

THE TWELFTH POLICY CONSULTATION FORUM
OF THE SEOUL INITIATIVE NETWORK ON GREEN GROWTH
Promoting Nexus Approaches for Sustainable and Resilient Societies
Conrad Seoul Hotel, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 21-23 June 2017

Background

The Asia-Pacific region is exposed to multiple environmental challenges, including water pollution, biodiversity loss, and land degradation. Green growth strategies, promoted in the region as early as 2005, promote holistic approaches by integrating environmental protection, economic growth and social welfare for sustainable development. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the region is now called to implement approach that can address the inter-connectedness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Applying nexus approaches is a key for the sustainable use of environmental resources and will be instrumental for achieving the SDGs.

This year's policy consultation forum is convened in alignment with 2018 high level political forum (HLPF). The theme of the HLPF in 2018 is 'Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies' and will conduct an in-depths review of progress on SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15.¹

The SDGs 6,7,12 and 15 are directly related to the management of natural resources, a great demand for which originates from the urban development process (SDG 11). To support an understanding of the interlinkages between this cluster of SDGs, the policy consultation forum will showcase nexus approaches between this cluster of natural resources related SDGs including in the context of urban planning, and case studies, to ultimately provide member States with a holistic perspective on environment, economic, and social aspects of building sustainable and resilient societies with the support of green growth strategies.

Objectives

The Forum aims to:

- a) Introduce the concept of nexus approaches between the cluster of SDGs under the 2018 HLPF review, to support sustainable use of environmental resources by utilizing green growth policy tools and strategies
- b) Discuss strategies and challenges for implementation these nexus approaches, i.e. water, air quality, energy and biodiversity in developing national land planning and urban planning (e.g. EIA and SEA, and case study of sustainable city)
- c) Introduce best practice of integrated environmental management on water/energy/waste/land nexus (e.g. biogasification of sewage, and heat recovery and steam generation from waste incineration)

¹ The Goals to be reviewed in 2018 HLPF include: Goal 6 (clean water and sanitation), Goal 7 (affordable and clean energy), Goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities), Goal 12 (responsible consumption and production), Goal 15 (life on land), and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the goals)

- d) Review cases of relevant nexus approaches in Asia-Pacific region, especially including ESCAP's work on urban nexus
- e) Support member States in increasing the understanding of developed institutional framework and policy, and innovative and emerging environmental facilities
- f) Present ROK's financial support programmes including ODA and relevant support system available for member States.

Expected Outcomes

- a) Raised awareness of nexus approaches to address the SDGs under an in-depth review in the 2018 HLPF by exchanging experiences and knowledges, and discussing solutions to effectively cope with environmental issues
- b) Strengthened capacity of member Countries in adopting and formulating nexus approaches to help and develop effective and appropriate strategies for sustainable use of environmental resources with focus on the SDGs 6,7,11,12 and 15
- c) Increased regional cooperation among member States for sharing of best practices and policy options for green growth strategies and sustainable development.

Target Group

The Forum targets senior-level government officials of the Ministry of Environment and/or ministries or government agencies responsible for sustainable development or/and urban planning-related work.