

## 8<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

23-26 March 2021, Bangkok, Thailand

*Virtual*

### Report of Roundtable on SDG 17 on Partnerships For The Goals



#### REPORTING TEMPLATE

1. **Responsible Officers (for clearing report):**
  2. **Moderator for breakout groups:** Denis Nkala, Gemma Van Halderen, Dayyan Shayani, Nataalka Wehmer, Radhika Lal, Yann Duval
  3. **Rapporteur:** Chief Executive Officer, Noumea Simi (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Trade)
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#### Policy recommendations on priority for action to make further progress on SDG 17 in Asia and the Pacific

1. The round table on Sustainable Development Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) made several recommendations on the Goal for Asia and the Pacific.
2. **The modalities for development (North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation) are all important and complimentary.** Furthermore, the target of the North to achieve 0.7% of GDP as Official Development Assistance (ODA) must be honoured. Development partners in the Asia-Pacific Region including Member States of the Global South, developed countries, the UN Regional Collaboration Platform, intergovernmental organisations, and apex bodies of non-state actors to mobilise resources and scale up South-South and triangular cooperation as called for in the Second United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA + 40) and the subsequent strategy and action plans prepared by the United Nations for sub-regional, regional and interregional South-South Cooperation and triangular cooperation. People-to-people connectivity, including through development volunteers, can enhance efforts to achieve Agenda 2030.

3. **The Region to work on a comprehensive proposal on concrete ways to enhance the role and impact of South-South and triangular cooperation** and to improve its coordination and coherence in the region, particularly within the scope of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. **Investments in national data governance, stewardship and innovation, especially the integration of geospatial, citizen-led, and statistical information**, are critical to guarantee data accessibility, ownership and use to advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda and ensure equitable coverage of all people and geographical areas while maintaining consistency and comparability, and deliver on agreed follow-up and review mechanisms.
5. **Investments are critical to Asia-Pacific's shared vision of universal and responsive civil registration and vital statistics systems** that facilitate realization of rights and support good governance, health and development including for the 2030 Agenda and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for populations hardest hit by the pandemic.
6. **Public finance is critical for COVID-19 recovery packages and achieving the SDGs, especially for ensuring public goods and equity.** To enhance fiscal space, countries need to widen the tax base, increase tax progressivity, tackle tax evasion, strengthen tax administration and expenditure efficiency, where regional and global tax cooperation are also crucial. Debt sustainability requires prudent debt management, innovative collaboration between monetary and fiscal authorities, more ambitious and broader debt relief and a review of debt conditionalities. Meeting of quantitative ODA targets that are equity-enhancing and risk-mitigating remains critical. Integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs) can help to align government budgets with national development plans and priority SDGs and facilitate collaborative efforts to mobilize international public resources and leverage private SDG-aligned innovative financing instruments and investments.
7. **Private finance needs to be leveraged at a much larger scale and directed more effectively to build forward better and achieve the SDGs.** For this countries need to: identify climate action and SDG-aligned development areas that can be financed privately (best as a part of INFFs); create an enabling environment and incentives for private investors to contribute in line with national development priorities and international human rights standards; ensure financial systems are inclusive and improve access to medium and long-term financing; leverage strong partnerships to use financing instruments such as blended finance to de-risk investments, public private partnerships, and capital market instruments such as thematic bonds to advance sustainable and gender-inclusive development.
8. **Accelerate trade digitalization and make trade more inclusive**, including through the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.
9. **Increase access to finance** through digital technology to facilitate a more inclusive digital economy, with targeted efforts to close the most persistent digital and financial gender gaps.