

“3rd South-East Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”

03-04 October 2019, Bangkok

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) embody the strategic vision and aspirations of all countries for the future of development and its implementation will require comprehensive actions at the global, regional¹ and sub-regional levels, as indicated in General Assembly Resolution 70/1 on Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The “3rd South-East Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals” (hereafter referred to as the Forum) provides a unique opportunity to share sub-regional perspectives on the proposed theme of “*Accelerating progress towards SDGs in Asia and the Pacific*” to be addressed at the 7th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) in 2020².

Objectives

The main objective of the Forum is to foster deepened and shared understanding of member States and other stakeholders in South-East Asia on opportunities for accelerated and balanced implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national and sub-regional level.

To achieve this, the Forum will:

¹ ESCAP resolution 72/6 on Committing to the Effective Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, calls upon member States to cooperate at the regional level in the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

² The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development is an inclusive regional intergovernmental forum which supports the preparations for the High-level Political Forum (HLPF). ESCAP resolution 73/1 indicates that the theme of the APFSD is aligned with the theme of the HLPF and will support an in-depth discussion of the cluster of goals under review at the HLPF. The HLPF structure is currently under review by member States and as of yet no decision has been taken on the format, theme and SDGs under review during the next cycle. As such, ESCAP has decided to focus the 7th APFSD on opportunities for accelerated action, responding to paragraph 26 of the Political Declaration to be adopted at the SDG Summit in September 2019, which requests the Secretary General.... *to engage governments, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in generating solutions and accelerating action to address systemic gaps in implementation.*

- 1) Take stock of sub-regional progress on the 5-year implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 2) Present national experiences in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and support capacity building for countries in the sub-region ahead of their Voluntary National Review (VNR) presentation in 2020;
- 3) Identify main challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and unlocking the means of implementation to overcome these challenges;
- 4) Develop recommendations for accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda;
- 5) Reflect on the complementarities between the ASEAN Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda.

Participants

By invitation and in their individual expert capacity:

- 1) Representatives of institutions in ESCAP member States responsible for various aspects of implementing the SDG in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 2) VNR focal points and ESCAP focal points for sustainable development;
- 3) Representatives of Local government organizations (Mayors, representatives of the municipality);
- 4) Representatives of Regional and sub-regional organizations that support SDG implementation;
- 5) Experts from think tanks and academia;
- 6) Representatives from national parliaments; and
- 7) Other stakeholders involved in SDG implementation at national, regional and global levels.

Duration and venue

The Forum is scheduled to be held from Thursday, 03 October 2019 to Friday, 04 October 2019, at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand.

Organization

The Forum will be conducted in English and all documentation will be in English.

The Forum will include panel discussions on key topics. Depending on the session focus, presentations may be delivered by resource persons and experts.

Expected outcome

The outcome of the Forum will consist of a summary of proceedings of the key topics and issues raised by participants, as well as training materials and presentation. The materials will be sent to participants and be made available on the ESCAP website.