



Sustainable Development Goal 13 Round Table at the 11th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)

Meeting Room A, United Nations Conference Center, Bangkok

Date: Thursday 22 February, 09:00 – 11:30 hours (GMT+7)

Reporting back to APFSD Plenary: Thursday 22 February, 13:30-16:30

Background

Climate change and its impacts, such as extreme weather patterns and rising sea levels, are devastating and unprecedented. In the Asia-Pacific region, typhoons, floods, heatwaves and droughts, are resulting in human and economic losses that continue to undermine hard-won development gains across the region.

Progress towards climate action (SDG 13) is slipping away. The region is both a victim of the impact of climate change and a perpetrator of climate change, with a responsibility to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Although Asia-Pacific States are doing well in developing their NDCs, more ambition is needed as countries are not on track to achieve greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, and more countries must report emissions levels for all sectors to properly monitor their contribution towards global climate agendas. The region is also regressing on SDG 13 owing to the increase in deaths and missing persons attributed to disasters. Although the number of people affected by disasters is declining, the increasing trend in some countries maybe caused by data reporting modalities which included deaths related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in reports on deaths attributed to disasters.

Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and SDG 13 Round Table

The annual Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) is an inclusive intergovernmental forum and regional platform for supporting countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



The 11th APFSD will be organized from 20-23 February 2024 under the theme “*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*” in Bangkok, Thailand, at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC).

APFSD will feature multi-stakeholder “Round Tables” dedicated to the goals under review at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2023. The Round Table on the review of SDG 13 will be organized by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Environment and social Committee for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

The specific objectives of the Round Tables are to:

- I. Establish a shared understanding of the regional outlook/progress on the Goals and of the interlinkages across Goals by providing an update on progress made since the last assessment.
- II. Jointly develop recommendations on:
 - (a) Addressing human rights and gender equality as well as other systemic challenges that are barriers to further progress,
 - (b) Priorities for strengthening policy coherence in implementation efforts – including through attention to key leverage points.
 - (c) Promising solutions and innovations (policy, social, institutional, technological, or other) at the national level
 - (d) Areas for regional cooperation to address the transboundary dimensions of these Goals and challenges.

The Round Table will provide an opportunity for representatives from governments and local authorities, civil society, academia, youth and the private sector to review the progress on SDG 13 in the Asia-Pacific region and associated challenges, and to discuss priorities for action. The Round Table discussions will be based on the SDG 13 Goal Profile which was drafted in preparation to the Forum and will be available on the APFSD website for reference. Data gaps and how these can be addressed may also be discussed.

The Round Table format includes a presentation on the SDG 13 profile, a panel discussion, three breakout discussion groups, and a plenary session. The agenda is presented below. The report of the Round Table will be presented to the broader APFSD plenary during agenda item 4 (a) scheduled for 22 February 2024 between 13:30-16:30 hours.

Theme of SDG 13 Round Table	Priority Targets/Areas for Discussion
Progress on Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific	Priority 1: Need for increased ambition in NDCs.



	Priority 2: Need to scale up the mobilization and aligning of finance for climate action
	Priority 3: Promote the production, accessibility and use of gender and environment data
	Priority 4: Leaving no-one behind in climate action
	Priority 5: Transport
	Priority 6: Ensure that people in vulnerable situations, CSOs and Environmental Human Rights Defenders can access information about climate change and climate action, effectively participate in climate-related decision-making
	Priority 7: Ensure meaningful youth engagement in climate action

Programme

Thursday, 22 February 2024 09:00 – 11:30 hours (GMT+7, Bangkok time)	
Time	Agenda
09:00-09:05 (5 mins)	Welcome and opening remarks
09:05-09:20 (15 mins)	Presentation of the Goal 13 Profile Joint presentation from drafting team: UNHABITAT, UNESCAP and UNIDO Plenary Q&A
09:20-10:00 (40 mins)	Panel discussion Moderator: Sangmin Nam, Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP Discussants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Noralene M. Uy, Assistant Secretary, Policy Planning and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects,



	<p>Department of Environment and Natural Resources, The Philippines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSO: Mr. Ivan Enrile, IBON International • Youth: Mr. Wong Yi Song, Tripple Echoes, 11th APFSD Youth Climathon Finalist • Private sector: Mr. Piyachart Isarabhakdee (Arm) CEO, Brandi and Co. <p>Additional interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Conrad Albrecht, Managing Director and Head of the Directorate of Sustainability of Eurasian Development Bank • Mr Guilberto Borongan, Director, Affiliated Faculty for Urban Innovation and Sustainability, Department of Development and Sustainability Asian Institute of Technology • Mr. Nedup Tshering, Executive Director, Clean Bhutan • Ms. Rabeya Sultana, Chief Operating Officer from the Disabled Rehabilitation and Research Association, Bangladesh
<p>10:00-10:10 (10 mins)</p>	<p>Plenary Q&A with the panelists</p>
<p>10:10-10:55 (45 mins)</p>	<p>Breakout groups</p> <p><i>Three breakout groups will provide feedback on policy recommendations for action from the SDG 13 Profile and propose new recommendations for action as needed. Breakout groups will remain in the round table meeting room.</i></p> <p>Break out group 1 Leave no one behind- moderator & note taker: OHCHR</p> <p>Priority actions from the SDG 13 profile:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority 4: Leaving no-one behind in climate action - Priority 6: Ensure that people in vulnerable situations, CSOs and Environmental Human Rights Defenders can access information about climate change and climate action, effectively participate in climate-related decision-making - Priority 7: Ensure meaningful youth engagement in climate action - <p>Breakout group 2 Scaling up climate action- moderator & note taker: UNIDO</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority 1: Need for increased ambition in NDCs. - Priority 2: Need to scale up the mobilization and aligning of finance for climate action. - Priority 5: Transport <p>Break out group 3: Gender and climate action- moderator & note taker: UN Women</p> <p>Priority 3: Promote the production, accessibility and use of gender and environment data</p>
<p>10:55-11:25 (30 mins)</p>	<p>Breakout Groups present back</p> <p>Followed by Plenary discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Sangmin Nam, Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP</p>
<p>11:25-11:30 (5 mins)</p>	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p><i>Moderator to summarise highlights and note that the points identified and presented back by the breakout groups will be used to revise the SDG 13 recommendations for action and be presented to APFSD plenary.</i></p>

Rapporteur on the SDG 13 Round Table Discussion: Ms. Noralene M. Uy, Assistant Secretary, Policy Planning and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, The Philippines

For more information, please contact: APFSD Secretariat at escap-apfsd@un.org

SDG 13 Round Table: Mr. Jonathan Gilman, Deputy Regional Director a.i., UNEP gilmanj@un.org/Ms. Aneta Nikolova, Environment Affairs Officer, ESCAP nikolova@un.org

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