



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Ninth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Bangkok and online, 28–31 March 2022

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the Ninth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (section I) and the annotations thereto (section II).

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the Forum:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific:
 - (a) Thematic review;
 - (b) Review of Sustainable Development Goals 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17;
 - (c) Voluntary national reviews.
3. System-wide results of the United Nations development system at the regional level in Asia and the Pacific in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
4. Other matters.
5. Adoption of the report of the Forum.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the Forum

(a) Opening statements

The programme for the Forum will be available online at www.unescap.org/events/apfsd9/.

(b) Election of officers

The Forum will elect a chair and vice-chairs.

The list of participants will be available online at www.unescap.org/events/apfsd9/.

(c) Adoption of the agenda

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda (ESCAP/RFSD/2022/L.1)

Annotation

The Forum will consider and adopt the provisional agenda, subject to such changes as may be necessary.

2. Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

(a) Thematic review

Documentation

Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/RFSD/2022/1)

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the subregional level (ESCAP/RFSD/2022/2)

Annotation

The adverse impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development have placed the spotlight on the nexus between the economic, environmental and social dimensions of sustainable development. Loss of livelihoods, together with the disruption of essential services, have exacerbated multidimensional poverty. Groups that were already vulnerable before the pandemic risk being left even further behind. Gender inequalities have increased, as have differences in educational outcomes owing to uneven access to remote learning during school closures. Countries are now increasingly being asked, as a result of the pandemic, to address these ever-widening gaps to ensure the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda by the end of the decade.

Document ESCAP/RFSD/2022/1 includes an examination of the impact of COVID-19 within as well as across countries and the increasing inequities and weakening of resilience resulting from the uneven recovery. It contains an analysis of factors shaping the recovery and a review of good practices to ensure resilience, sustainability and inclusiveness as well as proposed policies to address inequities within and across countries necessary for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Document ESCAP/RFSD/2022/2 includes highlights of subregional perspectives emanating from a series of subregional forums on the theme of the Ninth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

The Forum may wish to take note of the documents and provide guidance on ways Governments in the region could build back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

(b) Review of Sustainable Development Goals 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17

Documentation

Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2022: Widening Disparities Amidst COVID-19 (ESCAP/RFSD/2022/3)

Progress towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17 at the regional level (ESCAP/RFSD/2022/INF/1)

Annotation

Document ESCAP/RFSD/2022/3 contains an update on progress towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific, including the possible impacts of COVID-19 on the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Challenges to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and in particular to Goals 4 (Quality education), 5 (Gender equality), 14 (Life below water), 15 (Life on land) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) are reviewed. Regional progress and gaps as well as approaches, including innovative ideas and best practices, to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the attainment of the Goals are reviewed.

Information document ESCAP/RFSD/2022/INF/1 contains an update on progress towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17 and highlights with regard to possible ways to attain greater policy coherence during implementation.

The Forum is invited to provide further guidance on ways to ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the Goals under review, and ways to accelerate its implementation during the global decade of action.

(c) Voluntary national reviews

Documentation

Voluntary national reviews and development planning, evidence-based policies and actions to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ESCAP/RFSD/2022/4)

Annotation

As the cornerstone of the national follow-up and review processes, voluntary national reviews serve as the basis for deliberations by the high-level political forum on sustainable development, meeting under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. As stipulated in paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda, these reviews are voluntary, State-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders. Almost all member States in Asia and the Pacific have prepared at least one review. During the Forum, the role of the voluntary national reviews in national development planning will be considered.

Document ESCAP/RFSD/2022/4 contains a review of the links between voluntary national reviews and development planning, policymaking and the Sustainable Development Goals. The integration of these reviews into policymaking could accelerate a country's progress towards the attainment of the Goals. Critical enablers that have aided the mainstreaming of voluntary national reviews into development planning and national policy processes in Asia and the Pacific are explored.

The Forum is invited to provide guidance on ways to further strengthen the use of voluntary national reviews in development planning.

3. System-wide results of the United Nations development system at the regional level in Asia and the Pacific in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Documentation

United in action: system-wide results of the United Nations development system at the regional level in Asia and the Pacific in 2021 (ESCAP/RFSD/2022/INF/2)

Annotation

In 2019, the Secretary-General outlined five transformative areas for restructuring United Nations regional assets in support of the 2030 Agenda. These included the regional collaboration platform, a unified United Nations internal mechanism for regional coordination, and annual reporting of the system-wide results of the United Nations at the regional level in support of the 2030 Agenda.

In response to the call by the Secretary-General, information document ESCAP/RFSD/2022/INF/2 contains an overview of challenges and responses of the United Nations development system at the regional level in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It also contains highlights of system-wide actions and results at the regional level over the course of 2021, including those attained through issue-based coalitions established under the regional collaborative platform.

The Forum is invited to take note of the information document and provide guidance to the United Nations development system in Asia and the Pacific on the priority areas for joint assistance in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

4. Other matters

The Forum may wish to consider other matters brought to its attention.

5. Adoption of the report of the Forum**Documentation**

Draft report (ESCAP/RFSD/2022/L.2)

Annotation

The Forum will consider and adopt the report and annexed Chair's summary of discussions and recommendations, for transmission by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, following its seventy-eighth session, to the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in July 2022.
