



Agenda Item 2: Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in Asia and the Pacific

ESCAP Hall, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok

20th February 2024 (10:00 – 12:00 TBC, UTC+7)

Background

Guided by the overall theme of the 2024 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solution”, the Eleventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development will review Goal 1 on no poverty, Goal 2 on zero hunger, Goal 13 on climate action, Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and Goal 17 on partnerships for the goals. The 2024 SDG Progress Report highlights that the progress towards the 2030 Agenda remains uneven and insufficient within the Asia-Pacific region, manifesting particularly slow advancement across many of the 17 Goals. Positive strides have been taken towards eliminating poverty (Goal 1) and climate action (Goal 13) remains an immediate priority for the region. The Eleventh Forum will provide a platform to identify these regional priorities following the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit. The Summit further set out six key transitions – food systems; energy access and affordability; digital connectivity; education; jobs and social protection; and climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution – which can have catalytic and multiplier effects across the Goals. These key transitions recognise the integrated nature of the Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

This agenda item will review challenges and integrated approaches to navigate the intersection between climate change, poverty and hunger with a focus on amplifying synergies and mitigating trade-offs to ensure continued inclusive, sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. Drawing from the highlights of document ESCAP/RFSD/2024/2, the discussion will include examples of good practices, national strategies and policy action to accelerate actions on climate change, poverty and hunger through integrated approaches that can bring transformative change.

The impacts of climate change threaten to increase hunger and poverty and are undoing gains in sustainable development that countries in the Asia-Pacific region made over recent decades.



These impacts are straining the biophysical systems (land, water, ecosystems) and creating food insecurity and poverty across the region. People living in poverty and in vulnerable situations are affected the most by climate change but have the least options to cope and adapt and have contributed least to emissions.

Climate change impacts and hazards are increasing in prevalence and severity in the Asia-Pacific region, causing severe displacements which, despite being temporary, can uproot populations permanently, with rippling effects on human development, urbanisation dynamics and economic transformation. Climate change can also undermine food systems, push more people into poverty and increase the risk of hunger.

The need for integrated approaches in achieving climate action and progress on other Sustainable Development Goals is clearer than ever. Coordinated transformative government solutions and multi-stakeholder participation at all levels are needed.

To this end, the distinguished panellists will elaborate on country and regional efforts to manage the challenge of shifting priorities and limited fiscal space for keeping SDGs at the forefront of transformative solutions. Member States and stakeholders are invited to discuss and share their perspectives as well as good practices to address the interlinked challenges of climate change, poverty and hunger and to renew efforts needed to fully implement the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific.

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