

Sixth South and South-West Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals

Accelerating the recovery from COVID-19 and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels

5-7 December 2022

Hybrid mode
Islamabad, Pakistan

Circulation Version 01.12.2022

Concept Note

Background and context

The [SDG Forum is organised annually](#) as the subregional preparatory meetings for the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)¹ at the regional level and the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) at the global level. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), led by its South and South-West Asia Subregional Office, has been organizing these sub-regional forums in collaboration with Member States, stakeholders and partners since 2017.² The Forum facilitates dialogue and deliberations between Government officials, civil society, think-tanks, experts and other stakeholders on the themes of the annual APFSD and the HLPF, providing a unique opportunity to share information on subregional implementation efforts, highlight subregional priorities and good practices. The outcomes and recommendations from the Forum feed into regional and global processes, including the abovementioned APFSD and HLPF.

This year's UNESCAP's Sixth South and South-West Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals is being held alongside the Sustainable Development Policy Institute's (SDPI) 25th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) in Islamabad, Pakistan.

The Decade of Action for Achieving the 2030 Agenda has been severely tested by compounding crises from the COVID-19 Pandemic and war in Ukraine, also heavily impacting countries and the people of South and South-West Asia. UNESCAP's flagship SDG progress report of 2022 finds that the South and South-West Asia subregion is not on track to reach any of the 17 SDGs by 2030. Though progress has been made on some goals, the pace is slow. The fastest progress has been made towards life on land (Goal 15), no poverty (Goal 1) and good health and well-being (Goal 3). Meanwhile, the subregion is regressing on sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11), responsible consumption and production (Goal 12) and climate action (Goal 13). Concerted efforts and actions from all stakeholders are needed to accelerate progress towards the 2030 goals. ESCAP Resolution 77/1 calls for greater

¹ 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.

² The first forum was hosted in 2017 by the Government of Nepal in Kathmandu. Subsequent forums were hosted respectively by the Government of India in New Delhi in 2018, the Government of Bangladesh in 2019 in Dhaka, the Government of Maldives in 2020 in virtual format (due to the COVID-19 pandemic), and the Government of Sri Lanka in 2021 in Colombo in hybrid mode.

regional cooperation at all levels to build back better, for getting back on track leaving no one behind to achieve the SDGs and to build resilience to future pandemics and crises.³

Against this background, the “**Sixth South and South-West Asian SDG Forum**” will examine inclusive, resilient, and sustainable strategies towards COVID-19 recovery efforts and identify priorities to accelerate the Goals of the 2030 Agenda. In alignment with the focus of the 2023 HLPF and APFSD, this year’s sub-regional forum will assess progress on the thematic SDGs of **Goal 6 (Clean water and sanitation); Goal 7 (Affordable and clean energy); Goal 9 (Industry, innovation, and infrastructure); Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and 17 (Partnership for the Goals)**.

As part of the follow-up and review process for the SDGs, all countries in the subregion submitted their first Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) by 2019. Türkiye presented its second VNR in 2019, while Bangladesh, Nepal and India presented their second VNRs in 2020; followed by Afghanistan and Bhutan in 2021; and Pakistan and Sri Lanka in 2022. In this context, this year’s Forum will draw from the VNR experiences of Member States to examine national and subregional perspectives on challenges, progress and achievements and lessons learned. This reflection will enable a forward-looking dialogue on partnership to accelerate the progress towards SDGs.

The Forum will bring together multiple stakeholders from governments, international community, civil society, academia, and the private sector on a common platform to find ways of cooperation at national and subregional levels to build back better from the Pandemic and get back on track with the 2030 Agenda, leaving no one behind.

Objectives

The objective of the Forum is to foster an in-depth and shared understanding among Member States and multi-stakeholders on strategies and opportunities at country and sub-regional levels to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with special focus on SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 9, SDG 11 and SDG17.

1. Enhance awareness and understanding on key challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the SDGs, in line with the [Regional Roadmap for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific](#) adopted by ESCAP Member States, and to support and complement the subregional agenda through sharing of experiences and knowledge in 2017.
2. Provide a platform for expert discussions and reflections on subregional perspectives and good practices along with challenges related to means of implementation towards the SDGs leaving no one behind.
3. Identify ways, through expert discussions to strengthen implementation efforts, stakeholder engagement, follow-up, and review, linking national, subregional, regional, and global processes, including through sharing of presentations and experiences of VNR countries at the HLPF.
4. Identify needs and opportunities for regional cooperation and support delivery of commitments to such cooperation by regional and subregional bodies and the United Nations Development System.

Participants

1. Government officials and representatives engaged in various aspects of implementing and monitoring the SDGs;
2. VNR focal points and UNESCAP focal points for sustainable development;
3. Representatives of the UN Country Team, regional and subregional organizations;
4. Representatives of civil society organizations, including those working with vulnerable groups;
5. Representatives of private sector organizations;
6. Experts from think tanks and academia; and

³ ESCAP/RES/77/1. See https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/ESCAP_RES_77_1_E.pdf

7. Other stakeholders involved in SDG implementation at national, local, sub-regional and regional levels.

Organization

- The meetings will be conducted in English and all documentation will be in English.
- The meetings will include panel discussions on key topics. Depending on the session focus, presentations may be delivered by resource persons and experts.

Meeting report

The outcome of the meeting will consist of a summary of proceedings of the key topics and issues raised by participants, as well as recommendations and presentations. The materials will be disseminated to the participants and be made available on the UNESCAP Website. The highlights of meeting will feed into the subregional reports to the APFSD and HLPF, 2023 as well as ESCAP's flagship report on Sustainable Cities.

Tentative Programme	
Day 1: 5 December 2022	
12:00 – 13:30	Inaugural Session (Serena Hotel)
	<p><i>Welcome Remarks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Secretary, Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan • Ms. Mikiko Tanaka, Head, ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office • Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI, Pakistan <p><i>Special Remarks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP (in person) • Mr. Knut Ostby, UNDP Resident Representative, on behalf of UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator of Pakistan, Mr. Julien Harneis • H.E. Ms. Fathimath Niuma, Deputy Minister, Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Maldives • Dr. Dil Bahadur Gurung, Acting Vice Chair, Nepal Planning Commission, Nepal (virtual) • H.E. Shehan Semasinghe, Minister of State for Finance, Sri Lanka • H.E. Mr. Esala Ruwan Weerakoon, Secretary-General of SAARC (virtual) <p><i>Inaugural Address:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, Federal Minister, Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Government of Pakistan
Day 2: 6 December 2022	
6th SSWASDF	
10:00 - 11.30	Session 1: Subregional overview of progress in SDGs: Challenges and prospects
	<p><i>South and South-West Asia subregion has seen its progress towards SDGs regressing, more so due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The full achievement of SDG seems now a daunting task. There is increasing divergence in economic and social outcomes within</i></p>

	<p><i>and between countries. This session will discuss the subregional progress, good practices, and priorities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.</i></p> <p>Chair: Mr. Kewal Prasad Bhandari, Secretary, National Planning Commission, Nepal</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Abid Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI, Pakistan</p> <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights of SDG Progress in South and South-West Asia: Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head, ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office, New Delhi • Benefits of subregional cooperation on the SDGs: Ms. Cecile Fruman, Director, Regional Integration and Engagement, South Asia, World Bank <p>Panellists: (to be confirmed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mohd. Monirul Islam, Joint Secretary (SDG), Prime Minister’s Office, Bangladesh • Dr. Ali Gholampour, Head, Department of Development Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran • Mr. Priyantha Ratnayake, Deputy Secretary to the Treasury, Sri Lanka • Mr. Yusuf Esidir, Expert, Strategy and Budget Office of Presidency of Türkiye <p>Open discussion</p>
11:30 – 12:30	Tea/coffee break
12:30 – 14:00	<p>Session 2: National SDGs progress and challenges in the context of COVID-19: Reflections on voluntary national reviews (VNRs) in South and South-West Asia</p> <p><i>The session will reflect on how the regional and subregional SDG follow-up and review processes can strengthen the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level. Countries will be invited to provide interventions on their VNR experiences and to exchange learnings. This will offer national perspectives on the impact of the Pandemic on SDGs and highlight priorities and the kind of policies being implemented to recover and get back on track with the 2030 Agenda.</i></p> <p>Chair: Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha, State Minister for Finance and Revenue, Pakistan</p> <p>Presentation: Introduction of Voluntary National Reviews in Asia-Pacific: Mr. Oliver Paddison, Chief, Countries in Special Situations Section, ESCAP</p> <p>Countries that presented VNRs at the HLPF 2022: (10 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. M. Ali Kemal, Chief SDGs, SDG Support Unit, Ministry of Planning Development and Reform, Pakistan • Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe, Member, Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka <p>Other SSWA Countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mohammad Masud Rana Chowdhury, Joint Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh • Mr. Phurba, Senior Planning officer, Office of the Cabinet Affairs and Strategic Coordination, Strategic Planning Division, Bhutan • India (tbc)

	<p>CSO Representative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Samra Subhani, GCU, Faisalabad
14:00 – 15:00	<i>Lunch</i>
15:00 – 17:00	<p>Session 3: National progress on the SDGs and challenges in the context of COVID-19: Reflections on VNRs in South and South-West Asia (contd.)</p> <p>Moderator/Chair: Ms. Mehnaz Akbar Aziz, Parliamentary Secretary for Law and Justice, Pakistan</p> <p>Other SSWA Countries: (10 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ali Gholampour, Head, Department of Development Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran • Ms. Fathimath Niuma, Deputy Minister, Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Maldives • Mr. Kewal Prasad Bhandari, Secretary, National Planning Commission, Nepal • Mr. Veysel Sarici, Expert, Strategy and Budget Office of Presidency of Türkiye <p>CSO representative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Zia ur Rehman, Chief Executive, Awaz Foundation Pakistan: Centre for Development Services, Pakistan <p>Open discussion</p>
17:00 – 18:00	<i>Networking Break</i>
18:00 – 19:45	<p>Session 4: Subregional perspectives and review of cluster of Goals for HLPF 2023 in South and South-West Asia (SDGs 6, 7, 9 and 11)</p> <p><i>The session is expected to develop subregional perspectives on the cluster of goals under review in the HLPF 2023 in the form of impact on progress in light of the pandemic, challenges, priorities, good practices, and solutions to accelerate progress, including through subregional and regional cooperation and how ESCAP can support the member States. The moderators of these break-out sessions will facilitate the discussions to identify subregional priorities, policies, and stakeholder-led initiatives to reflect on opportunities for subregional responses, including measures needed for vulnerable groups to leave no one behind.</i></p> <p><u>Introductory plenary (15 min; 18:00-18:30)</u></p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Shafqat Munir, Research Fellow, SDPI, Pakistan</p> <p>Chair: Mr Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Speaker National Assembly, Government of Pakistan Co-Chair: Ms Romina Khurshid Alam, Minister of State & Special Assistant to the Prime Minister and Convener Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs, Government of Pakistan (Invitation extended)</p> <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to sessions – objectives and key take aways from break-out sessions Mr. Oliver Paddison, Chief, Countries in Special Situations Section, ESCAP <p><u>Four parallel break-out sessions in four groups (1:15 minutes; 18:30 – 19:45)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Break-out group 1. SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation); Break-out group 2. SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy); Break-out group 3. SDG 9 (industry, innovation,</i>

and infrastructure); and Break-out group 4. *SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities)*

- Each group comprising of government officials, experts, UNRCO representatives, UNCT experts, CSOs, private sector, etc.
- Leads presentations will be made in each breakout group highlighting the actions that are required to be taken by member States in the subregion.

Group 1: SDG 6 - Clean water and sanitation

Accelerated actions are required to achieve clean water and sanitation (SDG 6) in the subregion as the progress towards the Goal is slow. Increasing water pollution, climate change impact, drought and desertification are worsening these trends. The contamination and low levels of water use efficiency, lead to water scarcity if unmitigated.

The session will discuss, among other things:

- Status, trends, emerging issues, and interlinkages of implementing SDG 6;
- Good practices to facilitate inclusivity in access to clean water and sanitation including innovative technologies;
- Areas for subregional cooperation.

Moderator: Dr. Baber Shehbaz, Director Academics and Professor, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

Presentation: (10 minutes)

- **Dr. Arvind Kumar**, President, India Water Foundation, **India**

Panellists: (5 minutes each)

- **Mr. Mohd. Monirul Islam**, Joint Secretary (SDG), Prime Minister's Office **Bangladesh**
- **India TBC**
- **Dr. (Mr.) Ali Gholampour**, Head, Department of Development Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tehran, **Islamic Republic of Iran**
- **Ms. Fathimath Shazly**, Senior Planning Analyst, Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, **Maldives**
- **Mr. Dhani Ram Sharma**, Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission, **Nepal**
- **Dr Razia Safdar**, Senior Policy Advisor, SDPI, **Pakistan**
- **Dr. Lakmini Fernando**, Research Economist, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), **Sri Lanka**
- **Mr. Haile Gashaw**, Chief of WASH, UNICEF, **Pakistan**

CSO Representative:

Mr. Furqan Ahmed, Head of Programmes, WaterAid
Open discussion

Group 2: SDG 7 - Affordable and clean energy

The subregion is lagging behind on SDG 7, despite countries putting strategies for energy transition to green energy. Renewable energy development is being seen as an important aspect to facilitate achievement of the Paris Agreement targets. It is crucial that countries can integrate renewable energy into existing energy infrastructures to complement national energy security. This session will discuss:

- *Potential areas for cross-border collaboration and multi-stakeholder participation for the development of sustainable energy sector;*
- *Conditions and frameworks required to facilitate cross border energy trade;*
- *Options for public and private financing for infrastructure development.*

Moderator: Dr. Nawaz Ahmad, Director, SAARC Energy Centre, Islamabad, **Pakistan**

Presentation: (10 minutes each)

- **Ms. Kimberly Roseberry**, Energy Division, **ESCAP**
- **Dr. Hina Aslam**, Research Fellow, SDPI, **Pakistan**

Panellists: (5 minutes each)

- **Dr. Fahmida Khatun**, Executive Director, CPD, **Bangladesh [virtual]**
- **Mr. Phurba**, Senior Planning Officer, Office of the Cabinet Affairs and Strategic Coordination, Strategic Planning Division, **Bhutan**
- **Ms. Leila Zamani**, General Manager, Environmental Economy and Technologies Management, Department of Environment, **Islamic Republic of Iran**
- **Mr. Prakash Dahal**, Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission, **Nepal**
- **Mr. Namiz Musafar**, Director, Sri Lanka, South Asia Regional Energy Partnership, Research Triangle Institute, **Sri Lanka**
- **Mr. Asad Aleem**, Deputy Country Director, Pakistan Resident Mission, **ADB**

CSO Representative:

- **Mr. Talha Khan**, Executive Director, Pakistan Environment Trust

Open discussion

Group 3: SDG 9 – Industry, innovation, and infrastructure

The South and South-West Asia show “considerable regression” as per the 2022 Asia and the Pacific Progress Report. As per the UN-Habitats World Cities Report 2022 the urban population in Asia will be 2.99 billion in 2035 and that in South Asia 987,592,000. So, a vision for cities has never been more crucial than it is today, making achieving SDG 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable- important and relevant. Success in achieving the targets under SDG 11 sets the stage for achieving targets in many of the other SDG goals. This session will discuss:

- *The challenges within the region, their roots, and possible immediate solutions for overcoming them;*
- *Available best practices that can be well replicated by the SANS member countries to achieve the targets under SDG 9.*

Moderator:

- **Dr. Posh Raj Pandey**, Chairman, SAWTEE, **Nepal**

Presentation: (10 minutes)

- **Dr. Nagesh Kumar** (Director) and **Dr. Shiladitya Chatterjee**, (Visiting Professor), Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), **India [virtual]**

Panellists:(5 minutes each)

- **Dr. Omar Joya**, Executive Director, Biruni Institute, **Afghanistan**

- **Dr. Selim Raihan**, Executive Director, South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM), **Bangladesh [virtual]**
- **Mr. Pema Tshewang**, Senior Planning Officer, District Administration, Lhuentse, **Bhutan**
- **Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi**, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), **India [virtual]**
- **Mr. Ehsan Malik**, President, Pakistan Business Council, **Pakistan**
- **Dr. Safdar Sohail**, Director, Studies in Globalisation and Development, **Pakistan**
- **Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe**, Member, Sustainable Development Council of **Sri Lanka**
- **Mr. Muhammad Hammad Bashir Saeed**, Project Expert, UNIDO, **Pakistan**

CSO Representative:

Mr. Muhammed Hammad Bashir Saeed, Project Expert, Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN), UNIDO

Open discussion

Group 4: SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities

This session will focus on the status, trends, emerging issues, and interlinkages of implementing SDG 11 in South and South-West Asia within the context of a sustainable urban recovery from multiple connected crises (climate, cost of living, covid/health, food, and energy all which impact cities and urban communities in distinct ways. It could identify current best practices to recover and develop sustainable cities and communities in South and South-West Asia as well as new areas to scale up partnerships and cooperation among different actors for achievement of SDG11. The session can address some of the questions as below:

- *South and South-West Asia has the highest number of people living in informal settlements globally. Given this and rising urban inequalities in the region, what policy mechanisms and private sector interventions are required to ensure that all urban citizens have access to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services, especially in a post-pandemic context, where adequate housing was central for the survival of urban households and the sustainability and resilience of cities?*
- *The region's cities are vulnerable to extreme weather conditions. What capacities need to be strengthened and what action can be taken to ensure that cities and urban citizens are more prepared and resilient against disasters related to climate and other natural causes?*
- *For countries in the region, the climate crisis coupled with rising levels of urban pollution, particularly solid waste, and air pollution, are an increasing health concern. Given the importance of reducing waste and resource consumption to support sustainable urban development, what policy measures, technologies, and incentives can be implemented to reduce the environmental impact of cities in line with a net zero climate transition?*
- *The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the importance of green public spaces for the well-being and health of urban communities, while acting as a nature-based solution in many countries against air pollution and the 'urban heat island effect' due to the climate crisis. How can cities and urban planning promote inclusive green public spaces as a key driver of change especially for women and children, youth, older persons, and persons with disabilities?*

	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Kewal Prasad Bhandari, Secretary, National Planning Commission, Nepal <p>Presentation: (10 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Curt Garrigan, Chief, SUDS, EDD, ESCAP • Mr. George Cheriyan, CUTS International, India (virtual) <p>Panellists: (5 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hitesh Vaidya, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs, India [virtual] • Mr. Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary-General of ICLEI and Executive Director, ICLEI South Asia, India [virtual] • Mr. Surendra Thapa Magar, Chief Administrative Officer, Dhulikel Municipality, Nepal • Ms. Lajana Manandhar, Executive Director, Lumanti Group for Shelter, Nepal [virtual] • Mr. Jawed Ali Khan, Habitat Programme Manager, UN-Habitat Pakistan • Mr. Umer Malik, Policy Analyst, Development Policy Unit, UNDP Pakistan • Dr. Noman Ahmed, NED University, Karachi, Pakistan (Virtual) <p>CSO Representative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Mome Saleem, Institute of Urbanism <p>Open discussion</p>
Day 3: 7 December 2022	
10.00 – 11.30	<p>Session 5: Plenary- Review of selected Goals for HLPF 2023 in South Asia: Reporting by the Working Groups and the Way forward</p> <p>The session will provide subregional perspectives on the cluster of goals under review in 2023, by the conveners of the Working Groups on the respective Goals based on the discussions in the previous session.</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed, Ministry of Finance, Pakistan</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Riaz Fatyana, Former Convener Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs, Pakistan</p> <p>Reporting by the Chairs of Breakout Working Groups: (10 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group 1 (SDG 6): Dr. Zafar Mirza, former Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for National Health Services, Pakistan • Group 2 (SDG 7): Dr. Nawaz Ahmad, Director, SAARC Energy Centre, Islamabad, Pakistan • Group 3 (SDG 9): Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Chairman, SAWTEE, Nepal • Group 4 (SDG 11): Mr. Kewal Prasad Bhandari, Secretary, National Planning Commission, Nepal <p>CSO Representative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Shabaz Malik, ED, Sungi Development Foundation <p>Open discussion</p>
11:30– 12:30	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>

12:30 – 14:00	<p>Session 6: Strengthening means of implementation to advance progress on the SDGs: Financing for development</p> <p><i>Given that COVID -19 pandemic has regressed the growth of subregion, the governments have been struggling with their financial needs for developmental assistance. Three LDCs of the subregion are also graduating in coming years from LDC and thus would need finances for sustainable graduation. This session will focus on financing for development needs of countries in subregion and explore ways and means to generate resources for development. It will discuss means and mechanisms for designing recovery strategies based on sustainable financing policies; leveraging public and private sources for financing COVID-19 recovery packages and achieving the SDGs.</i></p> <p>Chair: Mr. Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan, Coordinator to Prime Minister on Commerce and Industries, Pakistan</p> <p>Lead presentation (15 minutes): Dr. Hamza Malik, Director, MPFD, ESCAP</p> <p>Panellists: (5 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mohammad Masud Rana Chowdhury, Joint Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh • Dr. Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh [virtual] • Mr. Pema Tshewang, Senior Planning Officer, District Administration, Lhuentse, Bhutan • Mr. Kewal Prasad Bhandari, Secretary, National Planning Commission, Nepal • Ms. Anita Turab, Joint Secretary (UN), EAD, Pakistan • Mr. Priyantha Ratnayake, Deputy Secretary to the Treasury, Sri Lanka • Mr. Yusuf Esidir, Expert, Strategy and Budget Office of Presidency of Türkiye <p>CSO Representative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Sameena Nazir, President, PODA - Pakistan <p>Open discussion</p>
14:00-15:00	Lunch
15:00-16:30	<p>Session 7: South and South-West Asia Perspectives and Partnerships on Delivering the SDGs through the food, energy, and finance nexus (SDG 17)</p> <p><i>The session will highlight COVID-19 impacts and recovery and discuss the key areas of the 2023 Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership Report on addressing food, energy and finance challenges that are limiting progress on SDG 17. Promising solutions and innovations and areas for regional cooperation at the nexus of food, energy and financing systems that can accelerate progress towards the SDGs will be illustrated.</i></p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Oliver Paddison, Chief, Countries in Special Situations Section, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) <p>Presentation on Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Frank Thomas, SDGs Consultant, Asian Development Bank (ADB) • Ms. Madhubashini Fernando, Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

	<p>Audience engagement activity: Live polling on converging crises and SDG solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Oliver Paddison, Chief, Countries in Special Situations Section, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rupa Chanda, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation, ESCAP [virtual] • Mr. Dhani Ram Sharma, Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission, Nepal • Ms. Shaista Ayesha, Chief Executive Officer, SEED Ventures, Pakistan • Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe, Member, Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka • Ms. Lavanya Jayaram, Executive Director, South Asia, Asian Venture Philanthropy Network [virtual] <p>CSO representative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman, Vice Chancellor, PMAS Arid University, Rawalpindi <p>Open discussion</p>
16:30 – 18:00	<i>Networking break</i>
18:00-19:30	<p>Concluding session: The way forward</p> <p>This last session will feature concluding remarks by the organizers, summarizing the key highlights, discussing the way forward, including the process leading to the APFSD and HLPF in 2023 and consolidating subregional inputs for the upcoming APFSD to feed into the HLPF 2023.</p> <p>Moderator: Dr Abid Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Highlights of 6th SSWASDF - Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head, ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office • Ms. Mikiko Tanaka, Head, ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office • Dr. Abid Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI, Pakistan • Mr. Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Secretary, Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan <p>Chief Guest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Federal Minister, MoFA, Government of Pakistan <p>Guest of Honour:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator Ms. Sherry Rehman, Minister for Climate Change, Pakistan <p>Vote of Thanks: Dr Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director, SDPI</p>