Post 2015 Agenda for Sustainable Development in SAARC Member States

Implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in SAARC Countries from regional perspective
SAARC – A Background

- Established on 1985
- Members (8): Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka
- Secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal
SAARC - OBJECTIVES

- To promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life;

- To accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potential;
INSTITUTIONAL SETUP

- Summit-Heads of State or Government (18), Eighteenth Summit November 2014 Kathmandu, Nepal
- Council of Ministers – Foreign Ministers
- Standing Committee – Foreign Secretaries
- Programming Committee – DG/JS of the SAARC Division, MOFA
- Technical Committees and Working Groups
AREAS OF COOPERATION

- Sixteen

- POVERTY ALLEVIATION - deals with the implementation of Post 2015 Development Agenda
Role of the Secretariat

- Main role of the Secretariat is to coordinate and monitor the implementation of SAARC activities and
- Service the meetings of the Association;
- Project development and Identification of funding partners;

- SAARC contextualized the Millennium Development Goals according to its priorities and developed SAARC Development Goals (2007-2015)

- A set of 22 goals- 8 related to livelihood, 4 to health, 4 to education, and 6 to environment

SDGs on Livelihood

- Eradication of Hunger Poverty
- Halve proportion of people in Poverty by 2010
- Ensure adequate nutrition and dietary improvement for the poor
- Ensure a robust pro-poor growth process
- Strengthen connectivity of power regions and of poor as social groups
- Reduce social and institutional vulnerabilities of the poor, women and children
- Ensure access to affordable justice; and
- Ensure effective participation of poor and of women in anti poverty policies and programs.

SDGs on Health
- Maternal Health
- Child Health
- Affordable health care
- Improved Hygiene and Public Health

SDGs on Education
- Access to primary/communal school for all children, boys and girls
- Completion of primary education cycle
- Universal functional literacy
- Quality education at primary, secondary and vocational levels

- **SDGs on Environment**
  - Acceptable level of forest cover;
  - Acceptable level of water and soil quality;
  - Acceptable level of air quality
  - Conservation of bio-diversity
  - Wetland conservation
  - Ban on dumping of Hazardous waste, including radio-active waste.
Monitoring and Evaluation

- Member States incorporated the SDG targets and goals in their respective planning process

- Annual reporting and assessing of the progress through Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation

- SAARC Secretariat brings out a publication called the *Regional Poverty Profile*

- Theme for the next publication will be SAARC Development Goals Achievements
Implementation of Post 2015 Agenda – Planned Framework

- SAARC Secretariat in partnership with UNESCAP, UNDP and ADB organized South Asia Consultation on the Post-2015 Development Agenda so as prepare a common position as inputs to PTDA negotiations.

- SAARC Leaders during Eighteenth SAARC Summit (Kathmandu, 26-27 November 2014) have recognized that the Post-2015 Development Agenda would present opportunities to compliment national and regional efforts on sustainable development.

- They have directed to initiate an Inter-Governmental process to appropriately contextualize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional level.
Accordingly, the Fourth Meeting of the Ministers of Poverty Alleviation (Thimphu, 29 July 2015), decided to initiate an inter-government process by forming an Expert Group to deal with the process of contextualizing the SDGs at the regional level.

The Secretariat hopes to convene the meeting of the Expert Group in the first quarter of 2016. In addition, this Expert Group would also, if required, revisit existing SAARC Plan of Action on Poverty Alleviation from the point of view of contextualizing 2030 Agenda.
Thank you