



# Sustainable Development Goal 17 Round Table at the 11<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)

**Meeting Room H, United Nations Conference Center, Bangkok**

<https://zoom.us/j/95727547204>

*Wednesday 21 February (13:30-16:00)*

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

## Background

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17, which emphasises reviving global partnerships for sustainable development and strengthening the means of implementation plays a key role in achieving all the other 16 SDGs. All parts of the society, civil society organisations (CSOs), private sector businesses, and governments, the UN system and financial institutions must all work together to achieve the goals.

As of the end of 2023, the Asia-Pacific region shows notable progress towards achieving Goal 17 indicators in several areas such as the number of internet users, remittances from individuals, foreign direct investment inflows, exports of commercial services, and financial resources allocated to improving statistical capacity. However, challenges persist in fully unlocking the potential of SDG 17 encompassing limited coordination, resource flow to developing countries, capacity-building needs, systemic barriers, and insufficient data for progress tracking and decision-making. Financial resource mobilisation from both public and private sources continues to be a major challenge. Domestic financial resource mobilisation for sustainable development, for instance, through tax collection, remains low. Targeted interventions are needed to decrease the reliance on international financial development assistance and enable more self-funded development programmes. This is particularly important since Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding for development projects has not kept up with the pressing needs in the countries in Asia-Pacific. Additionally, ODA for technological collaboration is not progressing at the predicted rate. All the while an increasing number of countries in the region have been rated as facing a high risk of debt distress.

Addressing the Asia-Pacific region's numerous, intricate and interconnected challenges necessitates a multidimensional, cross-sectoral and collaborative approach with an inclusive and long-term vision. It needs to include fostering multi-stakeholder and South-South partnerships, promoting innovative financing mechanisms, strengthening statistical capacity, and investing in technology and infrastructure. It is imperative to build on successful solutions for the further advancements of the SDGs and the 2030 agenda.



## Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and SDG 17 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 11<sup>th</sup> APFSD will be organised 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 2024.

At APFSD 2024, UNOPS and UNFPA are leading the SDG 17 Round Table organisation which aims at a discussion that consolidates best practices, identifies actionable priorities for accelerating progress towards the SDGs in the Asia-Pacific region, with a special focus on partnerships, innovation, and inclusive development strategies.

The specific objectives of the Round Tables are to:

- I. Establish a shared understanding of the regional outlook/progress on SDG 17 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 17 in the Asia-Pacific region and associated challenges, and to discuss priorities for action. The Round Table discussions will be based on the SDG 17 Goal Profile which shows the current progress made on SDG 17 in the region and which was drafted in preparation for the Forum and will be available on the APFSD website for reference. Data gaps and how these can be addressed may also be discussed.



## Format

The Round Table format includes a presentation on the SDG 17 profile, a panel discussion, breakout discussions, and a final 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 21 February 2024 between 13:30-16:30 hours.

## Participants

The Round Table welcomes in-person and online participants who are accredited to participate in the APFSD, including government officials and other stakeholders.

Registration should be done via [this link](#).

Theme of SDG 17 Round Table	Priority Targets/Areas for Discussion
Finances for development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategies to increase tax revenues and reduce dependency on donor funding.</li> <li>• Exploring innovative financing mechanisms: including impact investing, green bonds, and public-private partnerships to support sustainable development</li> <li>• Addressing the stagnation in ODA and improving its alignment with technological advancements for development.</li> </ul>
Promote South-South, Triangular Cooperation and other multi-stakeholder partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best practices for collaboration between governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector.</li> <li>• Leveraging cooperation among countries in the Global South to catalyse the SDGs achievement.</li> <li>• Ensuring that partnerships include focused support for women, youth, and persons with disabilities</li> </ul>
Coordination, collaboration and capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategies for expanding access to digital technology and the internet, especially in remote and underserved areas.</li> <li>• Investments in green and resilient infrastructure to combat climate change and enhance community resilience.</li> <li>• Utilising technology to improve the delivery of education, healthcare, and other public services.</li> <li>• Developing integrated policies that recognize the interlinkages between SDG 17 and other SDGs.</li> <li>• Strategies to tackle issues like gender inequality, human rights violations, and environmental degradation</li> <li>• Enhancing cooperation on issues that cross national borders, such as climate action, resource management, and disaster response.</li> </ul>
Improve data and statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening national statistical offices and systems to improve the collection, analysis, and dissemination of SDG-related data.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leveraging high-quality, timely data to inform policy-making, track progress, and identify gaps in SDG implementation.</li> <li>• Exploring new technologies and methodologies for data collection.</li> <li>• Identifying and addressing critical data gaps that hinder accurate monitoring and assessment of SDG progress, particularly in vulnerable populations and sectors.</li> <li>• Promoting regional cooperation to establish common data standards, sharing best practices, and facilitating cross-border data exchange to enhance regional SDG monitoring and evaluation</li> </ul>
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## Programme

Date Time	
Time	Agenda
<b>13.30-13.45 (15 mins)</b>	<b>Welcome and opening remarks</b> Dr. Simonetta Siligato, Senior Adviser to the Regional Director, UNOPS Asia Region
<b>13.45-14.00 (15 mins)</b>	<b>Presentation of the Goal 17 Profile</b> UNOPS/UNFPA
<b>14.00-14.30 (30 mins)</b>	<b>Panel Discussion</b> <b>Moderators:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Simonetta Siligato, Senior Adviser, UNOPS Asia Region</li> </ul> <b>Discussants:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Mr. Esrom Yosef Immanuel, Assistant Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, Fiji</li> <li>• Ms. Sachini Perera, Executive Coordinator of Realising Sexual and Reproductive Justice, Sri Lanka</li> <li>• Ms. Neha Das, Head of the Asia &amp; Oceania Region, Global Compact</li> <li>• Mr. Askar Japparkulov, Director of the Department of Macroeconomic Policy, Eurasian Economic Commission</li> </ul>
14.30-14.45 (15 mins)	<b>Plenary Q&amp;A with the panellists</b>
14:45-15.30 (45 mins)	<b>Breakout Groups:</b> <b>Priority actions from the SDG 17 profile</b>



	<p><i>Three breakout groups will provide feedback on policy recommendations for action from the SDG 17 Profile and propose new recommendations for action as needed. Breakout groups will remain in the round table meeting room.</i></p> <p><b>Group 1:</b> Moderator: Chiara Amato, Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development, ESCAP Note-takers: Madusha Dissanayake and Randima Jayasinghe, UNFPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 1: Mobilise financing from all sources to finance development</li> </ul> <p><b>Group 2:</b> Moderator: Simonetta Siligato/Ffion Conlon, UNOPS Note-takers: Patricia Cambronero Arribas, UNOPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 2: Promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation for integrated policy planning</li> </ul> <p><b>Group 3:</b> Moderator: Dr. Nuki Agya Utama, Executive Director, ASEAN Energy Center Note-takers: Min Sun Kim, UNEP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 3: Coordination, collaboration and capacity building</li> </ul> <p><b>Group 4:</b> Moderators: Rachael Beaven, Director Statistics Division, ESCAP Note-takers: Christophe Lefranc, UNFPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 4: Improve data and statistics.</li> </ul>
<p>15.30-15.50 (20 min)</p>	<p><b>Breakout Groups present back</b></p> <p>Followed by Plenary discussion - Defining key paths going forward</p> <p>Moderators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Simonetta Siligato, Senior Adviser, UNOPS Asia Region</li> </ul>
<p>15.50-16.00 (10 min)</p>	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></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 17 recommendations for action and be presented to APFSD plenary.</i></p>

**Rapporteur on the SDG 17 Round Table Discussion:** H.E. Mr. Esrom Yosef Immanuel, Assistant Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics

**For more information,** please contact: APFSD Secretariat at [escap-apfsd@un.org](mailto:escap-apfsd@un.org)

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20-23 February 2024



**Registration link**

Kindly register at: <https://indico.un.org/event/1007683/>

**#APFSD #GlobalGoals #SDGs #2030Agenda #AsiaPacific**