



“South and South-West Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”

1-2 November 2017, Kathmandu

Concept Note

Background and rationale

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) embody the strategic vision and aspirations of all countries for the future of development and its implementation will require implementation action at the global, regional¹ and subregional levels, as indicated in General Assembly Resolution 70/1 on Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The “**South and South-West Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**” provides a unique opportunity to share perspectives on “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies,” the theme of the next session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2018 and the fifth session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) also in 2018.²

The Forum provides an opportunity to discuss how the South and South-West Asia subregion can cooperate to assess progress on the thematic SDGs for review by the HLPF, i.e. SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG12 on responsible consumption, SDG 15 on life on land and SDG 17 on partnerships for the Goals.

The SDGs selected for in-depth review at HLPF 2018



¹ ESCAP resolution 72/6 on Committing to the Effective Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, calls upon member States to cooperate at the regional level in the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

² The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development is an inclusive regional intergovernmental forum which supports the preparations for the HLPF, discusses national and subregional perspectives and sharing of good practices; provides perspectives for implementing the 2030 Agenda; and assesses progress and provides opportunities for peer learning related to the HLPF thematic goals. ESCAP, ADB and UNDP have established a partnership to support the attainment of the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific through knowledge products to strengthen regional follow-up and review and national implementation efforts. Under this partnership, an annual thematic report will support discussions at the APFSD and the HLPF, presenting regional perspectives.

Objectives

As a subregional preparatory meeting for the fifth APFSD, the Forum aims to:

- Enhance awareness and understanding of the theme of the upcoming High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and related key challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the sharing of experience;
- Identify ways, through expert discussions to strengthen implementation efforts, follow-up and review, linking national, subregional, regional and global processes;
- Provide a platform for expert discussions on subregional perspectives and good practices on the cluster of Goals under review at the HLPF in 2018;
- Identify needs and opportunities for delivery by regional and subregional bodies and the United Nations Development System.

Participants

- Experts involved in national coordination of the SDG implementation
- Non-governmental and private sector organizations
- Think tanks and academia
- Regional, subregional organizations and stakeholders involved in SDG implementation at national, regional and global levels.