

REGIONAL ROAD MAP

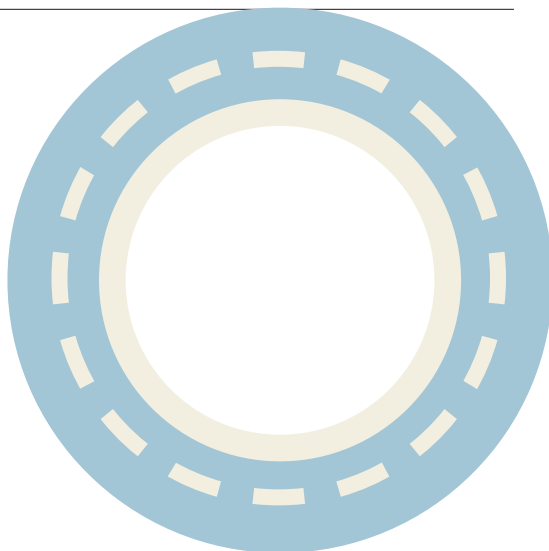
**FOR IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**



Introduction

SDG
ROADMAP **2017**

REGIONAL ROAD MAP FOR IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



At the global level in 2015 countries set in motion the most far reaching and ambitious development agenda of our time, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In Asia and the Pacific, countries have already begun translating this ambitious agenda into action and many have already set up the national architecture for coordinating and promoting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, the policy transformations required to put countries on track to achieve the SDGs have yet to take shape across this or any other region. Business as usual policies and investments are locking countries into unsustainable pathways that will create a gap between ambition and action.

To help address this gap, cooperation and action is needed at the national, regional and international levels. Regional cooperation can support and complement the effectiveness of national mechanisms upon which the ultimate success of the global 2030 Agenda rests. Transboundary challenges such as climate change and natural disasters, energy security, ecosystem degradation, and contamination of oceans, seas and marine resources require regional actions. Transboundary infrastructure networks can help reduce vulnerability, and cooperation can help develop energy solutions and ensure environmental protection of cross-border resources and ecosystems. Regional economic cooperation and integration will facilitate better transport, energy and ICT connectivity which in turn will increase access to services such as education, health, and housing as well as electricity and markets for marginalized populations.

Recognizing these opportunities, the countries of Asia and the Pacific have developed a regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to facilitate cooperation at the regional level supported by the ESCAP Secretariat and other United Nations entities. The road map was agreed on during the 4th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and subsequently endorsed by the ESCAP Member States

via Resolution 73/9 which was adopted during ESCAP's 73th Commission Session. The road map identifies priority areas of regional cooperation for implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These priority areas underline the major challenges still faced in our region, including leaving no one behind; disaster risk reduction and resilience; climate change; management of natural resources; connectivity; and, energy. Priority actions under the means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda are also identified in the road map, including data and statistics, technology, finance, policy coherence and partnerships.

ESCAP Member States and the Secretariat considered a number of overarching issues regarding sustainable development in the region and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda as a part of the road map drafting process.

The work of ESCAP and Member States recognized that despite achievements on reducing poverty levels with action for MDGs, poverty is still persistent in the region and limits the opportunities for well-being for a large number of people. According to the latest data, some 400 million people, or 10.3 per cent of the region's population, were living in extreme poverty in Asia and the Pacific during the period 2010-2013. The highest income poverty rates are found among countries with special needs and lower-middle-income countries.

In addition to challenges posted by poverty, inequality is also rising in the region and threatens to disrupt efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda. ESCAP research indicates that income inequality as well as inequality for opportunities is either on the rise or still very high without signs of improvement in most of the countries in the region. The road map responds by placing the elimination of inequality at the center of the region's development path.

Quality of governance and the effectiveness of public institutions are also crucial for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and therefore recognized in the road map. Effective governance, and especially in its normative dimension, is a basis for reinstituting the state and the society towards achieving sustainable development. It is a principle means to enable voices of people and participation in an effective, transparent and results

oriented decision-making process. Effective governance allows people to be the driving force for sustainable development. As recent ESCAP research shows, governance also affects the capacity of an economy to gain access and manage better human and natural resources, improve investment prospects and sustain innovation. Additionally, effective governance is pivotal for efforts to close development gaps across countries by supporting reforms that enable countries with special needs to benefit more from regional economic integration initiatives.

All these aspects of governance are fundamental for improving the performance and effectiveness of national and regional development systems and therefore to contribute to the achievement of SDGs.

Acknowledging that promoting sustainable development in Asia Pacific is the most pervasive and lasting solution for meeting today's challenges and delivering durable peace and stability in our region, this road map recognizes that sustainable development must be underpinned by peaceful and inclusive societies, and also places gender equality and women's economic empowerment as a central issue in the regional policy agenda.

The Secretariat will follow up and support member states on implementing this road map as requested. It will continue to provide annual updates and recommendations to Member States, including through the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable, with its reports on implementing the 2030 Agenda in the region including, but not limited to, thematic and statistical reports as well as reports on inequality and social development. It will also strengthen support to Member States in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda in an integrated approach, inter alia, with analytical products, technical services and capacity-building initiatives through knowledge-sharing products and platforms. The Secretariat is establishing an SDG Helpdesk and a Rapid Response Facility that will make available implementation models to support key aspects of SDG implementation that span across the different thematic areas that have been identified in the regional road map.

The Secretariat will give particular attention to effectively using the means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda, while it has already realigned its programme of work and strategic framework to make this happen. Effective

use of financing for development, trade, science, technology and innovation (STI) and data and statistics will define the success of SDGs implementation. On financing for development there is an opportunity to translate the concrete policies and actions as outlined in the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development to implement the SDGs. Trade has considerable potential to boost implementation of SDGs, but there are still challenges to fully harness this potential; the road map identifies specific areas of work that can tackle obstacles and create opportunities. In the context of STI, the success of implementing the 2030 Agenda will be depend inter alia on Member States' ability to collaborate and create open and inclusive knowledge economies. With regard to data and statistics, without credible figures and indicators it will be impossible to review progress on SDG implementation and, consequently, improve performance. With eighty-eight of the global SDG indicators lacking methodological guidelines or standards, action on strengthening the statistical capacities of member states are urgently needed.

ESCAP's long-standing programmes in each of these areas are being strengthened to ensure that member States are well-supported as they go forward, and that the actions across means of implementation are mutually supportive.

With this regional road map, ESCAP member States have set the course for transforming the region and delivering inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. Their success will define the global success of the 2030 Agenda.

THE ROAD MAP¹

A. OBJECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

1. Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals requires national, regional and international cooperative endeavours. The aim of this regional road map is to facilitate cooperation at the regional level, supported by the secretariat and other United Nations entities through the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism as appropriate.
2. The road map places particular emphasis on supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by developing countries, in particular by least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, countries in conflict situations and post-conflict countries and other countries with special needs.
3. The road map maintains the universality and transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda and takes into account different national and regional realities, capacities and levels of development, while respecting member States' national development strategies, policy space and priorities, remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments and creating no new commitments or additional reporting requirements or obligations for Governments or new mechanisms, as requested by member States at the Third Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.
4. In line with the 2030 Agenda, the objective of the road map is to promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development through regional cooperation in a set of priority areas that support effective pursuit of sustainable development by member States.
5. The road map also aims to place gender equality and women's empowerment as a central issue of the regional policy agenda, in order to enhance women's leadership and decision-making in all aspects of society.

1 As it was adopted in the 4th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and endorsed via ESCAP resolution 73/9

6. The road map also recognizes that sustainable development must be underpinned by peaceful and inclusive societies, addressing inequality, and by good governance. The quality of governance and effectiveness of public institutions are critical factors to the process of sustainable development.

7. The expected impacts of the road map are as follows: (a) strengthened regional cooperation on priority issues as identified by member States; (b) continued and more efficient and coordinated support for member States provided by the secretariat, United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and regional organizations through the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism; and (c) more effective knowledge-sharing among countries.

8. This road map stems from decisions of the Second and Third Asia-Pacific Forums on Sustainable Development. It is for members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and identifies opportunities to cooperate at the regional level, guided by all the principles reaffirmed and agreed to in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific, as provided for by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1 – in which it acknowledges the importance of the regional and subregional dimensions, regional economic integration and interconnectivity in sustainable development – and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

9. The regional road map contains priority areas of cooperation that could be supported using the secretariat's existing expertise and resources, drawing on input from member States and the programme of work and strategic framework. The regional road map also draws on the thematic working groups of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism and, at the national level, on input from the United Nations Development Group. The ESCAP conference structure and its ongoing activities, as well as activities of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism member organizations, will be fully utilized in an effort to avoid duplication of work and increase efficiency.

B. PRIORITY AREAS OF COOPERATION

10. Regional and subregional cooperation in specific areas can support and complement the effectiveness of national mechanisms. The means of implementation – namely finance, technology, capacity-building, trade and systemic issues – are key to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Regional discussion and cooperation, including through regional and subregional organizations,² can facilitate access to normative work; support capacity-building, technical cooperation and sharing of good practices and home-grown approaches, including among countries that share similar characteristics (such as least developed countries, small island developing States or middle-income countries); and facilitate member States' access to the means of implementation and efforts towards consolidating regional and global partnerships for sustainable development. Similarly, the externalities and spillover effects of many of the Sustainable Development Goals provide opportunities for regional approaches and engagement. The thematic areas of cooperation in this road map have been chosen for their multisectoral impact on sustainable development.

11. The opportunities for regional cooperation, including by leveraging regional and subregional organizations, draw upon the issues highlighted by member States within the conference structure of the Commission.

12. Member States have identified the following priority areas of cooperation, with particular emphasis on the practical means of implementation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

2 Including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Eurasian Economic Union, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Pacific subregional organizations.

1. Means of implementation and partnership

(a) Data and statistics

Current status

13. Availability and access to high-quality data and statistics are essential to measuring and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. However, regional data are available for only approximately half of the defined indicators of the global monitoring framework. The multidimensional nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires integrated and disaggregated statistics that can support planning and analysis across the economic, social and environmental development pillars with a particular focus on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people.

Data and statistics should also be able to ensure that no one is left behind, and disaggregated data should be made more available as required by the Sustainable Development Goal indicators. In order to meet such demands, national statistical capacities to provide high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data to users must be strengthened, and the capacity of Governments to utilize data and statistics for evidence-based policymaking and for follow-up and review must be enhanced, inter alia. National statistical systems therefore need to be strengthened to supply the statistical evidence necessary for monitoring of progress, integrated policy analysis and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Opportunities for regional cooperation

14. Opportunities for regional cooperation are to:

(a) Promote the need for national statistical systems to be responsive to the requirements of users arising from the 2030 Agenda, and the need to encourage investments in national statistical systems that are adequate to meet statistical requirements and to support implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals as appropriate;

(b) Formulate and implement continuous, comprehensive and

system-wide strategies for the development of statistics, including statistics for the 2030 Agenda;

(c) Provide and promote capacity-building support to national statistical systems to increase the availability of high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, including to develop integrated measurement frameworks for Sustainable Development Goal statistics that integrate data from multiple sources, including big data, in a coherent and consistent manner to support integrated analysis of sustainable development issues;

(d) Organize national statistical system business processes and modernize tools for strengthened quality, efficiency and effectiveness of statistical information management and exchange;

(e) Build the skills of the staff and management of national statistical systems, including of relevant data producers, to enhance the human resources capacity for generating the statistical products and services required for monitoring of national development plans and the 2030 Agenda.

(b) Technology

Current status

15. Science, technology and innovation can play a vital role in supporting sustainable development and driving growth and productivity. The Asia-Pacific region is characterized by large disparities across countries: while many countries rank in the bottom quartile of the Global Innovation Index, a number of member States are leaders in science, technology and innovation, accounting for almost 45 per cent of global research and development expenditure. The challenge is to bridge these gaps and address the digital divide, to enable member States, particularly countries with special needs, to take advantage of technologies and to nurture an innovative environment. Given the guidance offered by the Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation and the work under way on related ESCAP platforms, the use of policy on science, technology and innovation for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals can be promoted as follows.

Opportunities for regional cooperation

16. Opportunities for regional cooperation are to:

(a) Facilitate the sharing of best practices and capacity-building across member countries through the development of social enterprise, impact investment markets and information and communications technology in support of implementation of the Goals;

(b) Link regional needs and experience of international, regional and subregional organizations by acting as a bridge to facilitate cooperation for access to technology and know-how and joint action when necessary;

(c) Promote public, public-private and civil society partnerships, as appropriate, in order to harness science, technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

(c) Finance

Current status

17. Effective pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals requires stable forward-looking and long-term financing. However, the available financial resources are either not appropriately channelled or not sufficient to meet the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda. In 2014, Asia-Pacific developing countries mobilized 17.6 per cent of their gross domestic product in tax revenues, which is only half the average across the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries. Since these levels of public finances are insufficient to effectively pursue the Goals, it is therefore important to enhance the tax ratio while recognizing the role of cooperation among countries in the region in sharing good practices. The region's financial markets are also not developed enough to channel regional savings into productive investments in support of sustainable development needs. Besides lacking efficient financial intermediation processes for development purposes, banks in the region's developing countries provide more than two thirds of the overall financial credit, while developed countries mobilize up to 80 per cent from diversified financial vehicles such as bonds and equity. On

the financial inclusion side, more than 1.1 billion people in the Asia-Pacific region are unbanked. Considerable policy adjustments are needed in terms of both reorienting available resources and identifying additional sources of financing. Bilateral or multilateral public-private partnerships to mobilize financial resources are also required, not only for infrastructure development but also for other sectors, such as education and health, including through knowledge-sharing on good practices.

Opportunities for regional cooperation

18. Opportunities for regional cooperation are to:

(a) Continue to undertake research, analysis and consensus-building initiatives in the area of financing for development to enhance regional knowledge of infrastructure financing, including public-private partnerships;

(b) Provide capacity-building to mainstream financing for development issues in areas such as domestic resource mobilization;

(c) Enhance the capacity for domestic and international resource mobilization;

(d) Strengthen partnerships for effective development cooperation;

(e) Promote financial inclusion.

(d) Policy coherence

Current status

19. In Asia and the Pacific, high levels of economic growth have lifted great numbers of people out of poverty. However, if the region is to sustain the growth needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to enhance resilience, it must shift to a growth trajectory that is more resource-efficient and more able to meet the needs of present and future generations. Successful implementation of the Goals will require policy coherence, integrated approaches and a move away from single-sector

policies and investments, which in turn will need an all-of-Government approach that promotes the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. Regional cooperation will be critical to maximize the opportunities for building synergies between the economic, social and environmental dimensions and to overcome the first-mover risk that may be present in terms of short-term economic competitiveness.

Opportunities for regional cooperation

20. Opportunities for regional cooperation are to:

(a) Develop integrated approaches, models and tools with respect to each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development;

(b) Support regional approaches to the prioritization of Goal interventions through the development of policy tools, methodologies and approaches;

(c) Promote integrated policies based on systems approaches and methodologies;

(d) Promote the valuation and quantification of the co-benefits of policy action addressing interconnected Goals and targets.

(e) North-South, South-South, international and regional partnerships

Current status

21. Comprehensive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will require partnerships and the deployment of new solutions between countries and across subregions. Countries in the Asia-Pacific region could benefit from North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation as well as the sharing of good practices and home-grown approaches.

Opportunities for regional cooperation

22. Opportunities for regional cooperation are to:

(a) Build capacity in developing countries, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

(b) Share good practices through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, including through regional platforms such as the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development;

(c) Promote and scale up best practices.

2. Thematic issues

(a) Leaving no one behind (social development)

Current status

23. Despite high and enduring economic growth and significant progress in terms of poverty eradication, inequality persists in the Asia-Pacific region, and in some instances has intensified. Growing disparities in income and wealth, as well as inequality of opportunity, disproportionately affect women and vulnerable groups. Currently, up to 70 per cent of the population lacks reliable access to good-quality and affordable health-care services, and less than one third of the working-age population are eligible for a pension in many countries of the region. The participation rate of women in the labour force remains low, at 48 per cent. Only 30 per cent of all persons with disabilities have enough income for self-support.

Opportunities for regional cooperation

24. Opportunities for regional cooperation are to:

(a) Promote analytical studies and policy advocacy to address inequalities, reduce poverty and enhance social protection, including for persons with disabilities, to build socioeconomic resilience;ⁱ

(b) Continue regional and subregional dialogues to support multisectoral policies, strategies and programmes to implement the 2030 Agenda, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and advance gender equality and women's empowerment;

(c) Address unemployment and underemployment among youth, including by improving the match between the knowledge and skills of youth and labour market demands;

(d) Facilitate regional and subregional dialogue on policies to address population ageing;

(e) Implement the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific;

(f) Strengthen the linkages between international migration and development, including through more effective management of migration.

(b) Disaster risk reduction and resilience

Current status

25. Since 2005, the Asia-Pacific region has recorded almost 60 per cent of total global deaths, 80 per cent of affected people and 45 per cent of total economic damage due to disasters. Currently, over 500 million poor people are living at medium or high disaster risk. Disasters in the region are becoming more complex, often tending to affect multiple countries, and bring about cascading impacts. Many of these disasters are transboundary in nature, such as floods, El Niño, droughts, tropical cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis and sand and dust storms. For instance, the 2015-2016 El Niño affected entire swathes of the Asia-Pacific region, including South Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific. There is scope for strengthened regional cooperation in relation to specific hazards such as transboundary river basin floods, flash floods, glacial lake outburst floods and landslides.

Opportunities for regional cooperation

26. Opportunities for regional cooperation are to:

(a) Promote effective regional and subregional efforts to strengthen disaster risk modelling, assessment, mapping, monitoring and multi-hazard early warning systems of common and transboundary disasters;

(b) Facilitate regional dialogue and cooperation in integrating disaster risk reduction into related development activities;

(c) Maximize the efficiency of existing regional cooperation mechanisms, including the World Meteorological Organization/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones and the Regional Cooperative Drought Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning;

(d) Improve analysis to enhance regional knowledge on disaster risk and resilience, promote the wide dissemination of such knowledge, identify challenges and opportunities for data-sharing and provide the analytical basis for regional cooperation;

(e) Promote capacity-building regarding climate resilience, including climate-related disaster risk reduction, through policy dialogues and the sharing of experiences and information;

(f) Develop and implement holistic and participatory disaster risk management at all levels, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2016 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(g) Promote a “Build Back Better” approach in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, as well as implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, including the Bangkok Principles, with a view to ensuring more systematic cooperation, coherence and integration between disaster and health risk management.

(c) Climate change

Current status

27. Climate change has already taken hold in the Asia-Pacific region. Higher temperatures, the rise in sea level and extreme weather events related to climate change are likely having a major impact on the region, increasing risks to economies and natural and physical assets and potentially compounding development challenges, including with respect to poverty, food and energy security and health. Future climate change in the region may cause more frequent and severe coastal inundation and erosion, salinization, wildfires, heavy precipitation and drought. Climate change is a long-term threat to future generations, and given the significant past growth in greenhouse gas emissions in the region and the potential for an acceleration of that growth in the near future, it is vital that Asia-Pacific countries take strong action to transition to more efficient, low-carbon economies to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. A recent World Bank study estimated that without further climate change adaptation and mitigation action, climate change could force more than 100 million people into extreme poverty by 2030, many in the Asia-Pacific region. There is a need to enhance finance related to climate change and the capacity of countries in the region to access it.

Opportunities for regional cooperation

28. Opportunities for regional cooperation are to:

(a) Promote capacity-building for climate action through policy dialogue and the sharing of experiences and information by utilizing existing institutions, forums and platforms;

(b) Promote capacity-building of member States regarding climate change, climate resilience, including climate-related disaster risk reduction.

(d) Management of natural resources

Current status

29. As humankind's livelihoods, nutrition and economic opportunities all fundamentally depend upon utilizing the terrestrial and marine resources and ecosystems of our planet, the Asia-Pacific region's continuing survival and prosperity depends on managing these resources to be sustainable. The region consumes more than half of the world's natural resources with increasing rates of absolute resource use and increasing resource use per person. This combination puts pressure on the natural environment and increases the possibilities of irreversible environmental damage, with direct social and economic consequences. At the same time, there is huge potential to improve the resource efficiency of the economies in the region's countries as there are vast variations of resource efficiency between countries. For example, developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region use five times more materials per dollar of gross domestic product than the rest of the world, and 10 times more than industrialized countries in the region.

Opportunities for regional cooperation

30. Opportunities for regional cooperation are to:

(a) Promote policies and strategies with respect to resource efficiency and environmentally sound technologies;

(b) Share experiences and cooperate on management of natural resources including oceans and seas with a view to increasing food security, conserving the environment, protecting biodiversity and enhancing the welfare of the community;

(c) Develop and share best practices related to increasing agricultural productivity, sustainable agriculture, food security and rural welfare while reducing negative environmental impacts and degradation of the ecosystem.

(e) Connectivity for the 2030 Agenda

Current status

31. While trade has been a key engine of growth and development, there is growing recognition of the need to make it more inclusive and ensure that its benefits are spread more widely. Transport development has been road-oriented and has not optimized the comparative advantages of each mode of transport from the perspective of the three dimensions of sustainable development, but transport remains a main driver of growth. While transport is the second largest producer of carbon dioxide emissions globally, the sector has the potential to significantly contribute to sustainable development by optimizing the environmental and social comparative advantages of various transport modes. While Internet access is high across the region, there is also a widening digital divide. Improvements in regional connectivity in terms of transport, information and communications technology and trade will boost economic growth and are of critical significance in achieving sustainable development.

Opportunities for regional cooperation

32. Opportunities for regional cooperation are to:

(a) Expand and integrate the Asian Highway network, the Trans-Asian Railway network and the network of dry ports to allow maximum modal integration and expansion of connectivity to rural areas; develop and integrate maritime connectivity and implement regional transport facilitation frameworks and other technical standards for operationalizing transport connectivity; develop regional standards including harmonization of technical standards of transport infrastructure, sustainable urban transport index, regional road safety goals, targets and indicators and handbooks on road safety;

(b) Implement the Asia-Pacific information superhighway;³

(c) Enable paperless trade and e-commerce and review the current approaches towards regional integration to improve their efficacy, in particular to simplify and harmonize trade and supporting regulations and procedures to make the benefits of trade accessible for all.

(f) Energy

Current status

33. Nearly half a billion people in Asia and the Pacific still lack access to electricity. More than 80 per cent of the countries in the region have targets to improve energy efficiency and increase the share of renewable energy in the region. More than assisting in energy supply needs, renewable sources of energy are receiving further impetus from the climate agenda. While the region has emerged as the producer and provider of most of the world's renewable energy technology, the overall trend within the region is diversification of the domestic energy mix, depending on national and subregional context.

Given the uneven distribution of energy resources in the Asia-Pacific region and the need for transition of the energy sector towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7, there is good scope for coordinated regional action to achieve optimal deployment and utilization of energy resources through enhanced connectivity, economic cooperation and integration.

Opportunities for regional cooperation

34. Opportunities for regional cooperation are to:

(a) Support the work of the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum and other regional mandates as well as the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 7;

(b) Promote policy dialogues and networking among member States to develop a regional cooperation framework to enhance energy security, with a view to promoting greater use of sustainable energy resources, including universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, energy services, energy efficiency, advanced and cleaner fossil

fuel technologies and renewable energy as well as energy connectivity, in particular transboundary power trade;

(c) Identify complementary approaches for small-scale energy solutions, including in smaller or remote regions;

(d) Assist in the development of strategies towards attaining internationally agreed development goals on energy.

C. IMPLEMENTATION

35. As noted by the Third Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, the secretariat will facilitate cooperation among members and associate members of ESCAP under the regional road map, including by doing the following:

(a) Promote multi-stakeholder engagement by facilitating input and views from various stakeholders as appropriate;

(b) Mobilize support from, among other sources, the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations by leveraging the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism and its thematic working groups to play an active role;

(c) Undertake, in consultation with member States, a needs assessment and gap analysis during 2017, if necessary, including mapping of countries that need support in certain areas.

36. The above priority areas of cooperation will be facilitated through the conference structure of the Commission, as well as through existing expertise within ESCAP subprogrammes, the regional institutes and the thematic working groups of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism. Cooperation in these priority areas is also intended to allow member States and the secretariat to contextualize global commitments and national priorities to harmonize dynamic social and economic conditions in the region.

37. Cooperation will be undertaken in coordination with regional and subregional organizations to ensure that activities contribute to subregional priorities, including the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

38. The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development is convened annually as an inclusive intergovernmental platform preparatory to the high-level political forum on sustainable development and will provide an opportunity for review of and dialogue on the road map. The priority areas of cooperation in this road map are flexible in nature and subject to review and revision. The phases of review of the regional road map may be aligned through the Forum with the four-year cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The relationship between the Forum and the road map will be further defined pending agreement by member States on the form and function of the Forum.

D. TRACKING THE PROGRESS OF THE REGIONAL ROAD MAP THROUGH THE ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

39. Reviews of progress on implementation of the regional road map will take place annually at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, with reference to the globally agreed Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework. This process will not create additional reporting requirements for member States and will be conducted within existing resources.

40. The review process may include member States and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.



ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2017

The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) is the most comprehensive regional inclusive inter-governmental forum supporting the implementation, follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development. Convened by ESCAP for the last four years, and now institutionalized as an annual forum under the conference structure of ESCAP, it offers a platform for member States, stakeholders and United Nations entities to:

- Identify regional trends and consolidate and share best practices and lessons learned;
- Assess regional progress and provide opportunities for peer learning related to the theme and goals that are reviewed every year at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;
- Support the presentation of Voluntary National Reviews; and
- Undertake periodic review of progress of the Road Map for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

The Fourth Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and its follow up are guided by the following Bureau members:

- Mr. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, Minister of Planning and Development, Pakistan (Chair)
- Mr. Thinley Namgyel, Secretary, Gross National Happiness Commission, Bhutan

- Mr. Semi Koroilavesau, Minister for Fisheries, Fiji

- Mr. Subandi Sardjoko, Deputy for Human, Community and Cultural Development, Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency, Indonesia

- Ms. Zhyldyz Polotova, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Development, Kyrgyzstan

- Mr. Min Bahadur Shrestha, Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission, Nepal

- Mr. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, Sri Lanka

- Mr. Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe, State Minister of International Trade, Sri Lanka

- Mr. Ezizgeldi Annamammedov Deputy Minister of Economy and Development, Turkmenistan

- Ms. Rosemarie G. Edillon, Deputy Director General, National Economic and Development Authority, Philippines (Rapporteur)

Previous session of the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development has been guided by the following chairs:

Third Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development:

- Mr. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, Sri Lanka

Second Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (co-chairs):

- Mr. Masoumeh Ebtekar, Vice President and head of Environmental Protection Organization, Iran (Islamic Republic of)

- Mr. Siaosi 'Ofa ki Vahafola Sovaleni, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Environment, Tonga

- Mr. Soichiro Seki, Vice Minister for Global Environment, Japan

First Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (co-chairs):

- Mr. Bektas Mukhametjanov, Vice Minister of Environment and Water Resources, Kazakhstan,

- Mrs. Kanchana Patarachoke, Deputy Director-General, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

