Outcomes of the sixth APFSD and the 2019 HLPF under ECOSOC and UNGA
Overview

- The Follow-up and Review Architecture
- Unpacking the Theme of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and of the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)
- Financing of SD Agenda
The Follow-up and Review Architecture
Guiding principles for Follow-up and Review

- Voluntary and country-led
- Track progress in a holistic and integrated way
- Longer-term orientation
- Support reporting by all relevant stakeholders
- People-centered, gender sensitive, respecting human rights, leave no one behind

- Building on existing platforms and processes
- Rigorous, evidence-based, high quality data
- Enhance capacity-building support for developing countries
- "Active support" by the UN system and other multilateral institutions
Follow-up and review at the global level: HLPF

- Central role in overseeing follow-up and review processes at the global level
- Meets annually in New York
- Conducts two types of reviews:
  - Thematic reviews of progress on SDG
  - National reviews which are
    - voluntary, while encouraging reporting and include developed and developing countries, as well as relevant United Nations entities
    - state-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants
    - provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders
National, regional and global follow-up and review processes

National Reviews
- VNR
- National SDG progress report

APFSD
- Regional SDG progress report (ESCAP)
- Thematic report (ESCAP/ADB/UNDP)
- Goal profiles (UN system)

HLPF
- 47 VNRs (2018)
- 51 VNRs (2019)
- SDG global progress report (annual)
- Global Sustainable Development report (quadrennial)
Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)

- Annual, inclusive and intergovernmental
- Support countries & enhance their capacity for implementation of the 2030 Agenda
- Provide regional perspective, identify regional trends, share best practices and lessons learned
- Support follow-up and review, assess progress and enable peer learning related to HLPF themes

Sub regional Preparatory Meetings

People's Forum organized by Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism

Partnerships on Knowledge Products
A Regional Road Map for Asia and the Pacific

Expected Impacts

- Strengthened regional cooperation on priority issues
- Continued and more efficient and coordinated support
- More effective knowledge sharing

Practical means of implementation

- Data and statistics
- Technology
- Finance
- Policy coherence
- North-South, South-South, international and regional partnerships

Thematic areas

- Leave no one behind
- DRR & resilience
- Climate change
- Management of natural resources
- Connectivity
- Energy
Stakeholder participation at the APFSD

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Highlights of the 2019 APFSD
Empowering people for a more inclusive and equal Asia-Pacific

27–29 March 2019
> 1000 participants
35 side events
7 pre and associated events
Engagement space
VNR Learning Café
Key messages from the 2019 APFSD

- Empowerment & inclusion to address inequalities spanning the 3D of SD
- Accountability & multi-stakeholder dialogue key to LNOB
- Positive impact of VNRs on policy development processes and review of progress
- APFSD as a regional platform for sharing best practices and building regional capacities for VNRs
- Reviewed progress on the regional road map
- ESCAP Resolution 75/2 to strengthen the links between national, regional and global follow-up to and review
Highlights of the 2019 HLPF

Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality

# HLPF 2019

- 8 DAYS
- 47 VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS
- >125 HEADS AND DEPUTY HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT, MINISTERS, VICE-MINISTERS & OTHER MINISTERIAL LEVEL OFFICIALS
- 130 SPEAKERS IN PANELS
- >2000 REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS

- 6 SDGs UNDER REVIEW
- 33 MEETINGS
- 156 SIDE EVENTS
- 8 SPECIAL EVENTS
- 36 EXHIBITIONS
- 17 VNR LABS
Voluntary National Reviews at the 2019 HLPF

Key messages from the 2019 HLPF

- **Key role of Regional Commissions**

- **Build up on the** inputs developed for the HLPF, including the outcome documents from the Regional Forums for Sustainable Development

- **Need to strengthen the links** between regional fora and global follow-up to and review

- **Political Declaration** that will be adopted at the opening of the SDGs Summit puts emphasis on the of Regional Commissions and the Regional Fora for Sustainable Development
Unpacking the Theme of the 2019 HLPF and APFSD
The 2019 High-Level Political Forum (and APFSD)

Theme: *Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*

SDGs under review:

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development
Three central concepts of the HLPF 2019 theme

**Empowerment**
- Expansion of freedom of choice and action, increasing control over resources and decisions that affect one’s life

**Inclusion**
- Ensure *no one is left behind*

**Equality**
- Address enormous disparities of opportunity, wealth and power
Elements of an empowerment and inclusion framework

- Rights and justice: Encompassing knowledge and protection of one's rights, why they matter and how to ensure access to justice.
- Participation and voice: Freedom to participate in political activity and community life, to access public resources and services, and to contribute to decisions that impact an individual, as well as the ability of individuals and groups to represent themselves and be heard.
- Resources and capabilities: Essential and productive resources including social protection and safety nets, as well as capabilities to control them and have a choice in their use.
- Norms and institutions: Informal rules, practices, and shared social expectations that shape individual and societal attitudes and behavior, as well as formal structures, laws and regulations that underpin societal functioning.

The framework is grounded in a review of relevant SDG targets, and consultations with more than 600 participants in a series of workshops held in Nadi, Ulaanbataar, Bangkok, New Delhi and Tbilisi, including government officials, representatives of civil society, business, think tanks and other stakeholders.
Vulnerable groups ..

- women and girls
- children & youth
- informal workers
- persons with disabilities
- people living with HIV/AIDS
- older persons
- indigenous peoples
- refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants
- & others?
Empowerment, inclusion and equality can accelerate progress towards SDGs

- Where women have a say in decision-making on major household purchases, there are better health outcomes for children.
- Recognizing environmental rights linked to better environmental performance in countries in the region.
What does this mean for policy making?

- Integrating fundamental rights into modern legal frameworks;
- Eradicating prejudice from our societies and institutions;
- Giving vulnerable groups more power over productive resources; and
- Institutionalizing civil society’s role in shaping policies and public services.
Reflections on the review process

HLPF under review in 2019 - member countries and other stakeholders to reflect on the success and limitations of the current process;

Role of the stakeholders to be strengthened - to allow a wider contribution from the different actors at the country level;

Need of a stronger regional and sub-regional follow-up and review - to allow countries to discuss and exchange perspectives in a smaller setting;

Role of South-south cooperation and twinning of countries to support the VNR process.
In conclusions - Levers of Transformation

- Empowerment and meaningful participation are central to SDG efforts
- Adequate finance for the Goals.
- Bridging disparities on science, technology and digital information across and within countries
- Improving availability and quality of data and statistics
- Policy coherence, integration approaches and integrative stakeholder engagement (or engaging integration)
- Climate Action and SDG Action go hand in hand
Convergence of Global Agendas: The finance imperative

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Finance is one of the means of implementation (goal 17) with specific targets and indicators including on domestic resource mobilization, ODA, FDIs, debt instruments, etc.;

Paris Agreement “to make financial flows consistent with a pathway towards low GHG and climate-resilient development including financing adaptation to the growing number of negative impacts of climate change”

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) to strengthen regulatory frameworks to better align financial investment with public goals, including incentivizing sustainable practices, and foster long-term quality investment from domestic and international institutions.

The New Urban Agenda “effective, innovative, and sustainable financing frameworks and instruments, enabling strengthened municipal finance and local fiscal systems in order to create, sustain, and share the value generated by sustainable urban development”

NDCs and SDGs go hand in hand
Thank you!

Environment and Development Division
ESCAP

sdghelpdesk.unescap.org