

Conclusion and the way forward

ESCAP

North and Central Asian Forum on Implementation of
the Sustainable Development Goals

3-4 September 2018, Tbilisi, Georgia

Highlights of the forum from participants

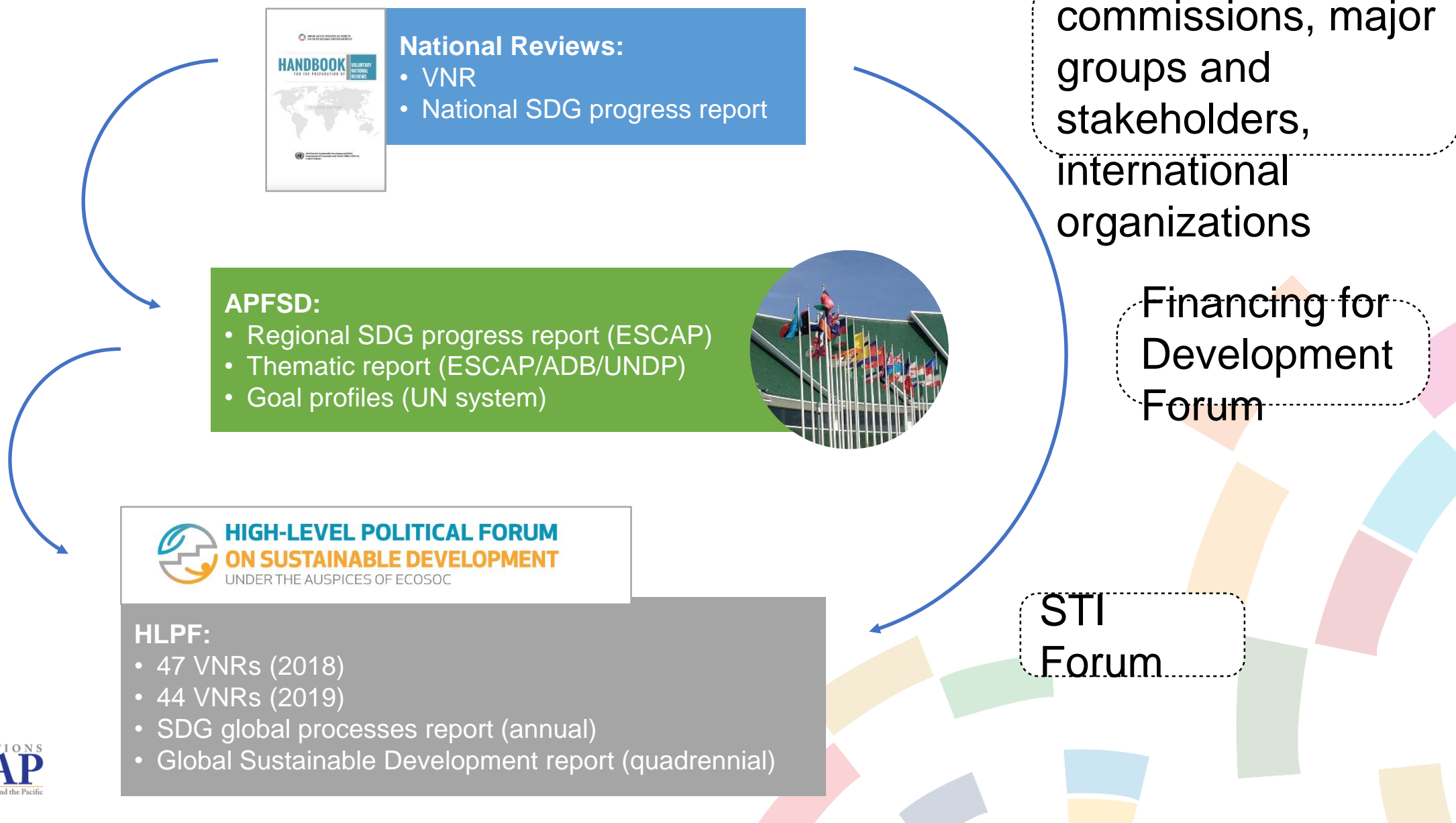
Summary of discussions

- **Underscored some of the key progress and challenges of SDGs implementation in the region**
 - Progress in education, health, e-governance
 - Challenges youth unemployment, widening inequality, corruption, specific challenges of mountainous region, lack of accountability of SDG implementation, integrating gender considerations in policies
- **VNR session**
 - **Practical tips** : Coordination mechanisms of VNRs, time management, follow UNSG guidelines, support of UN country team, Organise a strategic coalition of partners, tap into schools, national science academies, local authorities.
 - **Challenges** : limited time frame, data, inter-agency coordination and engagement of diverse stakeholder

Summary of discussions

- **In-depth discussions on selected goals**
 - SDG 4: progress made, but lagging in quality education and meeting market demand
 - SDG 8 : need to accelerate generation of decent jobs, especially for youth
 - SDG 10 : increase polarisation and widening of inequalities, but no clear policy approaches for addressing the same.
 - SDG 13 : Region is witnessing negative impact of climate change and high frequency of natural hazards. Need enhanced regional cooperation for climate change adaptation and mitigation.
 - SDG 16 : Progress made in e-governance, transparency but lacking clear policies and targets and skills in public administration
- **Discussion on HLPF theme ‘empowering people, ensuring inclusiveness and equality’**
 - Case studies highlighted role of effective multi-stakeholder partnerships, raising awareness, linking vulnerable groups with local authorities, campaigns to recognize rights, importance of innovation and technology, and promoting new platforms of dialogue

Review process in the Asia-Pacific region



Assessing SDG investment needs : ESCAP Economic & Social Survey (2019)

- **SDG progress report (ESCAP, 2018) found that Asia-Pacific region will miss most targets by 2030 without increased effort.**
- **Alongside better policies, increased investment is required across sectors ranging from health to climate action.**
- **A comprehensive quantitative assessment on SDG investment needs would be useful for policy makers, not least for planning and budgeting.**

Contribution of ESCAP Survey 2019

Aims to provide a comprehensive assessment on SDG investment needs for the Asia-Pacific region.

Cost estimation by major investment areas:

- education, health, social protection, food & agriculture
- infrastructure (energy, transport, ICT, water & sanitation)
- resources efficiency, climate action, biodiversity
- Partner with UN agencies and civil society.
- Account for potential synergies and tradeoffs.

Investment needs are likely to vary considerably across and within subregions due to distance to target, interventions required, unit costs, etc.

Next steps for survey preparations

September 2018	APFSD subregional consultations
October	Follow up questionnaires (slightly more detailed than previous slide; conducted online)
November	Responses
December-January	Analysis and integration into the regional comprehensive assessment
April/May	Launch of the Economic & Social Survey 2019
May 2019	APFSD/ Commission session

Evaluation time

<https://www.surveymzmo.com/s3/4552122/Evaluation-Subregional-forums-on-sustainable-development-ESCAP>

