

ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2017

"Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing Asia-Pacific"

29-31 March 2017 | UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE CENTRE . BANGKOK, THAILAND

SIDE EVENT

Regional Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific for SDG Implementation in Developing and Least Developed Countries

Venue: Room A, UNCC, Meeting Room

Date: 31 March 2017

Time: 13:15 – 14:30

Organizers: Ministry of Wildlife and Sustainable Development, Sri Lanka, and the Asia-Pacific CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM)

Background

The overall theme of the fourth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development is "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing Asia-Pacific." The Forum will engage Member States, United Nations and other institutions, major groups and other stakeholders in a dialogue on regional priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific. It will address scientific and technological innovation for sustainable development and focus attention on poverty eradication whilst fostering prosperity, through a discussion on achieving SDG 1 in the region.

Special sessions will also be held based on the High-level Political Forum 2017 cluster of SDGs, focusing on Global Partnership on Sustainable Development Data, and on the implementation of SDGs 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere); 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture); 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages); 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls); 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation); and 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development), as well as Goal 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development), which is to be considered each year¹.

Scope

While talks on global cooperation are going on, the regional space has become increasingly important. The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) mandates regional cooperation and dialogue. This can be for sharing experiences, cross-learning but also for active cooperation on garnering critical ways and means

¹ In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/299 "Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level"

of implementation. This is of special interest to developing and least developed countries in the region, which need the active support of their neighbours in this effort. They also need to form alliances to elicit better support and cooperation from their developed partners. North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation has been underlined as a critical element of the Means of Implementation in the 2030 Agenda.

The UN-ESCAP in the region is tasked with facilitation of implementation of the SDGs. UN-ESCAP is now mandated to host the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), the regional forum under the aegis of the HLPF, every year. Critical discussions on regional cooperation on implementation of the 2030 Agenda are going on here. Currently a regional roadmap that could potentially offer regional support for harnessing crucial means of implementation is being discussed.

While the process is driven by member states, civil society organisations, by the very nature of their work, are key partners in this effort. CSOs have supported and engaged with the 2030 Agenda at national, regional and global levels, right from its start. The experience and expertise of CSOs in the region spans a wide gamut; from strong grass-root knowledge to technical expertise on key development policy issues.

This side event intends to support & facilitate a discussion on regional cooperation on key instruments for the delivery of SDGs in developing and least developed countries in the region. The dialogue aims to bring the expertise of CSOs to contribute to the discussion on joint cooperation between developed, developing and LDC governments with the objective to explore how critical regional cooperation tools in a number of areas such as technology, trade, and global governance, can be used the most effectively, through the Regional Roadmap and other regional processes, to provide developing and least developed countries active support towards achieving true sustainable development in their countries.

Key Questions

The key questions to be discussed in this side event are:

- Which means of implementation (MOI) are essential for and may be barriers to the implementation of the SDGs for developing and least developed countries in the Asia-Pacific?
- How can regional cooperation be better organized to facilitate the delivery of such MOI?
- Which regional platforms can best facilitate such cooperation?

Tentative programme

Panelists/discussants

Moderator: *Dr. Joan Carling, Tebtebba Foundation, Philippines*

Opening Remarks: *Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, Sri Lanka*

CSOs:

Elenita Dano, Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC Group)

Kate Lappin, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)

Ranja Sengupta, Third World Network (TWN)

Response from Member States:

Uchita De Zoysa, Chief Negotiator, Government of Sri Lanka

Pita Tagicakirewa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Fiji

Kabir Ahmed, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh

Proposed programme

1. Opening & Introduction by Moderator (5 mins)
2. Opening Remarks (7 minutes)
3. Panelist interventions (5 mins each; total 30 minutes)
4. Q&A and discussion (28 mins)
5. Key messages and closing (5 mins)

For more details and information contact:

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