



“South and South-West Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals” 1-2 November 2017, Kathmandu

Final Programme

Timing	Session
Wednesday 1 November	
09.00-09.30	Opening Session Welcome Remarks – Mr. Michael Williamson, Head of Office, a.i, ESCAP South and South-West Asia office Opening Remarks – Ms. Stine Heiselberg, Head of the Resident Coordinator’s Office (on behalf of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Nepal) Inaugural Address – Dr. Prabhu Budathoki, Hon. Member, National Planning Commission, Nepal
09:30-10:30	Session 1: Global to regional and subregional context of follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda <i>The session’s aim is to enhance awareness and understanding of the key challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the region by sharing the results of regional and subregional level discussions. The Session will provide inputs to discussions on the Regional Road Map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.</i> Global to regional and subregional context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs , Hitomi Rankine, Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP Remarks – Ms. Stine Heiselberg, Head of the Resident Coordinator’s Office
10:30-11:00	Coffee break

11:00-12:45

Session 2: National progress, achievements and challenges with respect to the 2030 Agenda

The session will help reflect on how the regional and subregional processes can support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level. To strengthen the capacity of countries in the subregion considering making presentations at the HLPF 2018, the session will feature presentations from countries who have recently participated in the Voluntary National Reviews at the HLPF and from those planning to report in 2018.

Voluntary National Reviews – Experiences from Asia and the Pacific - Ms. Caridad Canales Davila, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP

Moderator: Ms. Caridad Canales Davila, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP

Mr. Sundar Narayan Mishra, Consultant, Sustainable Development Goals, NITI Aayog, **India**

Mr. Johirul Islam, Assistant Chief, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, **Bangladesh**

Dr. Dilli Raj Khanal, former member of the National Planning Commission, **Nepal**

Ms. Aishath Aniya, Senior Statistical Officer, National Bureau of Statistics, **Maldives**

Mr. Pema Bazar, Senior Planning Officer, Gross National Happiness Commission, **Bhutan**

Mr. Uchita de Zoysa, Sustainable Development Advisor, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, **Sri Lanka**

12.45-14.15

Lunch Break

14.15-15.15

Session 3: Regional Road Map for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific

The Regional Roadmap for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific: facilitating cooperation at the regional level, Michael Williamson, Head of Office a.i., South and South-West Asia Office, ESCAP

The Regional Roadmap for implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific: thematic focus on disaster risk reduction and resilience, Sanjay Srivastava, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP

Q&A

15:15- 15:30

Coffee break

15.30-16.30

Session 4: Stakeholder engagement – strengthening the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Creating a seat at the table: Effective stakeholder engagement for the 2030 Agenda, Hitomi Rankine, Environmental Affairs Officer, ESCAP

Q&A session

Thursday 2 November

09.00-12.00

Session 5: South and South-West Asia perspectives on the 2018 HLPF theme: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies

The session's aim is to develop subregional perspectives on the theme of the 2018 High-level Political forum for Sustainable Development. It will identify trends and risks faced by the subregion, discuss the impacts on sustainable development and the most vulnerable, discuss social protection and other measures needed to strengthen resilience, and highlight opportunities for subregional responses to strengthen resilience.

Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in South and South West Asia, Hitomi Rankine, Environmental Affairs Officer, ESCAP

Moderator: Professor Lawrence Surendra, Founder, Chairman, the Sustainability Platform
Panel discussion

Working groups

Part 1 – Exploring risk and the development context

10.30-10:45

Coffee breaks

Working groups – continued

Part 1 – Exploring risk and the development context - continued

Part 2 – Identifying responses to promote resilience

12.00-13:30

Lunch

13.30-16.30

Session 6: Expert panel discussion on SDG17: Strengthening cooperation in South Asia towards achieving the 2030 Agenda

The session's aim is to explore the operationalization of the SDGs, focusing on the means of implementation identified under SDG17 – which include finance, technology, trade, capacity building, data and partnerships for development. The development of mechanisms for regional coordination and cooperation will be essential to support the translation of the strategic vision of inclusive and sustainable development into concrete actions at the national level. The session will place particular emphasis on the potential role of regional/subregional bodies and the United Nations Development System.

13.30-15.00

Moderator: Mr. Bijay Thapa, UNFPA Nepal Assistant Representative

Presentations and panel discussion:

Part 1. Setting the scene and good practices in contextualizing/localizing the SDGs. The session will aim to develop a shared understanding of the outlook for the achievement of the goals in the subregion and examples of contextualization/localization at national and subnational levels to enhance policy coordination and coherence (links to SDG targets 17.13, 17.14, 17.15)

- **Key Policy Priorities and Implementation Challenges for Achieving the SDGs in South Asia** – Mr. Michael Williamson, Head, a.i, ESCAP SSWA
- **The case of Bangladesh** – Mr. Md. Tarikul Alam, Deputy Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division, Dhaka
- **The case of Bhutan** – Mr. Pema Bazar, Senior Planning Officer, GNH Commission
- **The case of India** – Mr. Maurya, Director, Social Statistics Division, MOSPI
- **Assam's experience in implementing the SDGs** – Mr. Shiladitya Chatterjee, Adviser, the Sustainable Development Goals Centre, state government of Assam, India
- **The case of Nepal** – Mr. Posh Raj Pandey, Executive Chairman, SAWTEE
- **The case of Pakistan** - Mr. Zafar ul Hassan, Chief Poverty & MDGs Section
- **National-level implications of SDG implementation: The case of Sri Lanka** – Ms. Ganga Tilakaratne, Research Fellow, IPS

Discussion

15.00 – 15.15 Coffee break

Session 6: Expert panel discussion on SDG17 (Cont'd)

Part 2. Fostering a multi-stakeholder partnership and enhancing regional cooperation in support of the 2030 Agenda in South Asia. The session will emphasize *the role of regional/subregional institutions and mechanisms to boost/revitalize regional cooperation in support of national implementation efforts that leave no one behind, as well as the importance of inclusive and effective multi-stakeholder partnership (and means to develop/strengthen it in the subregion to catalyse progress)* (links to SDG targets 17.16 and 17.17)

Moderator: Mr. Dilli Raj Khanal, Founder Chairman Institute for Policy Research and Development (IPRAD)

Presentations and panel discussion:

- **SAARC Development Goals** – (TBC)
- **Regional cooperation and the SDGs in South Asia** – Md. Nasir Uddin, Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka
- **Regional cooperation in achieving the SDGs in South Asia** – Mr. Shiladitya Chatterjee, Adviser, The Sustainable Development Goals Centre, state government of Assam, India.
- **Perspective from CSN countries** – Mr. Ahmad Riaz Sediqi, Director, Non-Government Organization, Ministry of Economy, Kabhul
- **The role of CSOs** – Prof. Pam Rajput, Vice-President, Mahila Dakshata Samiti/Women 2030, India
- **Knowledge partnership through science-policy interface for the SDGs** – Professor. Lawrence Surendra, Founder, Chairman, the Sustainability Platform
- **The role of the private sector** – Ms. Rita Bhandary, Vice Chairperson, SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council and President, Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal

16.30 – 17.00 Wrap up and closing session