

# Calling for consolidated written inputs from stakeholder groups to the Chair's Statement in preparation for the 7<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

## Introduction

*ESCAP will work with APRCEM to facilitate the collection of written inputs by stakeholder groups to a Chair's Statement to be referred to as a background document for the 7<sup>th</sup> APFSD to be organized virtually on 20 May 2020. The Chair's statement will also provide the main regional input to the 2020 High-level political forum on sustainable development.*

*The deadline for all stakeholder group submissions is 10 April 2020. They will be considered together with messages from pre-session documents, and outcomes of the virtual discussions. The 16 open-ended questions below indicate the contributions requested.*

## Accelerating transformations to achieve the SDGs in the midst of persisting challenges

*At the SDG Summit in September 2019, Heads of State and Government adopted the Political Declaration "Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development" and pledged that rapid change was possible if we commit to transformation and accelerated implementation<sup>1</sup>, but that progress is slow in many areas<sup>2</sup> (ESCAP/RFSD/2020/1 and ESCAP/RFSD/2020/2)*

- *Where have we progressed the most?*
- *What are the most important challenges in seeking to accelerate transformations?*

## Six transformational entry areas can accelerate progress

*The six following transformative entry areas derive from the Global Sustainable Development report 2019: "The Future is Now: Science for Achieving Sustainable Development". These six areas have the potential to leverage interlinkages and accelerate progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals globally (ESCAP/RFSD/2020/INF/2):*

- 1. Human well-being and capabilities*
- 2. Sustainable and just economies*
- 3. Food systems and nutrition patterns*

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/4> paragraph 28

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, para 20-24.

**4. Energy decarbonization and universal access<sup>3</sup>**

**5. Urban and peri-urban development**

**6. Global environmental commons**

- *On each entry point, what are the actions that can be taken to address challenges and accelerate implementation of the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific?*

## **Transformational approaches for acceleration**

*The region's accumulated policy experience provides a solid foundation for moving forward, especially where there is a strong track record of progress and policy goals are relatively straightforward. However, transformational approaches are needed to deal with complexity, in particular where a persistent failure to advance can be attributed to marginalization, elite capture social conflict, institutional inertia or harmful sociocultural norms (ESCAP/RFSD/2020/1)*

- *What are effective approaches to enable transformation?,*

## **There are many inspiring lessons to share – and solutions exist**

*The creation of new knowledge and policy solutions is an essential element for change. Past lessons can inform present action to accelerate progress (ESCAP/RFSD/2020/1 and ESCAP/RFSD/2020/4).*

- *What are some of the most inspiring examples of action by Governments and other stakeholders in advancing people-centred, environmentally sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific*

## **A stronger follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda needs to be part of the solution**

*During the 75th Commission Session member States adopted Resolution 75/2 “Committing to strengthening the links between national, regional and global follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific”, requesting ESCAP to consult member States on how to strengthen the link between the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the high-level political forum on sustainable development.*

*The 2030 Agenda calls for systematic follow-up and review at national, regional and global levels and Resolution 75/2's objective is to strengthen the link between the different levels of the follow-up and review process in Asia and the Pacific to ensure that inputs and perspectives from*

---

<sup>3</sup> To support discussions at the 7th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development some entry areas have been modified to better reflect the current issues around acceleration, such as entry area 4 on Enhancing power grid connectivity to achieve affordable and clean energy for all.

*the national level are reviewed at the regional level through the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, and feed into the global process. (ESCAP/RFSD/2020/3 and ESCAP/RFSD/2020/INF/4)*

- *What have been important benefits of the VNR processes, in particular for second time presenters?*
- *What are best practices and examples of peer support from member countries in the VNR preparatory process?*
- *How can different stakeholders contribute to strengthening local, national, global and regional follow up and review (including VLR and VNR, the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and High-level Political forum on Sustainable Development)?*

## **Regional action must be part of the response**

*SDGs will need a stronger regional response to deal with transboundary issues including those relating to the use of shared resources, climate, trade, migration, financing flows, communicable diseases, crime, and conflicts. There is also a stronger role for subregional and regional bodies (ESCAP/RFSD/2020/INF/1)*

- *What are the transboundary issues on which more regional action is needed?*

## **Emerging issues**

*Continuous improvement and meaningful change require direction and foresight.*

- *What are some of the most important “trends to watch” as governments shape their policy response?*

## **Towards a Global Decade of Action**

*Leaders, as well as people in the street recognize the urgent need for taking the agenda forward. With ten years left to go there is a call for a Decade of Action to delivery the Global Goals that will “mobilize everyone, everywhere”, “demand urgency and ambition”, and “catalyze solutions.”<sup>4</sup>*

- *What specific actions could governments and other stakeholders put forward in support of a global decade of action?*

---

<sup>4</sup> See remarks of the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the 2019 SDG Summit, and the remarks of the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations in a briefing to member states, available at <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/decade-of-action/>, accessed 10 February, 2020.