

**Virtual High-Level Policy Dialogue on  
COVID-19 and South Asia: Socio-Economic Impacts, National  
Strategies and Regional Cooperation for Building Back Better**  
9 July 2020, 5.00-7.00 PM (Bangkok time); 3.30 PM – 5.30 PM (New Delhi)

**Tentative Programme**

15.30 – 15.50 PM	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b> <b>Chair: H.E. Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana</b>, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of UNESCAP</p> <p><b>H.E. Mr. Esala Ruwan Weerakoon</b>, Secretary-General, SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu</p> <p><b>H.E. Mr. M Shahidul Islam</b>, Secretary-General, BIMSTEC Secretariat, Dhaka</p>
15.50 – 16.05 PM	<p><b>Introduction of the UNESCAP Policy Paper</b> <b>Dr. Nagesh Kumar</b>, Director, UNESCAP South and South-West Asia Office, New Delhi</p>
16.05 – 17.00 PM	<p><b>Distinguished Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Dr. Mustafa Mastoor</b>, Minister of Economy, Government of Afghanistan</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Muhammad Abdul Mannan</b>, Minister of Planning, Government of Bangladesh</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Lyonpo Loknath Sharma</b>, Minister of Economic Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Dr. Rajiv Kumar</b>, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, Government of India</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Mohamed Aslam</b>, Minister of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Government of Maldives</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Prof. Dr. Puspa Raj Kadel</b>, Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Dr. Shabnum Sarfraz</b>, Member Social Sector, Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Sugath Yalegama</b>, Director General, Sustainable Development Council, Government of Sri Lanka</li> </ul>
17.00 – 17.25 PM	<b>Open discussion</b>
17.25 – 17.30 PM	<b>Wrap up by the chair</b>