

ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2018

“Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in Asia and the Pacific”

28-30 March 2018 | UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE CENTRE . BANGKOK, THAILAND

Background

ESCAP resolution 72/6 ‘Committing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific’ requests the Executive Secretary to “strengthen support to member States in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda in an integrated approach, inter alia, with analytical products, technical services and capacity-building initiatives through knowledge-sharing products and platforms, and to enhance data and statistical capacities”; to “promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and provide annual updates and recommendations to member States, including through the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development”; and to “continue to provide capacity-building opportunities to member States, leveraging existing expertise and its intergovernmental forum to contribute to the strengthening of their capacity, including through support for mainstreaming financing for development issues in areas such as domestic resource mobilization, as well as through support for their efforts in developing integrated approaches, models and tools in enhancing their regional cooperation on the Sustainable Development Goals with a special emphasis on the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States”.

In addition, Member States, in the fourth session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) adopted “The form and function of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development” E/ESCAP/FSD (4)/INF/7 which specifies that the APFSD “is an annual, inclusive intergovernmental forum. It supports preparations for the High-level Political Forum for sustainable development in the context of both the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly”.

“The form and function of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development” E/ESCAP/FSD (4)/INF/7 adds that the APFSD “may consider sub regional perspectives on the themes addressed by the Forum. Preparatory meetings of stakeholders may be convened, within existing resources”.

In response to this, ESCAP has held a series of 5 preparatory meetings for the 5th Session of the APFSD in ESCAP sub-regions. During the 2 days meetings, the Environment and Development Division (EDD) of ESCAP, in cooperation with the East and North East Asia (ENEA) sub regional office, the South and South West Asia (SSWA) sub regional office, the North and Central Asia (SONCA) sub regional office and the Pacific (EPO) sub regional office, has facilitated dialogue among experts, public servants, researchers and other stakeholders on the theme of the 5th APFSD “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”.

These preparatory meetings were a unique opportunity to bring together stakeholders from government, academia, the international community, civil society and the private sector: (1) for knowledge sharing and awareness raising on the key challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; (2) the opportunity to complement the sub-regional agenda and provide sub regional inputs and perspectives for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for the Road Map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (3) the opportunity to provide reflections and sub-regional inputs on the theme of the 2018 APFSD and HLPF Transformation towards

sustainable and resilient societies (4) the opportunity to pilot innovative approaches and trainings to stakeholders engagement and follow up and review.

The sub-regional preparatory meetings involved civil society (including through the APRCEM and sub regional focal points) and the wider UN system.

Meeting Objectives

The main objective of the sub regional preparatory meetings was to ensure that sub regional perspectives regarding ESCAPS's work on supporting the follow up and review of the 2030 agenda in the Asia-Pacific are well reflected in all analytical and normative work of the Secretariat. To achieve this the sub regional preparatory meeting aimed to:

1. Enhance awareness and understanding of the key challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in North-East Asia through sharing of experiences and knowledge.
2. Discuss how the Regional Roadmap for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific can support national and subregional efforts¹
3. Provide reflections on theme of the HLPF and the APFSD for 2018 ²
4. Discuss multilateral and multistakeholder cooperation for strengthening subregional follow up and review, including on the cluster of goals for in-depth review in 2018.

Moreover, the sub-regional meeting provided an opportunity:

- To pilot an innovative approach and training to stakeholder engagement;
- To organize back to back opportunities for bilateral country support in preparation of the VNR

List of Meetings

- **North and Central Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**
Almaty, 27-28 September 2017
- **North-East Asian Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**
Beijing, 10-11 October 2017
- **South-East Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**
Bangkok, 18-19 October 2017
- **South and South-West Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**
Kathmandu, 1 - 2 November 2017
- **Pacific Workshop on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**
Apia, 1 – 2 November 2017

¹ The Roadmap identifies opportunities for regional cooperation on identified Means of Implementation, and thematic issues. The means of implementation include (a) Data and statistics, (b) Technology, (c) Finance, (d) Policy coherence, and (e) North-South, South-South, international and regional partnerships. The identified thematic issues are (a) Leaving no one behind, (b) Disaster risk reduction and resilience, (c) Climate change, (d) Management of natural resources, (e) Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda, and (f) Energy.

² ESCAP, ADB and UNDP, under an SDG partnership with, jointly prepare a regional report to support regional and global dialogue on the theme of the APFSD.

Main messages

The main messages of the sub-regional preparatory meetings can be extrapolated, in particular, by the discussions around the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the VNR preparations and by the discussions around the theme of the APFSD

I. SDG status in Asia and the Pacific

The Asia-Pacific region has made significant progress in one third of the Goal areas. In respect to Goal 1 (No poverty), between the periods 2000–2004 and 2010–2013, the proportion of the population living in poverty decreased from 29.7 to 10.3 per cent. For Goal 4 (Quality education), in 2014 primary net enrolment was more than 90 per cent, with the fastest observable progress in South and South-West Asia, where between 1999 and 2000 primary net enrolment increased from 75 to 90 per cent. As regards Goal 8 (Decent work and economic growth), Asia and the Pacific has outpaced the world as a whole in terms of economic productivity. In respect to Goal 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), between 2000 and 2015, manufacturing as a proportion of value added grew by 30 per cent in the Asia-Pacific region, compared with only 10 per cent for the world as a whole. For Goal 14 (Life below water), between 2000 and 2016, on average across the region the proportion of the total territorial waters under protection increased from approximately 8 to 31 per cent at the country level.

Progress has been slow or even stagnant since 2000 with respect to Goal 2 (Zero hunger), as reflected by the fact that, in 2015, of the world's 795 million undernourished people, nearly 500 million lived in the Asia-Pacific region. Regarding Goal 3 (Good health and well-being), in 2015, 86,000 women in the region died from pregnancy- and birth-related causes (28 per cent of the global total). As regards Goal 5 (Gender equality), in 2015, only approximately 18 per cent of seats in national parliaments in Asia-Pacific countries were held by women. Data on Goal 6 (Clean water and sanitation) are a worrying cause of concern as, for example, 59 per cent of people in South and South-West Asia are still exposed to poor sanitation. Assessment of progress on Goal 7 (Affordable and clean energy) shows that over 400 million people in the Asia-Pacific region still have no access to electricity. In respect to Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), between 2003 and 2014, the prison population in Asia and the Pacific grew from 3.2 million to 3.4 million.

For several Goals, the scenario has worsened over the past 15 years. This is true especially for the Goals that were not addressed by the Millennium Development Goals. Stronger efforts need to be pursued with respect to Sustainable Development Goal 10 (Reduced inequalities). Inequality has increased in seven countries, affecting 2.75 billion people, and decreased in 14 countries, affecting 1 billion people. Regarding Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), over the period 2008–2013, of the 24 Asia-Pacific countries that had data on the concentration of dangerous fine particulate matter, of 2.5 micrometres in diameter or less, only Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Maldives and New Zealand were under the level of 10 micrograms per cubic metre of air that is recommended by the World Health Organization. Data relating to Goal 12 (Responsible consumption and production) indicate unsustainability of current practices: between 2005 and 2015, the total material footprint more than doubled, from 27 billion to 46 billion tons. In respect to Goal 15 (Life on land), between 2000 to 2016, 48 out of 57 Asia-Pacific countries experienced a loss in biodiversity.

II. Sub regional perspectives on the theme of the APFSD

The theme of the 2018 APFSD is “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”. The Forum is meant to discuss resilience in the context of the 2030 Agenda as the ability of human systems

to withstand and recover from plausible hazards. Such hazards can include a wide spectrum of impacts of natural, economic and human-made crises, from droughts that endanger food security to financial instability and demographic shifts that amplify poverty. The region has several successful examples of demonstrating or strengthening resilience to risks related to economic, social and environmental dimensions that provide scope for mutual learning and exchanging of lessons within the region around the theme of resilience.

After studying the systemic role of resilience, and before giving recommendations we present the results of a qualitative consultation that was facilitated by ESCAP at the sub regional level to understand better how governments and other stakeholders are anticipating and dealing with risks. These findings are combined with the results of the analytical work to give specific recommendations.

Between 26 September 2017 and 2 November 2017, ESCAP facilitated multi-stakeholder sub-regional consultations in all 5 sub-regions on emerging risks faced, and how governments and other stakeholders are anticipating and dealing with risks. Over 250 participants representing the government, civil society, academia, business sectors and development agents attended the consultations.

Interesting dynamics and interactions emerged. The drivers that were selected by stakeholders for discussion and the exact nature of risk that were identified, though differed across sub-regions, carry many commonalities. This suggests that there is great scope for mutual learning within the region for promoting resilience. Secondly, irrespective of the megatrends chosen, stakeholders highlighted the inter-linked and reinforcing nature of the risks posed by various megatrends on these critical human systems.

A. Sub-regional drivers

North and Central Asia

During the consultation in North and Central Asia³, participants highlighted how the rural-urban transition megatrend has a remarkable impact on infrastructure and economic systems. The migration of young people to the major cities of the sub-region poses a heavy pressure on local housing and other infrastructures. Young people face unemployment or precarious or informal work conditions and cannot fully contribute to the cities' economies through taxation, which has a supplementary impact on the economic system. The rural-urban transition also creates heavy stress in rural areas, where declines in the agricultural sector's labour force negatively affects the development of agricultural and food value-chains across the sub-region.

Participants highlighted another risk emanating from the megatrend of rural-urban transitions. Young generations unable to secure decent jobs and assistance from social protection programmes can create social unrest or decide to join out-of-region conflicts. Unequal opportunities and marginalization were identified as key factors for the radicalization of young people in Central Asia. The issue of the participation of Central Asian combatants in war-affected areas, as well as their prospected repatriation creates huge risks to peace and security in those countries.

Economic integration is another mega-trend that can lead to particular risks. The strong economic interlinkages of countries North and Central Asia with Russia imply that when Russia suffers from economic sanctions, this has direct repercussions on other countries in the region due to supply chains dynamics.

³ "North and Central Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals" 27-28 September 2017, Almaty, Kazakhstan

North-East Asia

In North-East Asia⁴, megatrends such as demographic change, climate change, rural-urban transition and technology emerged as being at the center of the policy debate. Demographic change, especially aging and de-population, are causing an increasing strain to the sub-region's social systems (i.e. health care, social security) as many societies lack resources to take care and provide for the elderly. Rapid aging puts the financial system at risk through the secondary impact of pension systems. The viability of the pension systems in some countries of the sub-region is under question as the ratio of pensioners to working age population is fast declining.

Another megatrend identified was climate change and especially its role in accelerating desertification. The impact of climate change on various systems, especially on provisioning systems, is strongly visible in North-East Asia.

In addition to these megatrends, air pollution, discontent against globalization, increasing inequality and changing gender dynamics have strong implications across the socio-economic and environmental systems of the sub-region as less people benefit from economic progress and families bear the consequences of pollution and unequal distribution of wealth.

South-East Asia

In South-East Asia⁵, the consultation highlighted that demographic change, in terms of aging and increase in population is strictly connected to accelerating rural-urban transition, and that both impact financial, provisioning and social systems through the pressure on the job market and on housing posed by migrants and inefficient pension systems. Other megatrends impacting the sub-region are the increasing demand for resources and climate change with the latter main cause of the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, which creates vulnerabilities for economic systems. One example is the impact of the September 2011 flooding in the Mekong delta on the agricultural sector and socio-economic conditions of rural communities in Laos and Cambodia.

Increasing pollution, fuelled by the rapid increase in use of natural resources, is another threat in the sub-region. Mounting plastic wastes and recurrent episodes of cross-boundary haze from forest fires were of high concern. Haze and pollution pose risks to the economic system, causing economic damages and reduce economic productivity and affect the provisioning system; they also have negative health impacts.

Pacific

In the Pacific sub-region⁶ several megatrends were identified, as posing risks to the socio-economic and environmental systems: climate change, demographic changes, rural-urban transition, increasing demand for resources, technology change, regional economic cooperation and integration. The impact of climate change and natural disaster on various systems, especially on provisioning systems, is of high concern to the sub-region. Simultaneously, the lack of clear municipal plans to face urbanization is posing great stress on the sustainability of critical provisioning systems in the urban areas including the political, cultural and infrastructural systems. Demographic changes, especially

⁴ North-East Asian Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development Goals 10-11 October 2017, Beijing, China

⁵ "South-East Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, 18-19 October 2017, Bangkok, Thailand

⁶ Regional Meeting of Pacific SDG Coordinators and Agencies on Implementation of the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development, 1–2 November 2017, Apia, Samoa

aging and de-population, are causing increasing risks to social systems (health care system, social security systems) and the financial system (pension systems).

Regional economic cooperation and integration has led to increased availability of cheaper and unhealthy food options resulting in changes to dietary patterns and an alarming rise of non-communicable diseases in the region, with diabetes and obesity rates among the highest in the world⁷. This has posed a great burden on the health system, affected economic systems due to reduced human productivity and household financial stability and overall well-being of the population. An additional result of increasing cross-cultural flows is a threat to the Pacific culture, which defines the 'Pacific Identity'.

South and South-West Asia

Rural-urban transitions, demographic change, economic integration and increasing demand for resources affect South and South-West Asia⁸ in critical ways. The rural-urban transition in South and South West Asia affects basic provisioning systems (with new and increasing demand for public services usually not being met in urban areas), is having negative effects on the environment and on the society with the increase of poverty levels (this is usually referred to as "invisible poverty". Also, demographic changes are having an important effect on the financial and social systems in the sub region. Demographic groups such as youth and the elderly are increasingly excluded by the job market and vulnerable to economic shocks and put extra strains on the financial system in terms of public expenditure as not actively contributing to tax collection.

The impacts of climate change on food and social systems have the potential of destabilizing fragile subsistence conditions of many individuals, yet the situation of marginalized communities is not always considered by governments in planning phases or when responding to extreme climatic events or other disasters. Regional economic cooperation and integration as well as technological changes are perceived to cause both negative and positive impacts; technological change has positive effects on provisioning systems such as food and energy, but can also disrupt labour markets and cause job loss due to mechanization and digitalization of production. The sub-regional consultation sent a strong message that all these megatrends have a potent impact on social systems and the basic fabrics of society. In addition, participants emphasized that especially where different forms of inequalities intersect, they create disproportionate effects on vulnerable populations.

B. Vulnerabilities exist in all-sub regions

Within each sub-region, there are stark differences in the level of impact on the population. Drivers interweave with pre-existing social vulnerabilities in some countries (i.e. caste-based discrimination in South Asia), remoteness of rural communities or coastal communities (i.e. the displacement of many fishermen, and the reallocation of lands for tourism purposes, in South-East Asia after the 2005 tsunami).

Mostly affected groups by the negative impacts of the drivers include youth, elderly, indigenous population, urban migrant, unskilled workers, persons with disabilities, women, children, LGBT communities.

Across all five sub-regions, urban informal sector migrants, especially those living in slums, are heavily impacted at the economic, social and environmental level. Although the proportion of the overall population that resides in urban slums in Asia and the Pacific is smaller than it was two decades ago,

⁷ <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/88/7/10-010710/en/>

⁸ South and South-West Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, 1-2 November 2017, Kathmandu, Nepal

the absolute number continues to rise⁹. Slum dwellers are more exposed to vagaries of climate change as informal settlements tend to be in neighbourhoods more vulnerable to extreme weather events. Almost half a billion urban residents in Asia and the Pacific live in coastal areas, increasing vulnerability to storm surges and sea-level rises. It is estimated that up to 77 million urban residents in Asia and the Pacific could potentially fall back into poverty because of climate change impacts¹⁰.

Women are also vulnerable across all five sub-regions, to the impacts of demographic change and rising inequalities. In several societies, women are expected by existing social norms to be care-givers of households and, with increased aging, working-age women have to bear additional responsibility of taking care of the elderly. This reduces opportunities to engage in formal employment. Evidence shows that women in Asia are on average 70% less likely than men to be in the labor force, with the country-to-country percentage varying anywhere from 3% to 80%¹¹. Evidence also shows that in every sub-region, women are more likely than men to be in vulnerable employment. In South Asia, for instance, 81 per cent of women are in vulnerable employment.¹²

The young and elderly are other population groups at high risk across the entire region. Although youth unemployment rates in Asia and the Pacific are amongst the lowest in the world, young people in the labour force are 3.8 times more likely to be unemployed than their adult counterparts.¹³ Unskilled youth is finding it extremely difficult to obtain gainful employment and to meaningfully contribute to the society in an increasingly competitive job market, risking marginalization and exclusion as they age. Poverty rates among older people tend to be higher than in other age groups.¹⁴

Because of intersections and overlaps, some vulnerable groups are most exposed to complex risks. For example, an elderly woman who is also an unskilled urban migrant would be particularly vulnerable to challenges created by megatrends such as climate change, pollution and technological changes. It is therefore important to strengthen the resilience of communities and groups of people that face increasing complex risk profiles.

C. Examples of resilience capacities required

The sub-regional consultations emphasized that traditional knowledge, education and knowhow can be a source of building adaptive and absorptive capacities. Building adaptive capacities, for instance, includes diversification of crops and livestock to adapt to the effects of climate change, faster adaptation and scaling up of new technologies to fight pollution.

Examples of anticipatory capacities that have been established to address natural and other types of disasters, include vulnerability assessments, early warning systems, “exclusion mapping” and inclusion monitoring tools, assessment of earthquake damages, creation of specialized task forces, disaster risk reduction preparedness and response plans and sub-regional cooperation across countries to support the most marginalized communities. Successful examples include an early warning system established by Pacific countries to anticipate risks posed by climate change, the creation of strong interdisciplinary research networks and establishment of data sets crucial to strengthening planning capacities of countries.

⁹ ESCAP, ADB, UNDP, *Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing Asia-Pacific*. 2017: Bangkok.

¹⁰ World Bank (2016). *Urban development*. Available from worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/overview#1

¹¹ ADB, *Women in the workforce: An unmet potential in Asia and the Pacific* (Manila 2015), Available from www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/158480/women-workforce-unmet-potential.pdf

¹² ESCAP, ADB, UNDP, *Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing Asia-Pacific*. 2017: Bangkok: United Nations.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

The consultation in North and Central Asia emphasized the need to build anticipatory capacity because of the high dependency of these economies on oil. The anticipatory capacities required included a focus on innovation, development of renewable sources of energy and economic diversification. Policy examples to cope with financial shock included building forex reserve stocks, and capital controls.

Different actions were identified during the various consultations to build transformative capacities. These included, in North-East Asia, promotion of lifestyle changes at the individual level, and institutional reforms including strengthening of education systems to be able to more effectively harness technologies and development of new forms of insurance systems suitable to meet the changing nature of risks. Building transformative capacities was recognized as strategic in dealing with demographic changes. Even though Japan recognized its 'aging phenomenon' as early as the 1970s, the society lacked transformation capacities to induce systemic changes that could adequately address the challenges of aging. In the Pacific, facilitating behavioural change through promotion and advertising campaigns was identified as key in building transformative capacities to deal with non-communicable disease. The South-East Asia consultation highlighted opportunities through the development of national vision documents for economic transformation, new systems and mechanisms to deal with climate change, awareness campaigns, improved cross-border collaboration between countries to control issues such as haze.

A key message emerging from all sub-regional consultations was that to limit the negative impacts of complex risks, and to mitigate these risks, multi-sectoral coordination and fundamental transformations are required in different human systems. This requires the building full continuum of resilience capacities, with an emphasis on transformation capacity.

Annex I

“Sub regional preparatory meeting for the 5th Session of the APFSD” North and Central Asia Almaty, Kazakhstan

Wednesday, 27 September 2017	
08.00-09.00	Registration
09.00-09.20	Opening Session Welcome Remarks , Mr. Hirohito Toda, Head, ESCAP Sub regional Office for North and Central Asia Opening Remarks , Mr. Norimasa Shimomura, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan
09.20-10.20	Session1: Global to regional and sub regional context of follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda 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.
09.20-09.35	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
09.35-09.50	Implementation of the SDGs at the sub regional level: the EAEU focus , Ms. Larissa Plachinda, Deputy Head of Coordination Section, Macroeconomic Policy Department, Eurasian Economic Commission
09.50-10.05	Asian Development Bank support to implementing SDGs , Mr. Giovanni Capannelli, Country Director, Kazakhstan Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank
10.05-10.20	Q&A
10.20-10.40	Coffee break
10.40-12.00	Session2: National progress, achievements and challenges with respect to the 2030 Agenda 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. 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.

10:40-10:50	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
10:50-12:00	Voluntary National Reviews Roundtable Moderator: Mr. Evgeny German, Associate Professor, Department of World Economy, Plekhanov Russian University of Economics Panellists: Mr. Mikheil Patashuri, Counsellor, Division of Multilateral and Regional Economic Cooperation, Dept. of International Economic Relations, MFA, Georgia Mr. Huseyn Huseynov, Head of Secretariat, National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development of Azerbaijan Ms. Nilufar Nazirova, Head of International Relations, Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan Mr. Arman Hovhannisyan, Head, UN desk, International Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Armenia Ms. Bakhyt Yessekina, Founder, Green Academy of Kazakhstan Q&A
12:00-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-15:00	Country presentations National experiences Mr. Andrei Moskvina, Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation Ms. Altynay Dyussekkova, Advisor to the Mayor of Almaty City, Kazakhstan Ms. Tsendlkhagva Bat-Ulzii, Officer in charge of Social Development and Welfare, Policy and Planning Department, Mongolia Mr. Azizkhon Khankhodjaev, Senior Fellow, Regional Center for Development Studies, Uzbekistan
15:00-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-16:00	Session 3: Monitoring and measuring progress: Statistical data for Follow up and review
15:30-15:45	SDG indicators and data , Statistics Division, ESCAP
15:45-16:15	Discussion
16:15-16:30	SDGs Help Desk services for follow up and review , Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, Sustainable Development Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
18:00-20:00	Reception Dinner
Thursday, 28 September 2017	

09:00-12:30	<p>Session 4: North and Central Asian Perspectives on the 2018 HLPF theme</p> <p>The session's aim is to gather inputs to the 2018 ESCAP-ADB-UNDP thematic report and the ESCAP Commission Theme Study in the form of priorities, good practices and initiatives (sub regional thematic profiles)</p>
09:00-10:00	<p>Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Larissa Plachinda, Deputy Head of Coordination Section, Macroeconomic Policy Department, Eurasian Economic Commission</p> <p>Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies – framing sub regional perspectives and responses, Ms. Hitomi Rankine, Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division; Ms. Therese Bjork, Social Development Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Panellists</p> <p>Dr. Nailya Nurlanova, Deputy Director, Professor, Institute of Economics, Ministry of Education and Science, Kazakhstan</p> <p>Dr. Maigul Nugmanova, Head Head of International Office, Kazakh Ablai Khan University of International Relations and World Languages</p>
10:00-10:45	<p>Working groups</p> <p><i>Part 1 – Exploring risk and the development context</i></p>
10:45-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:45	<p>Working groups</p> <p><i>Part 2 – Identifying responses to promote resilience</i></p> <p>a. Social protection and resilience Sub regional cooperation for resilience</p>
12:45-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-16:00	<p>Session 5: North and Central Asian Perspectives on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration</p> <p>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.</p>
14:30-14:45	Setting the scene, Mr. Paul Tacon, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ESCAP
14:45-16:00	Discussion
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
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List of participants

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Annex II

“Sub regional preparatory meeting for the 5th Session of the APFSD” East and North-East Asia Sub Region Beijing, China

Tuesday, 10 October 2017	
08.30-09.30	Registration
09.30-10.00	Opening Session Opening Remarks by Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna, Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office Welcoming Remarks by Mr. Xufeng ZHU, Executive director Institute for SDGs, Tsinghua University Welcoming Remarks by Mr. Nicholas Rosellini, UNDP Resident Representative
10.00-10.30	Coffee break, photo session
10.30-12.30	Global to regional and sub regional context of follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and National progress, achievements and challenges Moderator: Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, ESCAP: reporting of APFSD and HLPF, 2017 and dissemination of key policy messages; and Asia Pacific Roadmap on implementing the 2030 Agenda and stocktaking of sub regional cross-cutting and emerging issues • Mr. Ming Li, UNDP China Follow-up and review (FUR) at the national level: Country presentations on Voluntary National Review (China and the ROK in 2016, and Japan in 2017); coordination mechanisms; and key challenges to the implementation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China, Dajian Zhu, Institute of Governance for Sustainability, Tongji University • DPRK, Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Japan, Masaki Inaba, SDGs Japan • Mongolia, Onon Khanoi, National Development Agency • Republic of Korea, Hyun Kyung Kim, Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Russian Federation, Arsen Bogatyrev, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
12.30-13.30	Lunch
13.30-14.45	Monitoring and measuring progress: Statistical data for FUR Moderator: Yanhong Zhang , ESCAP Presentations:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yanhong Zhang, ESCAP • Youngshil Park, Statistics Korea • Yalalt Ganbat, National Statistics Office of Mongolia Won Kwak , Central Bureau of Statistics, DPR Korea
14:45-16:00	Perspectives on 2018 HLPF theme, “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies” Moderator: Lan Xue , Institute for SDGs, Tsinghua University <u>Plenary session</u> Presentation: Arun Jacob and Therese Bjork , ESCAP Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tungalag Ulambayar, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mongolia • Seonghoon Lee, Asia Development Alliance • Dajian Zhu, Institute of Governance for Sustainability, Tongji University • Jianyu ZHANG, Environmental Defense Fund Beijing Office
16:00- 16:15	Coffee break
16:15- 17:15	Perspectives on 2018 HLPF theme <u>Group Discussion</u> Part 1 – exploring risk and the development context (16:15 - 16:45) Part 2 – identifying responses to promote resilience (16:45 - 17:15)
17:15-18:00	<u>Plenary discussion</u>
18:00-20:00	Welcoming reception
Wednesday, 11 October 2017	
09:00-10:30	High Level Roundtable on Implementing the SDGs in East and North-East Asia Moderator: Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna , ESCAP Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oyun Sanjaasuren, Former Minister of Environment, Mongolia • Mori Hideyuki, President, Institute for Global Environment Strategies, Japan • Jiahua Pan, Director, Institute for Urban and Environmental Studies, CASS • Soogil Young, Chair, SDSN Korea
10:30-10:45	Coffee break
10:45-12:00	SDG 6 Clean Water & Sanitation & SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities Moderator: Mr. Xufeng ZHU , Institute for SDGs, Tsinghua University Presentations & Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryuta Maekawa, ADRA Japan • Kyoung Hyo Yoon, Korea SDGs Network • Shu Zhu, ICLEI East Asia Secretariat
12:00-13:00	Lunch break
13:00-15:00	SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy & SDG 12 Responsible Consumption Moderator: Riccardo Mesiano , ESCAP Presentations & Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liu Zhiqiang, China Electricity Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lu Hong, Energy Foundation China • Masaki Inaba, SDGs Japan • Xufeng Zhu, Tsinghua University
15:00-16:30	SDG 15 Life on Land Moderator: Sangmin Nam , ESCAP Presentations & Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyunju Lee, Forest Policy Division, Korea Forest Service • Tungalag Ulambayar, Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia • Yan Zhang, Director, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) China
16:30-17:30	Wrap up: Strengthening cooperation in North-East Asia towards achieving the 2030 Agenda
17:30	Closing session

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Annex III

“Sub regional preparatory meeting for the 5th Session of the APFSD”

South East Asia Sub Region

Bangkok, Thailand

Wednesday, 18 October 2017	
08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:15	Opening Session Opening Remarks , Mr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director of the Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
09:15-10:30	Session1: Global to regional and sub-regional context of follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda <p>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.</p>
09:15-09:30	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 , Ms. Katinka Weinberger, Chief EDPS, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
09:30-09:45	ASEAN support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda , Mr. Son Ngoc Nguyen, Assistant Director and Head ASCC Monitoring Division, ASEAN Secretariat
09:45-10:00	UNDP
10:00-10:15	Smita Nakhooda, Senior Policy and Planning Specialist, Asian Development Bank, ADB
10:15-10:30	Q&A
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:00	Session2: National and sub-regional progress, achievements and challenges with respect to the 2030 Agenda <p>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.</p>
11:00-11:10	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

11:10-12:30	<p>Voluntary National Reviews</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director of the Environment and Development Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>Mr. Edgardo II Santos Aranjuez, Chief Economic Development Specialist, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippines</p> <p>Mr. Hari Prabowo, Deputy Director for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia</p> <p>Mr. Pichit Boonsud, Director, Division of Development Affairs, Department of International Organizations, Thailand</p> <p>Ms. Shirah Nair, Assistant Director, Climate Change Office, International Organizations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore</p> <p>Mr. Anouparb Vongnorkeo, Director-General, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, LAO PDR</p> <p>Q&A</p>
12:30-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:15	<p>Panel discussion on the Regional Road Map for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Katinka Weinberger, Chief EDPS, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Pagnathun Theng, Director General of Planning, Ministry of Planning, Cambodia</p> <p>Ms. Brigida Brites Soares, Office of Prime Minister, and Acting chief for UPMA, Timor-Leste</p> <p>Mr. Mohammed Safwan Rosidy, Principal Assistant Director, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia</p>
15:15-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-16:30	<p>Session 3: South-East Asian Perspectives on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration</p> <p>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 South East 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 South East Asia which can be presented to the ESCAP regional preparatory meeting for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.</p>

15:30-15:45	Setting the scene , Mr. Paul Tacon, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ESCAP
15:45-16:30	Discussion
Thursday, 19 October 2017	
09:00-12:00	<p>Session 4: South-East Asian perspectives on the 2018 HLPF theme: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies</p> <p>The session's aim is to develop sub-regional perspectives on the theme of the 2018 High-level Political forum for Sustainable Development. It will identify trends and risks faced by the sub-region, discuss the impacts on sustainable development and the most vulnerable, discuss social protection and other measures needed to strengthen resilience, and highlight opportunities for sub-regional responses to strengthen resilience.</p>
09:00-09:15	Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies – framing sub-regional perspectives and responses
09:15-12:00	Working groups
12:00-13:30	Lunch
13:30-16:00	<p>Session 5: SDG Roundtables</p> <p>Initial discussions on SDG Roundtables to be held during the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) 2018. The purpose of this session is to have an initial and exploratory discussion for the preparation of roundtables focusing on SDGs 6,7,11,12 and 15, which will be the cluster of goals reviewed in-depth during the 5th session of the APFSD on 28-30 March 2018.</p>
13:30-13:45	Roundtables on cluster of SDGs – experiences from the 4th session of the APFSD and proposal for 5th session of the APFSD , Solene Le Doze, Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
13:45-14:00	Data availability for the follow-up and review of the SDGs , Statistic Division, ESCAP
14:00-14:50	<p>Group discussion: Review and Follow up of SDGs 6,7,11,12 and 15</p> <p>Group discussion for each SDG aiming at identifying existing follow-up and review processes and data gaps</p>
14:50-15:10	Introduction to tools to assess SDG integration , Ms. Aneta Nikolova, Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
15:10-16:00	Facilitated discussion on in depth review of the cluster of goals at the sub-regional and regional level : filling potential data gaps; preliminary survey; identification of UN Partners for coparticipant identification; format; outcome.
16:00-16:30	Session 6: The way forward

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Annex IV

“Sub regional preparatory meeting for the 5th Session of the APFSD” South and South-West Asia Sub Region Katmandu, Nepal

Wednesday, 1 November 2017	
08.00-09.00	Registration
09.00-09.30	Opening Session Welcome Remarks – Mr. Michael Williamson, Head of Office, a.i, ESCAP South and South-West Asia office Opening Remarks – Ms. Stine Heiselberg, Head of the Resident Coordinator’s Office (on behalf of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Nepal) Inaugural Address – Dr. Prabhu Budathoki, Hon. Member, National Planning Commission, Nepal
09.30-10.30	Session 1: Global to regional and sub regional context of follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda 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 Regional Road Map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. Global to regional and sub regional context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs , Hitomi Rankine, Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP Remarks – Ms. Stine Heiselberg, Head of the Resident Coordinator’s Office
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
11.00-12.45	Session 2: National progress, achievements and challenges with respect to the 2030 Agenda 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. 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 and from those planning to report in 2018. Voluntary National Reviews – Experiences from Asia and the Pacific - Ms. Caridad Canales Davila, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP

	<p>Moderator: Ms. Caridad Canales Davila, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Mr. Sundar Narayan Mishra, Consultant, Sustainable Development Goals, NITI Aayog, India</p> <p>Mr. Md. Tarikul Alam, Deputy Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division, Bangladesh</p> <p>Dr. Dilli Raj Khanal, former member of the National Planning Commission, Nepal</p> <p>Ms. Aishath Aniya, Senior Statistical Officer, National Bureau of Statistics, Maldives</p> <p>Mr. Pema Bazar, Senior Planning Officer, Gross National Happiness Commission, Bhutan</p> <p>Mr. Uchita de Zoysa, Sustainable Development Advisor, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, Sri Lanka</p>
12:45-14:15	Lunch break
14:15-15:15	<p>Session 3: Regional Road Map for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>The Regional Roadmap for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific: facilitating cooperation at the regional level, Michael Williamson, Head of Office a.i., South and South-West Asia Office, ESCAP</p> <p>The Regional Roadmap for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific: thematic focus on disaster risk reduction and resilience, Sanjay Srivastava, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Q&A</p>
15:15-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-16:30	<p>Session 4: Stakeholder engagement – strengthening the implementation of the 2030 Agenda</p> <p>Creating a seat at the table: Effective stakeholder engagement for the 2030 Agenda, Hitomi Rankine, Environmental Affairs Officer, ESCAP</p> <p>Q&A session</p>
Thursday 2 November 2017	
09:00-12:00	<p>Session 5: South and South-West Asia perspectives on the 2018 HLPF theme: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies</p> <p>The session's aim is to develop sub regional perspectives on the theme of the 2018 High-level Political forum for Sustainable Development. It will identify trends and risks faced by the sub region, discuss the impacts on sustainable development and the most vulnerable, discuss social protection and other measures needed to strengthen resilience, and highlight opportunities for sub regional responses to strengthen resilience.</p>

	<p>Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in South and South West Asia, Hitomi Rankine, Environmental Affairs Officer, ESCAP</p> <p>Moderator: Professor Lawrence Surendra, Founder, Chairman, the Sustainability Platform</p> <p>Panel discussion</p> <p>Working groups</p> <p>Part 1 – Exploring risk and the development context</p>
10:30-10:45	Coffee break
10:45-12:00	<p>Working groups – continued</p> <p>Part 1 – Exploring risk and the development context - continued</p> <p>Part 2 – Identifying responses to promote resilience</p>
12:00-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-16:30	<p>Session 6: Expert panel discussion on SDG 17: Strengthening cooperation in South Asia towards achieving the 2030 Agenda</p> <p>The session's aim is to explore the operationalization of the SDGs, focusing on the means of implementation identified under SDG 17 – which include finance, technology, trade, capacity building, data and partnerships for development. The development of mechanisms for regional coordination and cooperation will be essential to support the translation of the strategic vision of inclusive and sustainable development into concrete actions at the national level. The session will place emphasis on the potential role of regional/sub regional bodies and the United Nations Development System.</p>
13:30-15:00	<p>Moderator: Mr. Bijay Thapa, UNFPA Nepal Assistant Representative</p> <p>Presentations and panel discussion:</p> <p>Part 1. Setting the scene and good practices in contextualizing/localizing the SDGs. The session will develop a shared understanding of the outlook for the achievement of the goals in the sub region and examples of contextualization/localization at national and subnational levels to enhance policy coordination and coherence (links to SDG targets 17.13, 17.14, 17.15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Policy Priorities and Implementation Challenges for Achieving the SDGs in South Asia – Mr. Michael Williamson, Head, a.i, ESCAP SSWA • The case of Bhutan – Mr. Pema Bazar, Senior Planning Officer, GNH Commission • The case of India – Mr. Maurya, Director, Social Statistics Division, MOSPI (TBC) • Assam's experience in implementing the SDGs – Mr. Shiladitya Chatterjee, Adviser, the Sustainable Development Goals Centre, state government of Assam, India • The case of Nepal – Mr. Posh Raj Pandey, Executive Chairman, SAWTEE • The case of Pakistan - Mr. Zafar ul Hassan, Chief Poverty & MDGs Section (TBC)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National-level implications of SDG implementation: The case of Sri Lanka – Ms. Ganga Tilakaratne, Research Fellow, IPS <p>Discussion</p>
15:00-15:15	Coffee break
15:15-16:30	<p>Session 6: Expert panel discussion on SDG 17 (Continued)</p> <p>Part 2. Fostering a multi-stakeholder partnership and enhancing regional cooperation in support of the 2030 Agenda in South Asia. The session will emphasize the role of regional/sub regional institutions and mechanisms to boost/revitalize regional cooperation in support of national implementation efforts that leave no one behind, as well as the importance of inclusive and effective multi-stakeholder partnership (and means to develop/strengthen it in the sub region to catalyse progress) (links to SDG targets 17.16 and 17.17)</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Dilli Raj Khanal, Founder Chairman Institute for Policy Research and Development (IPRAD)</p> <p>Presentations and panel discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAARC Development Goals Regional cooperation and the SDGs in South Asia – Md. Nasir Uddin, Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka Regional cooperation in achieving the SDGs in South Asia – Mr. Shiladitya Chatterjee, Adviser, The Sustainable Development Goals Centre, state government of Assam, India. Perspective from CSN countries – Afghanistan (TBC) The role of CSOs – Prof. Pam Rajput, Vice-President, Mahila Dakshata Samiti/Women 2030, India Knowledge partnership through science-policy interface for the SDGs – Professor. Lawrence Surendra, Founder, Chairman, the Sustainability Platform <p>The role of the private sector – Ms. Rita Bhandary, Vice Chairperson, SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council and President, Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal</p>
16:30-17:00	Wrap up and closing session

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Annex V

“Sub regional preparatory meeting for the 5th Session of the APFSD” Pacific Sub Region Apia, Samoa

Wednesday, 1 November 2017	
08.00-08.30	Registration
08.30-09.00	I. Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming Remarks by Samoa (Chair of the Forum) and UNRC in Samoa (on behalf of UN in the Pacific) • Opening Remarks by the Vice Chair - PIFS/SDG Taskforce Secretariat <p>Introduction to the meeting agenda, objectives etc. by Iosefa Maiava (ESCAP)</p>
09.00-12.00	II. Achievements, strategies and challenges with respect to the 2030 Agenda and the Pacific coordination mechanisms
09.00-10.00	<p>(a) Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development (PRSD)</p> <p>The PRSD and link to national, sub-regional and regional initiatives in support of SDG achievement in the Pacific:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice Chair and SDG Taskforce Secretariat: the Pacific Roadmap and Implementation Plan. • Plenary discussion <p>Moderator: Peseta Noumea Simi (TBC)</p> <p>Implementation plans for the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development; for supporting the implementation of 2030 Agenda and sustainable development in the Pacific. Comprehensive follow-up and review supported by rigorous evidence is critical for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development across the national, regional, and global level.</p> <p>Session outcome: Views of participants will be summarized to feed into SDG Taskforce meeting, APFSD preparations and Session III.</p>
10.00-10.30	Morning tea
10.30-12.30	<p>(b) Country experiences on the SDGs based on the priority areas of the Roadmap. Panel discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samoa • Vanuatu • RMI • Solomon Islands

	<p>Moderator: Derek Brien</p> <p>Countries to be given guiding questions with a focus on national experience and lessons from national voluntary reviews (NVRs), SDG localization, gender and data required to monitor and report progress.</p> <p>Session outcome: Discussion will be summarized to feed into SDG Taskforce meeting, APFSD preparations and Session III.</p>
12:30-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-15:30	<p>III. Sub regional and regional support for SDG implementation in the Pacific</p> <p>Implementation of the Pacific Sustainable Development Roadmap: What support do countries need?</p> <p>Areas from the PRSD:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leadership and coordination 2. Advocacy and communication 3. Regional monitoring and indicators 4. Integrated reporting 5. Supporting the means of implementation <p>Facilitators: Garry Wiseman and Charmina Saili</p> <p>Group work followed by plenary discussion and agreement on key actions</p> <p>Session outcome: Key actions in support of national implementation will be documents for the SDG Taskforce meeting to inform the finalization of an action plan.</p>
15:30-16:00	Afternoon Tea
16:00-17:00	<p>IV. Harmonizing follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, SAMOA Pathway from the global to regional (FPR) and sub-regional levels.</p> <p>The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights in about 18 paragraphs the importance of a systematic follow-up and review process, its roles, objectives, and guiding principles. In addition, the 2030 Agenda recognizes the importance of “cooperation between regional and sub-regional commissions and organizations” while the SAMOA Pathway requests specific inputs from regional commissions for its own monitoring and reporting. Topics include the reporting requirements of the HLPF (the theme and SDGs selected for in-depth review); Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) and related Asia-Pacific reports; Pacific SDG Report Pacific; and National Reporting. A key question will be how to reconcile the HLPF theme and SDGs selected for in-depth review with Pacific priorities and reporting processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by ESCAP on global and regional reporting mechanisms • Presentation by Pacific SDGTF on the Pacific’s approach to the integrated follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda, SAMOA Pathway, FPR and other global / regional frameworks • Data challenges by SPC

	<p>Moderator: Cristelle Pratt</p> <p>Session outcome: Recommended approaches to aligning reporting requirements to reduce the burden and maximize value addition to countries approaches will be summarized and documented for the APFSD and SDG Taskforce.</p>
Thursday, 2 November 2017	
09:00-12:00	<p>V. Pacific Perspectives on the 2018 HLPF theme</p> <p>The session will benefit from initial thinking on the development of a regional report on the theme, and develop sub-regional perspectives, with a view to informing sub-regional and national preparations and responses, as well as global preparations. Topics include I) national and Pacific perspectives on the 2018 HLPF theme “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”. II) perspectives on the 2018 Pacific Sustainable Development Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by ESCAP • Presentation by Pacific SDGTF on proposed approach, outline of the 2018 Pacific Sustainable Development Report • Group work and plenary feedback. <p>Moderator: Iosefa Maiava</p> <p>Session outcome: Discussion will be summarized and documented as input into the APFSD and theme for the 2018 Sustainable Development Report.</p>
12:00-13:00	Lunch break
13:00-15:00	<p>VI. Pacific Perspectives on Measuring and Reducing Inequalities</p> <p>Noting that inequalities are increasing and understanding that, climate change and other shocks may have disproportionate impact on the most marginalized groups, ESCAP member States have selected the theme of Inequality in the era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as the thematic study of the 74th Commission Session in 2018. The main objective of this session on inequality will be to: 1) obtain feedback on preliminary research results and discuss local experience from the perspective of the Pacific countries; and 2) to highlight the priorities of Pacific countries in measuring and reducing inequalities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by ESCAP • Presentation by SPC and PIFS on economic inequality and the indicators on inequality in the list of Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators • Plenary discussion <p>Moderator: UNDP</p>
15:00-15:30	Afternoon tea
15:30-16:30	<p>VII. Pacific Perspectives on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration</p> <p>Given the threats posed by climate change and extreme weather events, this session will discuss Pacific perspectives on international migration to ensure that they are reflected in the negotiations for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular</p>

	<p>Migration, launched in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.¹⁵ These discussions will feed into discussions at the Asia-Pacific level during the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, due to be held in Bangkok from 6-7 November 2017, and the global stocktaking meeting, due to be held in Mexico in December 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Iosefa Maiava • Country perspective
16:30-17:00	<p>VIII Final reflections on way forward and closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iosefa Maiava and Cristelle Pratt

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¹⁵ A/RES/71/1

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