



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE 2030 AGENDA FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

PRODUCTS, SERVICES AND EXPERTISE





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2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)



While Asia and the Pacific has made progress towards achieving several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the region needs to accelerate efforts across all sectors for them to be achieved by 2030. In the face of transboundary challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, energy security or ecosystem degradation, regional cooperation can link global goals to domestic commitments and implementation.

The region faces several challenges which would benefit from a coordinated regional response. These include strengthening follow up and review processes for SDG implementation at the national level, mainstreaming the SDGs across policy areas and strengthening stakeholder engagement and public participation.

ESCAP is mandated to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through resolution 72/6¹ *Committing to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*. This calls on the ESCAP Secretariat to support Member States in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda through analytical products, technical services and capacity-building initiatives and knowledge-sharing products and platforms, and by helping improve the quality of data and statistics.

¹ https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/E72_RES6E.pdf

Recognizing the opportunities for enhanced regional cooperation, the countries of the region have developed a **Regional Roadmap for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific**². It was adopted by the Commission in 2017. This inter-governmental document sets out what countries in Asia and the Pacific expect from the UN development system at regional level. It identifies priority areas on which regional cooperation needs to focus to achieve the 2030 Agenda. These include rising inequalities, disaster risk reduction and resilience, climate change, the management of natural resources, and transport, ITC and energy connectivity. The Roadmap also identifies priority actions to overcome these challenges.

To implement the Roadmap, countries have encouraged mobilizing support from the agencies, funds and programs of the United Nations through the **Asia-Pacific UN Regional Coordination Mechanism (UN-RCM)**³. Convened by ESCAP, the UN-RCM is a regional coordination mechanism for UN agencies on policy and programmatic coherence. The RCM was restructured in 2016 to be fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda. Seven Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) were created on Statistics, Resource Efficient Growth, Sustainable Societies, Inclusive Development and Poverty Eradication, Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience, Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Education 2030+. These are co-chaired jointly by UN agencies.

² <http://www.unescap.org/publications/regional-road-map-implementing-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-asia-and-pacific>

³ <http://www.unaprcm.org/>



REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION, FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW OF THE 2030 AGENDA



REGIONAL FOLLOW UP AND REVIEW

Several mechanisms have been established since 2013 to strengthen follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia Pacific.

Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)⁴:

- ▶ The APFSD is a platform for follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Member states made it an integral part of ESCAP's Conference Structure in 2017. It is a multi-stakeholder forum supported by ESCAP and the UN system. It serves as a regional preparatory session for the HLPF. It has evolved in the regions pre-eminent platform to discuss sustainable development. The APFSD is supported by five sub-regional preparatory meetings to ensure sub regional perspectives are well integrated into follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report⁵:

- ▶ The Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report is an annual assessment of the progress towards the SDG targets in Asia and the Pacific and its sub regions. It draws on analysis of global SDG indicators as well as proxy indicators to forecast likely progress on the SDGs and identify areas where accelerated efforts are needed.

⁴ <http://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/apfsd5>

⁵ <http://www.unescap.org/publications/asia-and-pacific-sdg-progress-report-2017>

Regional SDG Partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Development Programme⁶ (UNDP):

- ▶ The ESCAP-ADB-UNDP Asia Pacific SDG Partnership, building on the long-standing work of the regional partnership on MDGs since 2001, has now committed to producing a suite of knowledge products on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The inputs and the process of producing the reports reflect the spirit of the SDGs and the importance attached to broad stakeholder engagement, inclusiveness, participation and the emphasis on follow-up and review.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA IN ASIA-PACIFIC

The ESCAP Secretariat provides three interconnected core services to countries in support of national and regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

Policy advocacy, research and analysis (think tank role):

- ▶ Building on extensive sectoral expertise, ESCAP provides multi-sectoral research analysis on pathways for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It serves as a source of knowledge, data, statistics and evidence-based analysis for Member States on priority policy issues.

Normative support and regional dialogue (intergovernmental convening role):

- ▶ ESCAP convenes inter-governmental processes to foster regional dialogue and common understanding on SDG related issues, exchange of good practices and lessons learned; adapt global agreements (such as the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing) into region-specific norms and standards; and provide a platform for engaging governments, the UN System and other stakeholders in follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the regional and sub regional levels.

⁶ <http://sdgasiapacific.net/knowledge-product>

Technical support, advisory services and capacity building (operational role):

- ▶ Providing policy advice and targeted capacity development to Member States and UN Country Teams on regional and global agreements and trans-boundary and sub-regional issues and multi-country (South-South and North-South) and multi-disciplinary thematic areas.

Technical support, advisory services and capacity building is provided through two principal instruments

The **SDG Rapid Response Facility** was established in 2017 to respond to requests from countries and UN country teams for support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Technical assistance is provided on ESCAP's core areas of expertise with an emphasis on: a) strengthening of national statistical systems, including data mapping, data visualization, development of SDG outlooks; b) policy prioritization through analysis of interlinkages as well as stakeholder engagement; c) Voluntary National Review processes; d) strengthening regional connectivity and removing barriers to trade.

The **SDG Help Desk**⁷ launched in March 2018 provides an online gateway to tools, knowledge products, expertise, good practices, advice and opportunities for peer-learning and regional South-South cooperation through thematic areas, covering various aspects of 2030 Agenda implementation.

⁷ <https://sdghelpdesk.unescap.org>

PRIORITY AREAS OF SUPPORT

ESCAP's supported is focused on the priority areas of cooperation from the Regional Roadmap for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia Pacific:

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND (SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT)	1
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE	2
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The products and services offered by the secretariat fall under each of the priority areas are detailed in this booklet. Policy coherence and North-South, South-South, international and regional partnerships are cross cutting and implemented through actions to achieve other priorities.

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND (SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT)



The Asia Pacific's impressive economic growth and remarkable achievements in poverty reduction have not closed the income gap between the rich and the poor, nor the unequal access to basic services. These gaps disproportionately affect women and the most vulnerable segments of society. They also hamper inclusive growth, undermine social cohesion and contribute to unsustainable production and consumption patterns. These social development gaps undermine efforts to achieving the 2030 Agenda and especially the promise to "leave no one behind."

ESCAP SUPPORT SERVICES

Technical support, advisory services and capacity building:

- ▶ Development of national legislation and policies for social inclusion, specifically on disability inclusive development, old age income security, women's entrepreneurship and social protection
- ▶ Development of disability indicators and data collection
- ▶ Designing gender responsive budgets
- ▶ Use of information and communication technologies to support women entrepreneurship through the Women ICT Frontier Initiative (WIFI)

Online support is provided through the Social Protection Toolbox: An online platform that provides users with a database of good practices and a network of social protection experts to strengthen social protection policies and actions.

Policy advocacy, research and analysis:

National and regional level analysis to support social development and policy transformation on:

- ▶ Multidimensional poverty and inequality
- ▶ Ageing
- ▶ Disability inclusive development
- ▶ Women's economic empowerment

Normative support and regional dialogue:

ESCAP convenes the Social Development Committee, an inter-governmental platform held biennially to identify social development priorities and agree region wide action, norms and standards. ESCAP undertakes periodic regional follow up and review of global and regional strategies and plans for social inclusion. These include the following:

- ▶ Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA);
- ▶ Incheon Strategy to Make the Right Real for Persons with Disability (IS);
- ▶ Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD);
- ▶ Asian and Pacific Population Conference (APPC); and
- ▶ Beijing Platform for Action (BPA).

ESCAP also supports regional consensus building and development of inputs for global negotiations including the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE



2

In Asia-Pacific, disaster risk is outpacing disaster resilience. The gap between risk and resilience-building is growing in those countries with the least capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters. Since 1970, natural disasters in Asia and the Pacific have killed two million people and a person living in the Asia-Pacific region is five times more likely to be affected by natural disasters than a person living outside the region. Between 1970 and 2016, Asia and the Pacific lost \$1.3 trillion in assets. Disasters in the region are becoming more complex, often tending to affect multiple countries, and bring about cascading impacts. Many of these disasters are transboundary in nature, such as floods, droughts, tropical cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis and sand and dust storms. Using information, communication and innovative technologies such as geospatial services, and strengthened regional cooperation can help prevent disasters from undermining the SDGs.

ESCAP SUPPORT SERVICES

Technical support, advisory services and capacity building:

- ▶ Development of DRR policies aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and SDG targets
- ▶ Transboundary disaster risk assessment and modeling
- ▶ Development of multi-hazard early warning systems using geospatial information and innovative digital technologies

- ▶ Implementation of regional standards on disaster risk (e.g. standard operating procedures for coastal hazards and procedural guidelines for sharing space-based information during emergency response)
- ▶ Disaster information management (through the Asia Pacific Institute for Disaster Information management)
- ▶ Using space-based and geospatial information for hazards assessments

ESCAPs work is supported by the Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Network (APDRN): A comprehensive network linking three pillars of ESCAP's work on disaster risk reduction: multi-hazard early warning systems; space applications for disaster risk reduction; and regional hub of knowledge and innovation.

Policy advocacy, research and analysis:

- ▶ Asia-Pacific Disaster Report
- ▶ Assessment of transboundary risks and vulnerabilities
- ▶ Risk to resilience: policy notes and guidelines
- ▶ Disaster mapping

Normative support and regional dialogue:

ESCAP convenes several inter-governmental platforms to take stock of the state of disaster risk in the region, identify disaster risk reduction priorities, and promote and coordinate the planning and implementation of measures for minimizing the casualties and economic damages caused by disasters:

- ▶ Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction
- ▶ ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee
- ▶ WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones

CLIMATE CHANGE



3

Climate change already has, and will continue to have, a significant impact on the Asia-Pacific region, increasing losses and risks to natural and physical assets, compounding development challenges and forcing millions across the region into poverty. Given the continued growth in greenhouse gas emissions in the region, it is vital that Asia-Pacific countries take strong action to transition to clean energy and low-carbon, climate-resilient development. There is a need to enhance green finance and the capacity of countries in the region to design and tap into new financing solutions.

ESCAP SUPPORT SERVICES

Technical support, advisory services and capacity building:

- ▶ Catalyzing green finance for climate action through different blended-finance structures
- ▶ Achieving least-cost emissions reductions through carbon pricing instruments
- ▶ Monitoring, reporting and verification issues related to climate action, including frameworks for impact assessment

Support is also provided through e-learning courses on green finance and webinars. ESCAP convenes multi-stakeholder meetings to enhance regional climate action, in partnership with other UN organizations, multilateral development banks, and private sector, specifically:

- ▶ Asia-Pacific Climate Week
- ▶ Green Finance conferences and workshops

Policy advocacy, research and analysis:

National and regional level research and analysis on:

- ▶ Green finance, green infrastructure opportunities and readiness
- ▶ Opportunities for green microfinance, SME finance and how to enhance financial inclusion
- ▶ Green impact assessment

Normative support and regional dialogue:

ESCAP works with partners to further norms and standards for more ambitious climate action, specifically:

- ▶ Regional green bond standards
- ▶ Harmonized definitions and frameworks for measuring green impact

MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

4



Asia-Pacific's continuing prosperity depends on managing its natural resources sustainably. The region consumes more than half of the world's natural resources. Developing countries in the region use five times more materials per dollar of gross domestic product than the rest of the world. This puts pressure on the natural environment and leads to irreversible environmental damage, with direct social and economic consequences. While cities are the main hubs of growth and development, rapid urbanization is one of the main factors behind the increase in resource use and environmental degradation. There is enormous potential to improve resource efficiency and help achieve environmental sustainability.

ESCAP SUPPORT SERVICES

Technical support, advisory services and capacity building:

- ▶ Sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems (quantifying benefits of resource efficiency and estimating resource efficiency transitions)
- ▶ Promoting sustainable cities (integrated resource recovery; integrated management of water, energy, food and land; applying inclusive circular economy approaches; Ocean Cities Framework; environmentally sound technologies in the building sector; mobilizing municipal finance for sustainable infrastructure in cities; localizing SDGs)
- ▶ Integrated planning and implementation of SDGs (Integrated Approaches for SDG planning; Sustainability Outlook; Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships to Achieve SDGs; stakeholder engagement)

Support is also provided through e-learning courses. These include Developing Low Carbon Green Growth Roadmaps; Resource Efficiency Policies for Asia-Pacific; Sustainable Municipal Solid Waste Management; Shifting Towards Water-Resilient Infrastructure and Sustainable Cities; Wastewater Management and Sanitation in Urban and Peri-Urban Areas; Integration of the SDGs into National Planning.

Policy advocacy, research and analysis:

National and regional level research and analysis on how development influences the natural environment to make the case for “environment for sustainable development”:

- ▶ Environmental progress, trends and scenarios
- ▶ Sustainable Urban Development (e.g. “The Future of Asia-Pacific Cities”)
- ▶ Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy
- ▶ Integrated Assessment of Environmental SDGs

Normative support and regional dialogue:

ESCAP convenes inter-governmental meetings to identify regional environment and natural resource management priorities and actions, specifically:

- ▶ Environment and Development Committee
- ▶ Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development
- ▶ Asia Pacific Urban Forum to facilitate the sharing of experiences, good practices and approaches by multiple stakeholders and encourage the formation of new partnerships

Several regional initiatives from the intergovernmental processes have dedicated follow up initiatives including the Astana “Green Bridge” Initiative and the Seoul Initiative Network on Green Growth.

CONNECTIVITY FOR THE 2030 AGENDA



5

Trade has been a key engine of growth and development, but it needs to be more inclusive and ensure its benefits are spread more widely. Transport remains a main driver of growth. It is also the second largest producer of carbon dioxide emissions globally. The sector has the potential to contribute to sustainable development if more sustainable modes of transport are more widely used. While internet access is high across the region, there is also a widening digital divide which needs to be bridged. Improvements in regional connectivity will boost economic growth and are critical to achieving sustainable development.

ESCAP SUPPORT SERVICES

Technical support, advisory services and capacity building:

- ▶ Trade: trade policy and facilitation including trade negotiations, single window and paperless trade, trade data analysis and research, and trade policies for sustainable development. These are supported by policy frameworks and technical guides
- ▶ Transport: support the development and implementation of transport facilitation measures, agreements and standards through well-established frameworks and guidelines
- ▶ ICT: support feasibility studies on broadband connectivity, the development and update of ICT policy and regulation, training on use of ICT for sustainable development through the Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders and the Women ICT Frontier Initiative (WIFI)

Policy advocacy, research and analysis:





- ▶ National and sub regional studies on trade and investment
- ▶ Database development, including the ESCAP-World Bank Trade Cost Database, the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Agreement Database, and the UN Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade
- ▶ Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR)
- ▶ Support to the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT) <https://artnet.unescap.org/>, as well as to the United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade and Transport in Asia and the Pacific <https://unnex.unescap.org/>
- ▶ Review of Developments in Transport in Asia and the Pacific
- ▶ Intelligent Transport Systems
- ▶ Sustainable Urban Transport Index
- ▶ State of ICT Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific
- ▶ AP-IS pre-feasibility and feasibility studies for sub-regions
- ▶ ICT studies on financing, broadband connectivity and e-resilience
- ▶ The Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) Transmission Map and Internet Exchange Point (IXP) Map which identify existing cables and IXPs in the region

Normative support and regional dialogue:




Several inter-governmental trade bodies are convened to review trends in trade and investment, build consensus around trade rules, norms and standards and identify actions towards sustainable development:

- ▶ ESCAP Trade and Investment Committee (biennial)
- ▶ ESCAP interim Intergovernmental Steering Group on Cross-border Paperless Trade Facilitation
- ▶ Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)
- ▶ Asia-Pacific Business Forums and ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

ESCAP also convenes inter-governmental bodies to establish, follow up and review transport norms and standards such as the Regional Strategic Framework for Facilitation of International Road Transport and Regional Cooperation Framework for Facilitation of International Railway Transport. These include:

-  Committee on Transport
-  Ministerial Conference on Transport
-  Working Groups on Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway, and Dry Ports
-  Regional Conference for Logistics Service Providers

On ICT, ESCAP convenes inter-governmental meetings to discuss issues related to regional broadband connectivity and the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS), issues of common interests, such as cross-border connectivity, co-deployment and emerging technologies, for regional consensus building and policy and regulatory harmonization, and ICT human capacity development:

-  Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation Committee
-  AP-IS Steering Committee and Steering Group meetings
-  APCICT Governing Council meeting

ENERGY



6

Although the region made remarkable progress on electricity access in the last decade, over 420 million people still have no access to electricity, and nearly half the region's population relies on polluting and unhealthy cooking fuels and technology. The share of modern renewables comprised only 6.8 per cent of total final energy consumption. The region has demonstrated a long-term steep decline in energy intensity and is progressing towards convergence with the global average. Energy efficiency measures are particularly urgent in the industry and building sectors. Without a concerted effort, the region will not get back on track to meet the Targets of SDG7.

ESCAP SUPPORT SERVICES

Technical support, advisory services and capacity building:

- ▶ Development of national roadmaps for promoting SDG7 and aligning the existing national energy strategies with SDG7 and other SDGs with a regional perspective
- ▶ Support for developing evidence-based policies for the sustainable use of energy resources
- ▶ Development of distributed and sustainable energy deployment solutions, including Pro-Poor-Public-Private-Partnerships for energy access

Policy advocacy, research and analysis:

National and regional level research and analysis to support energy policies, planning and trade:

- ▶ Tracking implementation of SDG7
- ▶ Energy outlooks and transition analysis
- ▶ Energy infrastructure analysis and mapping at sub regional and country levels
- ▶ Energy country profiles (available online for each ESCAP Member State asiapacificenergy.org)
- ▶ Power grid development and connectivity for increased renewable energy uptake

The Asia-Pacific Energy Portal provides online resources to complement ESCAP's research and analysis, with a compilation of over 200 data sets and 2,800 energy policies, mapping of 6,100 power plants and country profiles for each ESCAP Member State.

Normative support and regional dialogue:

ESCAP convenes inter-governmental meetings to identify energy transition priorities, discuss progress in addressing energy security challenges within the framework of SDG7 and to agree region wide action:

- ▶ Energy Committee
- ▶ Expert working groups on energy connectivity and on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels
- ▶ Asia Pacific Energy Forum

DATA AND STATISTICS



Data and statistics are an essential component of the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG17). National statistical systems require support for strengthening capacities to produce reliable, timely, comparable, and high-quality statistics, and for the calculation of national and global SDG indicators.

ESCAP SUPPORT SERVICES

Technical support, advisory services and capacity building:

ESCAP and its Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) in Japan support national statistical systems and users of official statistics on data governance and information management for the SDGs. Specific capacity building covers:

- ▶ Development of national SDG indicator frameworks and supporting processes (needs assessment, system design, collection, processing, analysis and evaluation)
- ▶ On-line training courses on statistical business processes for compilation of SDG indicators
- ▶ Disaggregating statistics to reduce inequalities, including the use of administrative, spatial and big data for monitoring SDGs
- ▶ Reviews of national statistical systems to improve leadership and data readiness for the SDGs

Expert technical support across economic, social and environmental dimensions on the design and conduct of data collection, integration and visualization. This support focuses on:

- ▶ Economic: national accounting, statistical business registers and training of trainers
- ▶ Population and social: civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS), gender, and migration
- ▶ Environment and natural resources: land, energy, water, waste and ecosystems including through the Resource Platform on Environment Statistics that includes self-learning resources
- ▶ Disaster-related statistics: risk mapping and impact measurement

Policy advocacy, research and analysis:

- ▶ Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific supported by the ESCAP Statistical Database
- ▶ Working Papers and Stats Briefs
- ▶ Development of the Disaster-Related Statistics Framework (DRSF) under guidance of the Asia-Pacific Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics
- ▶ Methodologies for benchmarking SDG progress and disparities
- ▶ Development of a measurement framework for ocean statistics
- ▶ Piloting innovative data solutions including big data for SDGs (poverty mapping, satellite imagery)

Normative support and regional dialogue:

ESCAP supports Member States develop coherent data and statistical frameworks, for example the Collective Vision for advancing official statistic, through its inter-governmental platforms:

- ▶ Committee on Statistics
- ▶ Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics
- ▶ Regional Steering Group on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
- ▶ Regional Steering Group on Population and Social Statistics

TECHNOLOGY



8

Science, technology and innovation can play a vital role in supporting sustainable development. The Asia-Pacific region is characterized by large disparities across countries. While many countries rank in the bottom quartile of the Global Innovation Index, several Member States are leaders in science, technology and innovation, accounting for almost 45 per cent of global research and development expenditure. The challenge is to bridge these gaps and address the digital divide, to enable Member States, particularly countries with special needs, to take advantage of technologies and nurture an innovative environment. Inclusive policies could be adopted to use technologies to reduce inequalities. South-South and triangular cooperation have a key role to play.

ESCAP SUPPORT SERVICES

Technical support, advisory services and capacity building:

ESCAP and its Asia-Pacific Centre for Technology Transfer (APCTT) in India support countries design and implement technology and innovation policies to support the achievement of the SDGs. Technical and capacity building support includes:

- ▶ Advisory services on technology and innovation policy, on frontier technologies, social entrepreneurship and impact investing, inclusive innovation, technology transfer and commercialization, technology-based entrepreneurship and startups/SMEs, and public-sector innovation.

- ▶ Capacity building on strengthening national innovation systems and areas related to technology transfer.
- ▶ Promoting technology cooperation on technology and innovation policies and technology transfer.

Policy advocacy, research and analysis:

- ▶ National and regional level research and analysis on technology and innovation policies on frontier technologies, inclusive innovation, technology transfer and commercialization, national innovation systems, technology-based entrepreneurship and startups/SMEs, and public-sector innovation.
- ▶ National and regional level research and analysis to advise governments on social entrepreneurship and impact investment policies, including national surveys and legal guidelines.
- ▶ Support to the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Science, Technology and Innovation (ARTNeTonSTI) <https://artnet.unescap.org/sti> (to be launched in August 2018)
- ▶ Online Technology Platforms such as Technology4SME and Renewable Energy Technology Bank (RET-Bank) of APCTT for Facilitating Cross-border Technology Transfer Cooperation

Normative support and regional dialogue:

ESCAP convenes inter-governmental meetings to explore policies and strategies that enhance the generation of and access to science, technology and innovation for sustainable development:

- ▶ Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation Committee
- ▶ Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Board
- ▶ APCTT Technical and Governing Council meetings

FINANCE



9

The effective pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires stable and long-term financing. The region's low tax revenues and sometimes inappropriately targeted public expenditure are considerable obstacles to sustainable development. The region's financial markets are insufficiently developed to channel regional savings into investments supporting sustainable development. The region must increase domestic public resources and mobilize private resources. This requires developing capital markets, leveraging public-private partnerships and policies to enhance access to credit for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

ESCAP SUPPORT SERVICES

Technical support, advisory services and capacity building:

ESCAP's capacity building activities have focused on:

- ▶ Supporting policymakers in countries with special needs allocate existing financial resources effectively and mobilize additional financing for sustainable development
- ▶ Supporting the design and implementation of city finance strategies and policies for sustainable urbanization and urban development
- ▶ Supporting the development of FinTech solutions to increase access to finance by women entrepreneurs
- ▶ Building governments' capacity to implement public-private partnerships to finance infrastructure projects

Policy advocacy, research and analysis:

- ▶ Regional research and analysis on mobilizing finance for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, including “The Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific”.
- ▶ Research on municipal finance, tax incentives, progressive tax policy and environmental taxes, including a recent book on “Tax Policy for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific”.
- ▶ Comprehensive national studies on SMEs access to finance, discussing policy and regulatory frameworks, business models, lending infrastructure, development banks and FinTech
- ▶ Studies on options for financing cross-border infrastructure projects in landlocked developing countries

Normative support and regional dialogue:

ESCAP convenes two intergovernmental meetings which focus on finance and regional financial cooperation:

- ▶ Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Financing for Development
- ▶ Ministerial conference on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration

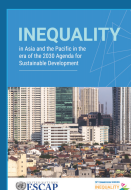


ESCAP PUBLICATIONS



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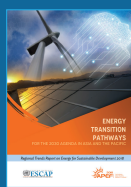
Inequality in Asia and the Pacific in the Era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

May 2018



Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2017

May 2018



Energy Transition Pathway for the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific: Regional Trends Report on Energy for Sustainable Development 2018

April 2018



Transformation Towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies in Asia and the Pacific

March 2018



Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2017 —Leave No One Behind

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