

Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
Royal Cliff Hotel, Pattaya, Thailand, 19-21 May 2014

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

(6 May 2014)

19 May 2014 (Monday) <i>Regional Pathways for Sustainable Development</i>	
08.00 – 09.00	Registration
09.00 – 09.30	Opening of the Meeting Welcome Remarks by ESCAP Welcoming Speech by the Royal Thai Government Keynote speakers Election of Officers and Adoption of the Agenda
09.30 – 10.00	Coffee break
10.00-10.30	Overview Session: Regional Perspectives on Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and Charting the Way for an Ambitious Post-2015 Development Agenda, Including the Sustainable Development Goals: Presentation by Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP
10.30 – 12.00	Session 1: Preparatory Session for the 2014 Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council: Addressing on-going and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future <p><i>The latest Asia-Pacific Regional MDGs Report shows that while the region as a whole has had considerable success with the MDGs, particularly in reducing levels of poverty, it is off track when it comes to hunger, health and sanitation – and even in areas such as poverty a number of countries are lagging some way behind. After the target date of 2015, there will therefore be a significant ‘unfinished agenda’. The region also faces many emerging threats including rising inequality and unplanned urbanization, along with climate change and environmental pressures such as pollution and water scarcity.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which policies, legislation or institutional arrangements have significantly helped to accelerate progress towards the MDGs in countries of the region? Which are the on-going and emerging challenges for meeting the MDGs and for sustaining development gains in Asia-Pacific? Which are the recommendations and proposals for practical approaches to sustaining development gains in a future development agenda? Expert Speakers Open Discussion
12.00 – 13.30	Luncheon Panel: No One Left Behind: Access to Information and Access to Technology (RCM-UNDG-

	ESCAP)
13.30-15.30	<p>Session 2: Multi-stakeholder Roundtable on Integration and Transformation for Sustainable Development</p> <p>The “Future We Want” reflects the high-level of conceptual and political consensus that integrated policy and decision-making across the economic, social, and environmental dimension is the pathway to sustainable development. However, operationalizing this consensus in an actual decision making and policy context remains a challenge as it requires a profound transformation of institutions at various levels. This session will reflect on the key requirements, opportunities for, and barriers to integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development as well as the systemic transformations needed to achieve sustainable development. The issues will be examined from the perspectives of national-level decision makers, civil society, experts, and UN officials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the key requirements and opportunities for, and barriers to, integrating the three dimensions of SD? What are the fundamental and systemic transformations needed to achieve sustainable development?</i> • <i>How can we move to a paradigm of long-term investments in people and planet, in line with sustainable development goals?</i> <p>Expert Speakers Open Discussion</p>
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break /Networking Session of the Pavilion of Partnerships for SD
16.00-18.00	Statements of Ministers and Heads of Delegations, Major Groups, UN Agencies, other stakeholders
18.30	Reception hosted by the Royal Thai Government
<p align="center">20 May 2014 (Tuesday) <i>Regional Perspectives on Integration, Transformation, and Implementation</i></p>	
09.00 – 10.30	<p>Session 3: Multi-stakeholder roundtable on shared prosperity within planetary boundaries</p> <p><i>Despite the region’s remarkable achievement in terms of reducing extreme poverty, it is still home to millions of people living in extreme poverty with no access to modern energy and basic water and sanitation services. Therefore, the overriding policy priority for the region remains sustaining the process of poverty eradication and development. However, the increasing recognition that humanity has already transgressed some critical planetary boundaries signals a new context for pursuing long-term economic and social development. This science-policy roundtable discussion will provide a platform to deliberate how to meet regional aspirations, with particular reference to poverty eradication, inequality, sustainable, dynamic, resilient and inclusive growth, and issues of social justice, while recognizing planetary limits.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How can the region have shared prosperity while respecting planetary boundaries?</i> <p>Expert Speakers Open Discussion</p>
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break /Networking Session of the Pavilion of Partnerships for SD
11.00 – 12.00	Statements of Ministers and Heads of Delegations, Major Groups, UN Agencies, other stakeholders
12.00 – 14.00	Luncheon Side Event: Launch of ESCAP partnership with Green Growth Best Practice Initiative (TBC)
14.00 – 15.30	Session 4: Multi-stakeholder Roundtable on means of Implementation - Financing, Technology and Global Partnerships

	<p><i>Means of implementation relating to the realization of sustainable development has been identified as one of the key focus areas by the Co-Chairs of the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals after an intensive consultation process. The multi-stakeholder roundtable discussion on this topic will provide a platform for discussing the enabling environment and mechanisms that will be critical for implementing an ambitious, transformative agenda for sustainable development, focusing on trade, financing, technology, global partnerships, as well regional partnerships, a strengthened science-policy interface, and coordination and coherence within the United Nations system.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How to stimulate long-term investment for achieving sustainable development, and how to align those funds with sustainable development outcomes? What are the experiences of the region re: innovative financing?</i> • <i>How to create a Regional Technology Transfer Mechanism, including Partnerships for R&D for innovation?</i> • <i>What regional partnerships with global impact are needed?</i> • <i>What is the role of the UN system and what forms of regional support would be most effective?</i> <p>Expert speakers Open discussion</p>
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break /Networking Session of the Pavilion of Partnerships for SD
16.00 – 18.00	Statements of Ministers and Heads of Delegations, Major Groups, UN Agencies, other stakeholders
18.30	Reception: Presentation of the RCM Publication “Towards a green economy for sustainable development and poverty reduction: An Asia-Pacific perspective” hosted by FAO and ESCAP
<p align="center">21 May 2014 (Wednesday) <i>The Way Forward: Shaping an Effective and Dynamic Regional Process for Sustainable Development</i></p>	
09.00-10.30	<p>Session 5: Ministerial Roundtable on the Way Forward</p> <p><i>The functions of the HLPF, as outlined in the General Assembly Resolution 67/290, guides the work of the forum’s universal membership in delivering political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development. As the HLPF is in a transitional period up to 2015, whereby its forms and functions are being decided, ESCAP and its members have the opportunity to input into the process in order to ensure that the HLPF and its attendant annual regional preparatory meetings deliver an enhanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. The deliberations during the roundtable will address the role and mechanisms by which the HLPF can deliver on its mandate, and ensure a more efficient, effective, coherent and integrated approach to sustainable development nationally, regionally and globally.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How can the high-level political forum (HLPF) ensure a more efficient, effective, coherent and integrated approach to sustainable development?</i> • <i>How can ESCAP ensure that the HLPF shall benefit from regional preparatory processes, and that subregional perspectives are also adequately represented?</i> • <i>What kind of relationship should exist between the ESCAP Commission Session and the APFSD?</i> • <i>What kind of inputs can CSOs, the private sector, scientists and academia have into the HLPF process, and conversely, what kind of support can these key stakeholders in sustainable development expect from the HLPF?</i> <p>Expert Speakers Open discussion</p>
10.30 – 10.45	Coffee break /Networking Session of the Pavilion of Partnerships for SD

10.45 – 12.15	<p>Session 6: High-level Roundtable on the Rule of law in the post-2015 agenda: A regional perspective from the Asia-Pacific</p> <p><i>There is a growing consensus in the discussions on the post-2015 agenda that the rule of law and capable institutions are both a key enabler and a development outcome in their own right. It is also recognized that, while the guiding principles of the rule of law are universal and firmly rooted in international law, the forms, delivery mechanisms and national experiences are diverse. As the post-2015 negotiations advance towards defining a global goal framework with targets that can be applied across countries with vastly different resources, stages of development and varying political and legal systems, it is important to take this diversity fully and constructively into account.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The lesson learnt from the MDGs: Why are rule of law and capable institutions crucial to sustainable and inclusive development?</i> • <i>Which concrete elements of good governance and the rule of law have been particularly useful in advancing economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development in Asia-Pacific? Regional and national examples can highlight, for example, the usefulness of effective, accountable and transparent institutions, non-discriminatory legal frameworks, legal identity, access to information and justice, or fighting corruption and organized crime.</i> • <i>What targets on governance, rule of law and capable institutions should be included in the post-2015 framework as a priority?</i> <p>Expert Speakers</p> <p>Open discussions</p>
12.15 – 14.00	Luncheon Side Event: Partnership in Integrating and Monitoring Disaster Risk Management in the Sustainable Development Framework hosted by ESCAP IDD
14.00 – 14.10	Other matters
14.10 – 16.00	Preparation of Chair's Summary/Pavilion of Partnerships for Sustainable Development
16:00 – 17.00	<p>Review of outcome document</p> <p>Closing of the meeting</p>