



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

## ESBN Monthly Update: February 2023

### Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business

The ESNB Executive Council adopted the Green Deal for Business at its 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting in May 2022. A soft launch of the Green Deal was held during the Asia Pacific Business Forum 2022 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, on 26 August 2022.

Pledge your support to the Green Deal for Business at: <https://www.unescap.org/projects/gd>

### Upcoming events of ESNB interest

#### 22-24 February 2023: Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation, First Session

The first session of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation will be held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok from 22 to 24 February 2023. The Committee will discuss policy issues relating to: (a) strengthening regional integration and competitiveness through sustainable and inclusive trade; (b) advancing partnerships with the public and private sectors to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change; (c) mobilizing investment for sustainable development; (d) enabling business innovation for inclusive and sustainable development; and (e) promoting regional cooperation in innovation and technologies for achieving sustainable development. For more information, [CLICK](#).



**Committee on Trade, Investment,  
Enterprise and Business  
Innovation** **First Session**

22 - 24 February 2023, Bangkok

 ESCAP 75  
MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

***22 February 2023: Accelerating Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific – Harnessing Networks, Finance and Technology to Develop Capacity to Achieve the SDGs: a Side event at the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation***

The Report by UN ESCAP on [Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2022: Widening Disparities amid Covid-19](#) highlighted that not only is the region not on track to meet any of the UN SDGs, but also that it has regressed on two key goals, namely, Climate Action (SDG13) and Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12). The discussions at the COP27 meeting on Climate Change highlighted the pressing reality that Asia is where the fight against climate change will be won or lost. Throughout the region, businesses, large and small, need to take action. Given that MSMEs make up 90 per cent of firms, action will be required not only from large multinational corporates but also from the smaller companies that make up the economy and support global supply chains. For the region to successfully transition to a low carbon future and address the inherent Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) challenges this will bring, action across all SDGs will need to take place. However, there is a limited talent pool of people who can help businesses of all sizes on their sustainability journey across the broad range of topics, covering decarbonization, human rights, biodiversity, innovation and beyond. How can MSMEs use technology, networks, and collaboration across multiple subject areas to accelerate progress towards the SDGs? Building stronger networks oriented towards solving particular development problems is an area where multilateral organizations such as the UN can contribute to more sustainable development. Networks such as the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network, the UN Global Compact Network, and Chief Sustainability Officer networks need to be utilized to match knowledge with solution providers. What can be done to empower MSMEs to increase their ambitions to meet the SDGs and decarbonization requirements to meet the Paris climate change goals? **Register [HERE](#)**. For more information, [CLICK](#).

***27-30 March 2023: Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2023***

The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) is an annual, inclusive intergovernmental forum to support follow-up and review of progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional level, while serving as a regional preparatory meeting to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). The Forum provides a regional perspective on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by identifying regional trends and sharing best practices and lessons learned. Since its inaugural session in 2014, the APFSD has brought governments, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders together to prepare for the HLPF and to support regional efforts to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The 10th APFSD will be organized from 27-30 March 2023 under the theme “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels in Asia and the Pacific” in Bangkok, at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC). For more information, [CLICK](#).

**Recently concluded**

***18-20 January 2023: Eighth Meeting of the Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific***

ESCAP organized the Eighth Meeting of the Infrastructure Financing and PPP Network of Asia and the Pacific in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye, in conjunction with the 7th Istanbul Week 2023. The aims of this meeting were to: (a) invite member States’ PPP units to update on infrastructure development and investment projects; (b) share the Republic of Türkiye’s experience in PPP in promoting green and resilient infrastructure; (c) highlight climate-resilient and gender-inclusive considerations for project implementation; (d) discuss global partnerships for sustainable infrastructure; and (e) undertake infrastructure project site visits. For more information, [CLICK](#).



ESCAP also relaunched the newly revamped [InfraPPPnet Web Portal](#) which is the digital platform that serves to disclose infrastructure project pipeline and regulatory framework from the region, facilitate bankable infrastructure project transaction matchmaking, and disseminate international infrastructure financing knowledge products.

### Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

#### **8-9 February 2023: Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on the priority theme for the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 67)**

Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on the priority theme for the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 67): “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls” will be jointly convened by ESCAP and UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with ILO; ITU; OHCHR; UNESCO; UNFP; UNDP; and UNICEF. The objective of the regional consultation is to provide an interactive forum for ESCAP member States and key stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific to examine ways to accelerate progress on key frameworks including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (in particular, the 2019 Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review), the Financing for Development, Addis Ababa Action Agenda (FfD), and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For more information, [CLICK](#).

#### **16 February 2023: UNSC2023 Side Event: Disaster-related statistics: Strengthening data ecosystems for enhanced risk governance**

Organized by United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). For more information, [CLICK](#).

#### **16 February 2023: UNSC2023 Side Event: Measuring Illicit Financial Flows: Global experiences**

Organized by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in collaboration with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). For more information, [CLICK](#).

**22 February 2023: Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade: Way forward (a side event of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation)**

This meeting will take stock of the work which has been carried out for implementing the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA). It will demonstrate the benefits for any country to accede to CPTA. In this connection, the panelists from the selected Parties to CPTA are invited to share their perspectives on how their countries would benefit from CPTA. They will also elaborate why other countries (non-parties) should accede to CPTA and how to speed up domestic process for accession. This meeting is a side event of Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation. For more information, [CLICK](#).

**22 February 2023: Policy Guidebook on Promoting FDI in the Digital Economy in Asia and the Pacific Launch**

This event will serve as the official launch of the guidebook. Several high-level speakers will welcome the audience and discuss the relevance of FDI for developing Asian-Pacific economies. This will then be followed by a brief presentation of the guidebook, and question and answer round. Lunch will be served during the event. This Guidebook is the third knowledge product produced under the project Building the capacity of Asia-Pacific countries to utilize digital economy policies to accelerate progress on SDGs, funded by the government of China. For more information, [CLICK](#).

**22-24 February 2023: ESCAP-ECA-ECLAC workshop Regional Digital Trade Integration Index (RDTII): findings and implications from Asia-Pacific, Africa, and LAC**

The joint ESCAP-ECA-ECLAC event will take place from 22 to 24 February 2023 as a side event of the first session of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation. This workshop will present key research findings based on the first joint report of the three UNRCs on Digital Trade Regulatory Review for Asia-Pacific, Africa, and LAC 2023 (RCDTR). It will also feature in-depth discussions roundtable consultation with delegates and agencies to receive feedback on the RDTII framework and technical assistance needs in this area. The workshop is intended for policymakers, officials, analysts, and professionals working on trade policy in connection with the digital economy. The workshop will be held in a hybrid format (in person and online). Simultaneous interpretation in English and French will be provided in selected sessions. For more information, [CLICK](#).

**2 March 2023: ARTNeT Webinar: BETTER - Trade & Industrial Policy and the SDGs: The 30th Global Trade Alert Report**

This session will present the 30th Global Trade Alert Report issued in late December 2022 under the title: Must Do Better: Trade & Industrial Policy and the SDGs authored by Simon J. Evenett and Johannes Fritz. For more information, [CLICK](#).

**29-31 March 2023: Energy events at the Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) Background**

The energy division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will organize three events as part of the Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), to be held in Bangkok from 27-30 March 2023. The nominated Government representatives and experts will be invited to the roundtable and meetings for sharing and discussing on SDG7 progress as well as the updates on the principal technologies that can underpin the energy transition. In addition, the regional preparatory

meeting for the third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (APEF3) will also be organized for consultation with member States on APEF3's structure.

### **Energy Roundtable and Events**

For more information and programme, visit links of each event as follows;

**1) [APFSD roundtable on assessment of progress in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 7](#)**

**29 March 2023 from 10:00 to 12:00 hours.**

The roundtable is aimed at establishing a shared understanding of the outlook/progress on SDG 7 in the Asia-Pacific region and of the interlinkages across goals by providing an update on progress made since the last assessment; addressing systemic challenges that are barriers to further progress; developing recommendations on priorities for strengthening policy coherence in implementation efforts; promoting solutions and innovations at the national and regional levels.

**2) [The eight meeting of the Expert Working Group on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels](#)**

**30 March 2023 from 10:00 to 16:00 hours.**

The objectives of the eighth EWG-SDG 7 are to update participants on the latest developments in the principal technologies that can underpin the energy transition – solar, wind, hydro, energy efficiency, natural gas and nuclear; discuss the roles of these technologies in achieving SDG 7 and the energy transition in the Asia-Pacific region; and identify opportunities for regional cooperation to support the deployment of these technologies and to mitigate any negative impacts.

**3) [The regional preparatory meeting for the third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum \(APEF3\)](#)**

**31 March 2023 from 10:00 to 12:00 hours.**

In preparation for the APEF3, scheduled to be held from 18 to 20 October 2023, the secretariat is organizing a meeting to provide the opportunity for the member States to consider the content and structure of the agenda and the outcome documents of the planned ministerial segment, as well as to advise the secretariat on organizational and other substantive matters in advance of the Forum.

**For a short overview of ESCAP related news, please see <https://www.unescap.org/news> or subscribe: <https://unescap.us10.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=c0fdb6e03fa08a5e575b433c0&id=e318af22fc>**

**All ESCAP upcoming events: <https://www.unescap.org/events>**

### **Recently published by ESCAP**

[Blog: Green Deal for Business and technology in accelerating sustainable development \(12 December 2022\)](#)

[Pathways to adaptation and resilience in North and Central Asia \(19 January 2023\)](#)

[Reaching a regional estimate of death registration completeness \(18 January 2023\)](#)

[Sustainable freight transport in Sri Lanka \(9 January 2023\)](#)

[Asia-Pacific trade and investment trends brief 2022/2023: various countries \(9 January 2023\)](#)

[Sustainable freight transport in ASEAN challenges and opportunities \(6 January 2023\)](#)

[Readiness assessment for cross-border paperless trade: Tajikistan \(5 January 2023\)](#)

[Sustainable mechanization-based solutions for climate smart agriculture in Asia and the Pacific \(1 January 2023\)](#)

[Gender mainstreaming in sustainable agricultural mechanization in Asia and the Pacific \(1 January 2023\)](#)

[Understanding universal social protection \(30 December 2022\)](#)

[How to design paid maternity and paternity leave policies \(30 December 2022\)](#)

[Advancing pacific priorities 2022 \(30 December 2022\)](#)

[Impact of the covid-19 pandemic on sustainable freight transport in North and Central Asia \(30 December 2022\)](#)

**Working paper series**

Macroeconomics: Click [here](#)

Trade: Click [here](#)

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us to provide input, questions or suggestions for the monthly update: [esbn@un.org](mailto:esbn@un.org)

Best regards,

ESBN Secretariat