Asia Office (UNESCAP-SSWA)</p> <p>Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)</p> <p>Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, United Nations Resident Coordinator, India</p> <p>Keynote Address: H.E. Dr. Puspa Raj Kadel, Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission, Nepal</p> <p>Inaugural Address: H.E. Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, India</p>
10.45-11.15	Group Photo and Tea/Coffee Break
11.15-13.30	<p>Session 2: Review of progress and achievements in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in South Asia</p> <p><i>The aim of this session is take stock of where South Asian countries are in terms of achieving SDGs and to identify emerging issues/challenges and ways to generate transformative pathways for their achievement. Speakers will provide their national perspectives to bear on approaches and prospects to meeting the 2030 Agenda, indicate what they see as priorities needing urgent consideration and outline the strategies and mechanisms adopted. The session will feature interventions from VNR countries who have made presentations at the HLPF in the past years and those making presentations in 2019.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Amb. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Chairman, SAWTEE Centre for SDGs, Kathmandu and former UN Undersecretary General</p>

	<p><i>Presentations by Country Representatives (7 minutes each):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Nabi Sroosh, Director General of Policy and RBM, Ministry of Economy, Afghanistan • Mr. Mohd. Mizanur Rahman, Dy. Secretary, ERD, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh • Mrs. Sonam Tshoki, Program Coordinator, Development Cooperation Division, Gross National Happiness Commission, Bhutan • Mr. Samir Kumar, Joint Secretary, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Govt. of India, and Ms. Sanyukta Samaddar, OSD, NITI Aayog, India • Ms. Saadh Aishath, Dy Director-General, Ministry of Environment & Energy, Maldives • Mr. Khomraj Koirala, Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission, Nepal • Mr. Ilyas Mehmood Nizami, Counsellor, High Commission for Pakistan, New Delhi • Ms. Thilini Nimesha Mendis, Assistant Director-General, Department of Planning, Sri Lanka <p><i>Statement on behalf of South Asian CSOs: Ms. Shaila Shahid</i>, Senior Programme Coordinator – Gender and Climate Change, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), Bangladesh</p> <p>Open discussion</p>
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30- 15.45	<p>Session 3: Review of selected Goals for HLPF 2019 in South Asia</p> <p><i>The session will provide subregional perspectives on the cluster of goals under review in 2019 in the form of 5 break-out groups. The convenors of the respective working groups will introduce the Goals and targets and the key challenges faced by the subregion in achieving them, followed by brief remarks by a few key panelists. This will be followed by open discussion with all participants in respective groups. The working groups will report to the plenary session through their convenors.</i></p> <p><u>SDG 4:</u> “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”</p> <p><i>Convenor: Dr. N. Saravana Kumar</i>, Joint Secretary (ICC), Ministry of Human Resource Development, India</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Shailendra Sigdel, Statistical Advisor for South Asia, UNESCO, India • Mr. Ramakant Rai, Convenor, National Coalition for Education (NCE), India • Ms. Thilini Nimesha Mendis, Assistant Director-General, Department of Planning, Sri Lanka • Ms. Noopur, Executive Director, National Coalition for Education (NCE), India <p>Open discussion</p> <p><u>SDG 8:</u> “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”</p> <p><i>Convenor: H.E. Prof. Bishwambher Pyakuryal</i>, Founder, Institute for Strategic and Socio-Economic Research (ISSR), Kathmandu and Ambassador of Nepal in Sri Lanka</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, SANEM, Dhaka • Ms. Meenu Vadera, Executive Director, Azad Foundation, New Delhi

	<p><i>Open discussion</i></p> <p><i>SDG 10: “Reduce inequality within and among countries”</i> <i>Convenor: Dr. Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow, CPD, Dhaka</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Amitabh Behar, CEO, Oxfam India • Ms. B. Chinthani, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka • Ms. Beena Pallical, National Coordinator- Campaigns, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR), New Delhi <p><i>Open discussion</i></p> <p><i>SDG 13: “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”</i> <i>Convenor: Mr. Sonam P. Wangdi, Secretary, National Environment Commission, Bhutan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Abid Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI and Member, Prime Minister’s Economic Advisory Council, Pakistan • Mr. Anil Kumar Jain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India • Ms. Hanieh Moghani, Senior Legal Advisor, CENESTA, Iran <p><i>Open discussion</i></p> <p><i>SDG 16: “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”</i> <i>Convenor: Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Chairman, SAWTEE, Kathmandu</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Nupur Sinha, Executive Director, Centre for Social Justice, Ahmedabad • Ms. Jyotsna Mohan, Regional Coordinator, Asia Development Alliance, India • Mr. Trinanjan Radhakrishnan, Project Coordinator- Sustainable Development, Oxfam India <p><i>Open discussion</i></p>
15:45 - 16:00	Tea/Coffee Break
16:00 – 17:30	<p>Session 4: Plenary- Review of selected Goals for HLPF 2019 in South Asia: Reporting by the Working Groups and the Way Forward</p> <p><i>The session will provide sub-regional perspectives on the cluster of goals under review in 2019, by the convenors on the respective Working Groups.</i></p> <p><i>Chair: Ms. Rina Ray</i>, Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development (tbc)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Prof. Amitabh Kundu</i>, Distinguished Fellow, RIS</p> <p>Reporting on Working Groups by Convenors</p> <p><i>SDG 4 “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”</i></p> <p><i>SDG 8: “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all” and</i></p> <p><i>SDG 10: “Reduce inequality within and among countries”</i></p> <p><i>SDG 13 “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”</i></p> <p><i>SDG 16 “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”</i></p>

	<p>Panel Discussion on the way forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka • Dr. Ashok Jain, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Telengana, and Formerly Adviser, NITI Aayog <p>Open discussion</p>
Day 2: 5 October 2018	
09.45 – 11.15	<p>Session 5: Subregional perspectives on the 2019 APFSD and HLPF theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”</p> <p><i>This session will gather inputs on the theme of the 2019 APFSD and HLPF in the form of priorities, good practices and initiatives (subregional thematic profiles). Recognizing the intricate and reinforcing relationship between empowerment, inclusion and equality, the key elements of discussion will include rights and justice, norms and practices, participation and voice, and resources and capabilities.</i></p> <p>Chair: Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, DG-RIS</p> <p>Presentation: Mr. Bishwa Nath Tiwari, Programme Specialist – HDR, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub, United Nations Development Programme</p> <p><i>Panelists/ discussants (5 minutes each)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow, CPD, Dhaka • H.E. Prof. Bishwambher Pyakuryal, Founder Institute for Strategic and Socio-Economic Research (ISSR) Kathmandu and Ambassador of Nepal in Sri Lanka • Shri V.K. Pipersenia, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Assam • Mr. Pradeep Baisakh, Asia Coordinator, Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), India • Ms. Annie Namala, Executive Director, Centre for Social Equity and Inclusion and Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA) <p>Open discussion</p>
11:15– 11.30	Tea/Coffee Break
11.30 – 13:00	<p>Session 6: Means of implementation of SDGs in South Asia: Identifying key gaps in finance, technology, and capacity-building (SDG 17)</p> <p><i>The session will discuss key challenges and opportunities for strengthening global partnerships and enhancing the means of implementation for achieving the SDGs in South Asia. Specific emphasis will be placed on exploring potential mechanisms and innovations in mobilizing resources for the SDGs, including: (i) public and private sources of finance, at both domestic and international levels; (ii) sharing of good practices and experiences in scaling up technology solutions; (iii) significance of South-South and triangular cooperation for building capacities and investment for SDG implementation; (iv) existing and emerging challenges in the international trade and financial system and policy actions needed to overcome them.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Abid Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad and Member, Prime Minister’s Economic Advisory Council, Pakistan</p> <p>Keynote: Dr. Rathin Roy, Director, National Institute of Public Finance & Policy, New Delhi</p>

	<p><i>Panelists (5 mins each):</i></p> <p>Amb. Gyan Chand Acharya, Chairman, SAWTEE Centre for SDGs, Kathmandu and former UN Undersecretary General</p> <p>Mr. Sonam P. Wangdi, Secretary, National Environment Commission, Bhutan</p> <p>Dr. Sadhana Relia, Head, International cooperation (Multilateral / Regional), Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, India</p> <p>Mr. Nazir Kabiri, Senior Adviser to the Finance Minister, Afghanistan</p> <p>Mr. James Mathew, Dy. Director General, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India</p> <p>Ms. Sweta Saxena, Chief (MPAS), Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Open discussion</p>
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.15	<p>Session 7: Means of implementation of SDGs in South Asia: Indicators, data, statistics and follow-up and review (SDG 17)</p> <p><i>This session will discuss the importance of statistics and data to support the implementation of SDGs and assess the statistical capacity preparedness and monitoring frameworks needed to strengthen national statistical systems. It will explore the challenges faced by countries in South Asia in addressing the data needs of the 2030 agenda and highlight opportunities for innovations in harnessing the power of new data sources.</i></p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Mr. K.V. Eapen, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, India</p> <p><i>Keynote:</i> Prof. T.C.A. Anant, Delhi School of Economics and former Chief Statistician and Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India</p> <p><i>Panelists (5 mins each):</i></p> <p>Mr. Siddhartha Kundu, Director, Social Statistics Division, Central Statistics Office, MOSPI, India</p> <p>Ms. D.D.G.A. Senevirathne, Director (Statistics), Department of Census & Statistics, Sri Lanka</p> <p>Dr. Rashmi Agrawal, Evaluation Community of India, New Delhi</p> <p>Mr. Ajay K. Jha, Director, CECOEDECON</p> <p>Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, Sustainable Development Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Open discussion</p>
15.15-15.30	Tea/Coffee Break
15.30-16.45	<p>Session 8: Regional cooperation for accelerating achievement towards the SDGs</p> <p><i>This session will discuss how regional/ subregional cooperation and coordination can support and complement the effectiveness of national mechanisms for achieving the SDGs in South Asia, also highlighting the importance of inclusive and effective multi-stakeholder partnerships. It will explore trends of regional, subregional and South-South and triangular cooperation evolving in support of the 2030 Agenda and discuss how regional commissions like UNESCAP and the United Nations Development System better support countries in South Asia in the achievement of SDGs.</i></p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director, UNESCAP-SSWA</p>

	<p><i>Keynote:</i> Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Abid Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI and Member, Prime Minister’s Economic Advisory Council, Pakistan Mr. Dadhi Ram Bhandari, Director, SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu Mr. Daya Sagar Shrestha, Executive Director, NGO Federation of Nepal Mr. Samiuddin Ahmed, UNV, ESCAP <p>Open discussion</p>
16.45-17.15	<p>Wrap up and closing session: The way forward</p> <p><i>This last session will discuss the way forward, including the process leading to the APFSD and HLPF, consolidating subregional inputs for the APFSD 2019 and concluding remarks by the organizers.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Sanyukta Samaddar, OSD, NITI Aayog, India • Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, Research System for Developing Countries (RIS) • Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director, UNESCAP-SSWA