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Regional perspectives on the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Assessment of progress in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17 at the regional level

Note by the secretariat

Summary

Effective follow-up and review is critical for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development not only highlights the critical role of follow-up and review but also recognizes the role of regional approach towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and emphasizes the importance of regional contributions in assessing the progress in delivering the Agenda.

This paper focuses on Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17, which constitute the cluster of Goals under review at the 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development.

The report provides an assessment of progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15 at the regional level, discusses areas for regional policy actions and provides insights on interlinkages of the Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17 among themselves and with other Goals.

I. Introduction

1. Effective follow-up and review is critical for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (the full list of Sustainable Development Goals is available as Annex I). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development not only highlights the critical role of follow-up and review but also recognizes the role of regional approach towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and emphasizes the importance of regional contributions in assessing the progress in delivering the Agenda.

2. The Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) is now a fully recognized part of the SDG follow up and review process and institutionalized as part of the structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia (ESCAP). As an annual inclusive and intergovernmental forum, the

* ESCAP/RFSD/2018/L.1.

APFSD supports the region in preparations for the global level High-level Political Forum by enhancing capacity, capturing and sharing regional perspectives and supporting the review of progress toward implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

3. The Sustainable Development Goals under review in 2018 are SDG 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 7 on Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 15 on Life on Land, and SDG 17 on Partnerships for the Goals.

4. Goal profiles assessing the status of regional progress on Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15 were developed to support the follow-up and review mandate of the APFSD, in collaboration with partner United Nations Agencies and Programmes available on the ESCAP website in the document section at <http://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/apfsd5>.

5. One of the key aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is recognition of the strong interlinkages and interdependence among the Goals. ESCAP has therefore assessed interlinkages among Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17 with other Sustainable Development Goals, using a tool on Integrated Approaches for Sustainable Development Goals Planning developed by ESCAP.¹

6. The goal profiles and the insights on interlinkages are provided to support common regional understanding of the options for integrated policy approaches, aiming at making further progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals under review and for transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies.

II. Assessing Progress on Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15

7. To assess progress on the goals, goal profiles were developed for Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15, in collaboration with interested United Nations Partners. The goal profiles are based on data from the ESCAP statistical database,² the ESCAP SDG baseline report,³ the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goals Outlook,⁴ as well as data and resources from partner United Nations Agencies. The goal profiles incorporate the outcome of a regional online survey organized by ESCAP, based on 213 responses from governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The objective of the survey was to take stock of stakeholders' perception of progress made towards the goals, main challenges impeding progress, and of innovation and best practices to build upon to make further progress.

8. The profile for SDG 6 was developed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UN

¹ Integrated Approaches for Sustainable Development Goals Planning: The Case of Goal 6 on Water and Sanitation, ESCAP 2017, <http://www.unescap.org/publications/integrated-approaches-sustainable-development-goals-planning-case-goal-6-water-and>.

² <http://www.unescap.org/stat/data>.

³ http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/ESCAP_SYB2016_SDG_baseline_report.pdf.

⁴ ESCAP, ADB, UNDP, 2017, <http://www.unescap.org/publications/asia-pacific-sustainable-development-goals-outlook>.

Environment), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and ESCAP. The profile for SDG 7 was developed by ESCAP, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Environment. The profile for SDG 11 was developed by ESCAP and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), with inputs from the Task Team on Sustainable Urbanization.⁵ The profile for SDG 12 was developed by ESCAP, UNDP, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The profile for SDG 15 was developed by UN Environment, ESCAP, UNDP and FAO.

9. The full goal profiles are included available on the ESCAP website in the document section at <http://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/apfsd5>. Each goal profile provides:

- a) A summary of progress made at the regional level
- b) An overview of the current status on the Goal, including areas where good progress has been made as well as areas requiring specific attention and associated key challenges;
- c) Promising innovations and best practices;
- d) Priority for action, from a policy perspective; and
- e) A list of targets for each SDG, which is referred to throughout the profiles.

III. Assessing Interlinkages between the Goals

10. Addressing the interlinkages between the various goals and targets, as well as the ways in which these interlinkages can be leveraged during implementation to accelerate progress across multiple objectives is central to the overall success of the Agenda 2030. Understanding interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs will support policy makers in identifying the most relevant policy options for sustainable development whilst maximizing synergies between the goals and minimizing trade-offs.

11. At the national level these interlinkages as well as the synergies and possible trade-offs can vary according to the local context.

12. Reviewing interlinkages between the 17 Sustainable Development Goals through the lens of the theme of the 2018 HLPF of “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”, as presented in Annex II, can assist in identifying SDG targets addressing universal basic needs, that when taken care off would serve as enablers of transformative development pathways to ensure access to sustainable and resilient livelihoods for all (Figure 1). Addressing these SDG targets in an integrated and holistic manner can support strategies for reducing and minimizing inequalities and risks that the Asia-Pacific region is facing today.⁶

⁵ A group of 20 members working under both the Asia Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Resource Efficient Growth and the United Nations Development Group Asia-Pacific.

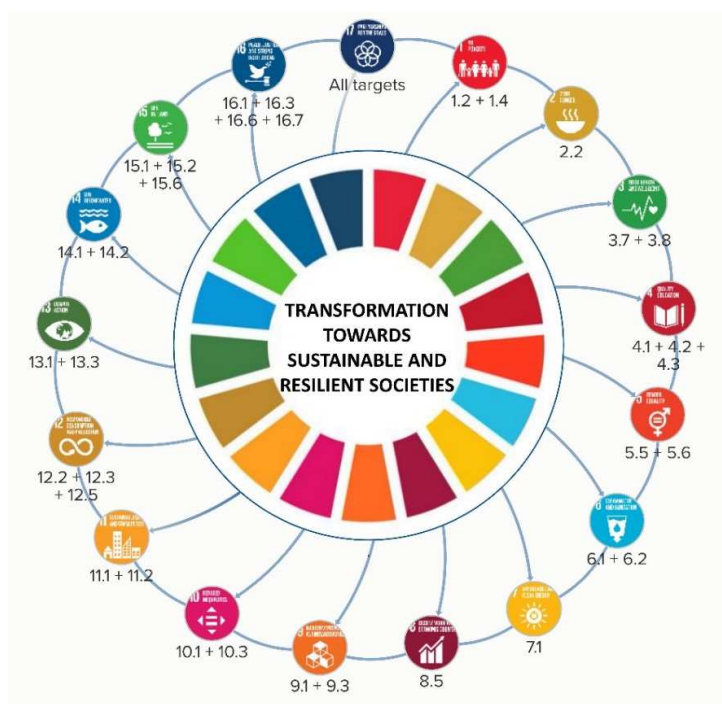
⁶ ESCAP/RFSD/2018/1: Regional and subregional perspectives on the transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies; <http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/B1800152.pdf>.

13. The universal needs stem from the need to end poverty in all its dimensions and providing access to universal education, health care, quality nutrition, clean water and equitable sanitation and hygiene, equal opportunities for women and men, modern and sustainable energy, productive employment and decent work, income generation opportunities, affordable and equitable infrastructure and finance, affordable housing and basic services, while the enablers include efficient use of natural resources, resilience to climate change, sustainable use of marine and terrestrial ecosystems, peace and justice and partnerships.⁷

14. SDG 17 on Partnerships for the Goals with all its targets is central towards achieving of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Despite some positive developments made so far, a stronger commitment to partnership and cooperation is needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The regional survey conducted by the secretariat reveals the importance of coherent policies, enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels, stronger commitments to access and predictable financing and multi-stakeholder engagement, and capacity development by all actors to provide an integrated framework for tackling regional challenges for the benefit of all.

Figure 1

A set of SDG targets to enable transformations towards sustainable and resilient societies.



15. Such integrated framework of addressing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in a coherent manner will strengthen and enhance the capacity of policymakers for adaptive governance to better address the complex challenges of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. It will also assist policy makers in: (i) reviewing existing institutional architecture and mandates to determine their relationship with the 17 Sustainable Development

⁷ Daniel W. O'Neill et al; A good life for all within planetary boundaries; Nature Sustainability; VOL 88 1; February 2018; 88–95; www.nature.com/natsustain/.

Goals; (ii) assessing the impacts of policies and identifying effective policy interventions (leverage points) for impactful investment and use of scarce resources to minimize trade-offs; (iii) stakeholder mapping and engagement in planning and implementing transformative societal change; (iv) preparation of the country voluntary review reporting as per the new VNR guidelines.⁸

IV. Policy recommendations emanating from the Goal Profiles on Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15 and from the analyses of interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goals

16. In order to support the sharing of regional perspectives on integrated policy approaches for making further progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals under review and for transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies, this section presents the priority for action under each of the Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15 emanating from the development of the goal profiles, as well as an analysis of the interlinkages between each of these goals and the other Sustainable Development Goals through the lens of achieving transformations for sustainable and resilient societies. The goal profiles and the analysis of interlinkages for each SDG can be found available on the ESCAP website in the document section at <http://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/apfsd5>.

A. SDG 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation

Priority areas for regional action

17. Political Commitment, Governance and Effective Finance were identified as the most important issues required for the successful implementation of SDG 6 in Asia and the Pacific according to the ESCAP multi-stakeholder survey conducted in 2017.

18. Competition on water-use between sectors (agriculture, industry, energy, human consumption, etc.) as well as between rapidly growing cities and nearby agricultural areas generate conflicts. Difficult decisions and trade-offs between these competing sectors and water users will require holistic and participatory interventions to ensure these are minimized or avoided. Significant opportunities to reduce water shortages can be found in recycling and reusing waste water coming out of cities for food production, through managed aquifer recharge for example and decentralized community water and waste water management. Promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships as a governance model is of critical importance to address such a scarce and vital resource as water and achieve SDG 6. Governments can create and provide platforms for facilitating the involvement of civil society, private sector and the boarder range of stakeholders, including water utilities as employers, workers and their representatives.

19. Attaining the ambitious and aspirational targets of SDG 6 requires innovative and creative financing strategies (water bonds for example). The efforts required to achieve SDG 6 will place a higher financial burden on low-income countries. Co-investment among different stakeholders and widening resource mobilization sources and instruments will be critical to deal with various financial challenges. Further, the role and importance of natural

⁸ Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews; UNDESA; 2018 Edition <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>.

ecosystems in managing the hydrological cycle has not been adequately recognized, and international investments in water resource management should better support ecosystems as naturally-functioning and cost-effective alternatives to costly engineering investments.

20. Education, training and awareness from the community level to policy makers, will play an important role in achieving SDG 6. It is through education and training that a realization of the importance of increasing water efficiency, protecting freshwater ecosystems and ambient water quality will occur.

21. There is acknowledgement of the transboundary nature of water issues and the need to address them jointly through the development of regional initiatives and agreements.

22. Innovation contributes to the continuous improvement of water management. Policy and policy incentives need to be in place to foster research and innovation and to ensure the advanced technology to be fully implemented in every place where technical support is needed. While innovative approaches are increasingly being tried and implemented at the experimental level, there is now a need to stimulate the refining and upscaling of these emerging local approaches.

23. To track progress towards achieving SDG 6, national monitoring systems and capacities should be strengthened. This will also help increase the transparency and accountability of the decision-making process and help build awareness and encourage public, private and civil society engagement.

24. One of the key aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is recognition of the strong interlinkages and interdependence among the goals. Water is inseparably linked to various sectors of human society, serving as a common basis that runs through almost all Sustainable Development Goals. Water is indeed a vital input to agricultural production, a major source of livelihood in the region (SDG 2) and to energy production (SDG 7). SDG 6 is also strongly linked with Sustainable Development Goals 1, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15, and SDG 8. Integrated planning can ensure that progress is made on all fronts while taking into account trade-offs and synergies.

Interlinkages between SDG 6 and other Sustainable Development Goals

25. Positive and reinforcing interlinkages between SDG 6 and the rest of the Sustainable Development Goals have been assessed and compliment the policy recommendations presented in the SDG profiles. Two important aspects were described. The interlinkages between the SDG targets related to governance, and policy setting and coherence (target 16.6, target 16.7 and target 17.14), and community involvement in management of water resources (target 6.b and target 1.b) while using Integrated Water Resources Management principles (target 6.5) with overall benefits for poverty reduction (target 1.2) are presented in what can be considered as the “software” of the water resources management system.

26. On the other hand, the interlinkages between SDG targets related to provision of access to, and supply of clean water (target 6.1, target 9.4, target 9.a), and proper waste water disposal and management (target 6.2) in urban (target 11.6) and rural environment with critical importance for human health (target 3.2 and target 3.3) are described in what is considered the “hardware” of the water resources management system. Target 6.3 on improving water quality by reducing pollution and untreated wastewater, eliminating dumping, minimizing the release of hazardous chemicals and materials is one of the most important leverage points in this systems model of interlinkages. The model also

shows that utilizing wastewater (target 6.3) for energy generation (target 7.1) through innovation (target 9.b), contributes to creation of new decent jobs (target 8.5) and economic growth in general (SDG 8). Another significant impact is on sanitation and hygiene (target 6.2) and on using waste waters for food production (target 2.4 and target 12.4) in peri-urban areas.

B. SDG 7 on Affordable and Clean Energy

Priority areas for regional action:

27. While overall, the region is on track to reach near universal access to energy, there are several countries with continuously low access rates. These countries require particular attention and additional efforts from the side of their respective Governments, as well as from international development partners. Issues of quality and reliability of energy access, as well as availability of reliable data for monitoring of this indicator need to be promptly tackled by the policy makers.

28. National targets for clean cooking fuels and technologies should be established and clean cooking must be better integrated into energy policy frameworks.

29. Considering the quasi stagnation of the share of renewables in the energy mix of the region, efforts at promoting renewables are especially urgent in Asia and the Pacific. This imperative is catalysed by rapid demand growth and the detrimental effects the continued use of fossil fuels has on the region's environment, especially regarding air pollution.

30. It is urgent to put in place energy efficiency measures in the transport, industry, and building sectors.

31. Member states with the support of ESCAP and other relevant regional institutions need to develop an intergovernmental mechanism that would promote cross-border electricity power trade and connectivity as one of the building blocks to attain sustainable development.

32. To facilitate renewable energy and energy efficiency expansion, member States need to address existing policy barriers such as restrictive permit procedures, monopolistic utility positions and restrictions in energy prices. After successful implementation of these measures, the introduction of financial incentives for clean energy projects will bring positive results. While a number of member States have made strong efforts to incentivize clean energy and have committed to phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, more improvements need to be made to reach the respective targets. Despite significant technological innovation in many industries, international energy cooperation efforts to deploy innovative technologies are limited due to lack of a coherent approach among the member states.

33. Progress on SDG 7 could be facilitated by maximizing links with implementation of SDG 9 (on industry, innovation and infrastructure) and SDG 13 (on climate finance, capacity building and climate policy implementation). Further, the inextricable linkages between water, food and energy (relating to SDG 6, 2 and 7) require a suitably integrated approach to ensuring water and food security, as well as sustainable agriculture and energy production worldwide.

Interlinkages between SDG 7 and other Sustainable Development Goals

34. The analysis of the positive and reinforcing interlinkages between the SDG 7 and the rest of the Sustainable Development Goals confirmed that universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services (target 7.1) is crucial for vulnerable people to meet diverse basic services, such as access to drinking water and sanitation (target 6.1), access to health care (targets 3.7 and 3.8), access to education (target 4.1), access to information (target 9.c) and access to adequate and safe housing (target 11.1) with important contribution to reducing poverty in all its dimensions (target 1.2). Access to energy (target 7.1) implies also an increase of safety and security, contributing to reducing the incidence of violence (target 16.1) to women and inequalities (target 10.2) between sexes (women being able to walk home after work in the dark).

35. Equally important, energy use efficiency (target 7.3) would decouple economic growth (target 8.4) with a significant impact on the environment (target 13.1) and at the same time would improve economic productivity (target 8.2). Economic diversification is a key component of sustainable development as it assists countries in reducing poverty (target 1.1) and generates employment (target 8.5) in the long run. The increase in the use of renewable energy (target 7.2) is critical in strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards (target 13.1) and contributes to reducing contamination of hazardous chemicals in air, water and land (target 12.4), with significant impact on reducing the number of deaths and illness due to pollution (target 3.9). Investments in technological innovation towards SDG 7 would stimulate innovations for water efficiency in water-pumping and irrigation systems (target 6.4), and would stimulate creation of new jobs (target 8.5), decarbonize the transport sector allowing better air quality in cities (target 11.2), ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns (target 12.a) and reduce fuel consumption with environmental benefits (targets 12.c and 13.2).⁹ There is an increasing role for women in promulgating clean energy infrastructure development (targets 5.a and 5.b), in particular in rural areas in the Asia-Pacific region, which has contributed to new opportunities for economic growth (SDG 8) and greenhouse gas emissions reduction (target 13.1).¹⁰

C. SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities

Priority areas for regional action

36. With increased urbanization and devolution of responsibilities to the local level, it becomes very important that policy-making, as well as the legal and institutional frameworks allow for effective multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance. Lack of clear responsibility, capacity and resources is seriously hampering good urban governance in cities and towns of Asia and the Pacific. The momentum to “localize the Sustainable Development Goals” can become an important impetus for more sustainable and integrated approaches.

37. To achieve SDG 11 and the other urban-related Sustainable Development Goals, successful leverage of finance is paramount. It in turn depends on reforms that empower local governments through intergovernmental transfers, own source revenue collection, and enhanced creditworthiness of cities to create certainty for subnational investment. Local governments must improve their governance structures and institutional capacities to manage long term debt,

⁹ Isabella Allosio, SDG 7 as an enabling factor for sustainable development.

¹⁰ Rebecca Pearl- Martinez, Reinventing Women’s Roles in the Energy Sector-Linking SDGs 2-4-5-7.

leverage their own finances, and engage in PPPs — thereby reducing risk and exposure to develop needed infrastructure.

38. Both urban resilience to natural disasters and climate change as well as urban resource efficiency and circular economy approaches need to become much more prominent aspects of urban development if SDG 11 is to be achieved.

39. More needs to be done to make cities more inclusive and accessible for different social groups such as women and girls or persons with disabilities. This includes improving safety and availability of public transport or street lighting or making all parts of the city accessible to wheelchair users or the visually impaired.

40. Traditional urban planning needs to be rethought along lines of being more integrated, people centric, and focusing on area-based development. The importance of evaluation, new partnerships, and better technology should be emphasized, and urban needs mainstreamed into national economic planning.

41. Local governments and other urban stakeholders crucially need to be enabled to understand and use international development frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals in their local context. It is indeed estimated that the engagement of urban stakeholders is necessary to achieve up to 65% of the SDG targets.¹¹ Further, in an increasingly urbanized world, many of the Sustainable Development Goals intersect in cities: in particular, SDG 11 intersects with infrastructure and basic services reflected in SDG 6, SDG 7 and SDG 9, while critical environment, resources and resilience-related actions are required at the local level to achieve SDG 12 and SDG 13. “Localizing” the Sustainable Development Goals is one way to enable them to plan, advocate, implement, and monitor and evaluate not only SDG 11 but all other urban-related goals – which cannot be achieved without focused, transformative action at the local level.

42. Goals need to be simplified and decentralized and ‘translated’ for different urban stakeholders. Moreover, not all SDG indicators related to measuring progress in cities have been clearly defined or “localized” and even where the indicators are clear and measurable, significant limitations in resources and capacities hamper collection, analysis and reporting of good quality, timely and disaggregated data.

Interlinkages between SDG 11 and other Sustainable Development Goals

43. The analysis of the interlinkages between SDG 11 and the rest of the Sustainable Development Goals has highlighted the importance of improved drainage and flood protection (target 9.1) combined with technology upgrade as crucial to reduce environmental impact of cities and strengthen the positive impact on health (target 3.9) of city dwellers, as well as improve cities resilience to natural and climate change induced disasters.

44. Water-sensitive/resilient urban design would lead to a better water management including for storm water, groundwater and wastewater management and water supply, IWRM (target 6.5) applied in the urban context coupled with solid waste management (target 12.4) could prevent water related ecosystem to be contaminated by hazardous chemicals, and prevent pollution to

¹¹ Cities Alliance (2015), Sustainable Development Goals and Habitat III: Opportunities for a Successful New Urban Agenda, available from <http://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/citiesalliance.org/files/Opportunities%20for%20the%20New%20Urban%20Agenda.pdf>.

marine and terrestrial ecosystem (target 14.3, target 15.3) originating from urban settlements.

45. To achieve inclusive and sustainable urbanization, other aspects of the SDG framework need to be addressed as well. Because of population growth in cities, there is the need to facilitate safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people (target 10.7), since growing cities lead to increased waste production and emissions. For this reason, a change in production and consumption must also be achieved (targets 12.3, 12.4 and 12.5) to reduce and even prevent cities becoming vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. Investing in technology research and innovation is important to achieve upgrades in infrastructures (targets 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 and 9.4) such as sustainable transport systems (target 11.2). Ensuring access to safe and affordable housing and basic services (target 11.1) can increase security and safety, improve access to adequate sanitation and clean drinking water (targets 6.1 and 6.2), reducing the impact of communicable diseases and maternal and children mortality (targets 3.2 and 3.3).

D. SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production

Priority areas for regional action

46. The unification of approaches under the Sustainable Development Goals is essential, either through national plans on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) or SCP integration into other core national strategies and more holistic approaches to SCP policies that address production as well as lifestyles and consumption in essential sectors such as food, mobility, housing, or education.

47. The region must transition toward a more circular model that strengthens resource efficiency (target 12.2), improves waste management (targets 12.3, 12.4 and 12.5) and embeds environmental impacts in employment and economic growth policies. A shift toward circular production and consumption pathways can reduce pollution on land and in water (SDG 14, 15), lead to innovation in industry and energy infrastructure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (SDG 7, 9, 13), and provide decent jobs to reduce poverty and inequality (SDG 1, 8, 5, 10).

48. SCP is significantly externally driven with many processes requiring technical assistance from and funding of external actors. Strengthening domestic support and the development of financial instruments at national level is needed.

49. Greater engagement of a range of stakeholders involved in production and consumption processes is needed to make shifts towards SCP. This includes especially sub-national actors, the private sector and changing consumption behaviour of societies.

50. To measure progress and prioritize action, monitoring systems and indicators need to be developed that integrate natural resources, socio-economic development, and policies, from process to impact.

51. With a rapidly urbanizing population and a growing middle-class, the 10YFP¹² programmes on consumer information, sustainable tourism and sustainable lifestyles and education will become more important.

¹² 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, <http://web.unep.org/10yfp/about/what-10yfp>.

52. A sound foundation for SCP exists in Asia-Pacific, through multiple and complementary approaches, and can be advanced through the unifying framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, supported by the 10YFP on SCP.

53. Eco-innovations (eco-products and eco-process innovations) have significantly gained attention with business and manufacturers. Appropriate policy tools including regulations, taxes and subsidies will trigger corporate decisions on green innovation investments, and encourage green consumption.¹³

Interlinkages between SDG 12 and other Sustainable Development Goals

54. The Analysis of the interlinkages between the SDG 12 and the rest of the Sustainable Development Goals revealed that sustainable consumption and production has important influence on targets of SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 11, all targets of SDG 12, SDG 15 and SDG 17. Sustainable management of natural resource (target 12.2), including resource use efficiency of water–energy–material flows (target 6.4, target 7.2, target 11.b) would improve water quality (target 6.3), promote the use of renewable energy (target 7.3) and encourage waste minimization through 3Rs (target 12.5), and sustainable use of ecosystems (target 15.1).

55. The introduction of a circular economy (target 12.5) would stimulate an increase of resource productivity (target 8.4) and an accelerated shift away from fossil fuel to renewables, can create new jobs (target 8.5) and business opportunities, thus reducing poverty and inequalities (target 10.3). This would help achieve sustainable urbanization, sustainable transportation (targets 11.2 and 11.3) and sustainable and resilient infrastructure (target 9.4), which greatly contribute to sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 15).

56. Economic growth enables population to have advanced technology (target 8.2) and to have greater access to better education (target 4.7). Quality education (SDG 4) is crucial to changing people’s mind-sets on the relationship between nature and economic growth, and will lead behavioral change for both producers and consumers to promote a more sustainable, resource efficient and less wasteful industrial production (target 9.2).

57. Waste reduction and prevention of plastic and hazardous chemicals waste (target 12.5) will reduce contamination of marine and terrestrial ecosystem and animal habitats (targets 14.1, 15.1 and 15.5), which currently affects fish stocks and productivity of soils (target 2.4) with impacts on human health as well (target 3.9).

E. Priority for regional action for SDG 15 on Life on Land

Priority areas for regional action

58. A recurring constraint is the lack of information and data to accurately assess the status, trends, risks, threats and conservation needs for biodiversity in the Asia Pacific region. Improved collection and communication of information to support policy and planning will help to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

¹³ Tariq et al (2017), Drivers, and Consequences of Green Product and Process Innovation: a Systematic Review, Conceptual Framework, and Future Outlook, available from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160791X17300210>.

59. Resources for biodiversity conservation are limited in some countries in the Asia Pacific region. Conversely, many Asian and Pacific countries also have rapidly growing economies. Given this situation, seeking out multiple avenues for mobilizing financial resources for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use could be helpful.

60. Key strategies to increase protected areas and broader action on SDG 15 include expanding the role of the private sector, civil society as well as indigenous peoples and local communities through innovative and diverse participatory governance models. This includes increasing awareness of the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystems services to people's lives.

61. Sustainable land management is needed especially across agricultural land and forest production areas but also urban areas, as these have not had as much attention as protected areas, yet these are the very areas where the threats and extinctions are highest. A wider "landscape-approach" is being proposed by many agencies but is difficult to implement in practice with fragmented land ownership and often poor coordination across many government agencies.

62. An essential conservation need is to mainstream biodiversity considerations into decision making including in the Ministries of Finance, Agriculture, Infrastructure, Planning, Tourism and Education amongst others. This could be done by adopting an integrated approach to sustainable development, planning and implementation, taking into account the links between SDG 15 and other Sustainable Development Goals, such as SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 6 and SDG 12.

63. Key focus at the regional level will be to implement SDG 15-related priorities identified at the first Asia-Pacific Ministerial Summit on the Environment, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 5 to 8 September 2017, jointly organized by the ESCAP and UN Environment, including (i) Protecting natural capital and ecosystem integrity including wildlife and biodiversity; (ii) Strengthening environmental cooperation including regional dialogue to discuss environmental issues, including those that have transboundary impacts; (iii) Strengthening environmental governance and institutions; (iv) Strengthening scientific basis of policy-making and knowledge sharing; (v) Enhance sustainable livelihoods, including through access to resources and ecosystem services for all, in particular women and vulnerable groups, recognizing their lack of access to resources and ecosystem services.

Interlinkages between SDG 15 and other Sustainable Development Goals

64. The analysis of the interlinkages between the SDG 15 and the rest of the Sustainable Development Goals have underlined the importance of terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity that underpin the wellbeing of the human society. Another side of the described interlinkages relates to the increasing pressures from unsustainable consumption and production practices, conflicting use of natural resources for food and energy, and contamination with hazardous chemicals calling for urgent and integrated action throughout all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. For example, large scale palm oil plantations for 'renewable' energy have contributed to critical and irreversible damage to systems and indigenous forest cover in this region.

65. Protection and restoration of water-related ecosystem, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes (target 6.6) and the promotion of recycle and reuse of wastewater (target 6.3) is crucial to protect our ecosystems. Solutions are within reach as offered by sustainable food production systems (target 2.4). It is also a viable option to water resource

efficiency and provides opportunities for sustainable and renewable energy production (target 7.2). Another dimension is the importance of continuous conservation of terrestrial ecosystems (target 15.1 and 15.2), which ensures conservation of the finite water resources (target 6.6) and reducing water scarcity (target 6.4).

66. Another critical aspect is the need for better understanding (targets 4.1 and 4.7) and awareness raising (target 12.8) about the need to curb the demand for animal products for example, which will slow down/end trafficking of protected species (target 15.7), while preventing further species extinction (target 15.5), as well as, loss of natural habitats.

V. Matters calling for the attention of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

67. Member States and other stakeholders are invited to review the present document with a view to:

(a) Sharing perspectives on progress on the Sustainable Development Goals under review, and their interlinkages; and

(b) Sharing perspectives on integrated policy approaches for making further progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals under review and for transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies.

Annex I

Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 1	No Poverty – End Poverty in All its Forms Everywhere
SDG 2	Zero Hunger – End Hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
SDG 3	Good Health and Well-Being – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
SDG 4	Quality Education – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality of education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
SDG 5	Gender Equality – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
SDG 6	Clean Water and Sanitation – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
SDG 7	Affordable and Clean Energy – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
SDG 8	Decent Work and Economic Growth – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
SDG 9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
SDG 10	Reduced Inequalities – Reduce inequality within and among countries
SDG 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
SDG 12	Responsible Consumption and Production – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
SDG 13	Climate Action – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
SDG 14	Life Below Water – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
SDG 15	Life on Land – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
SDG 16	Peace and Justice – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable Development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
SDG 17	Partnerships for the Goals – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnerships for sustainable development

Annex II

Basic services for achieving transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies through key SDG targets

SDG 1.2	By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
SDG 2.2	By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons
SDG 3.7	By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
SDG 4.2	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education
SDG 4.3	By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
SDG 5.5 SDG 5.6	Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
SDG 6.1	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
SDG 6.2	By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
SDG 7.1	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
SDG 8.6	By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
SDG 9.1 SDG 9.3	Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets
SDG 10.1 SDG 10.3	By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

SDG 11.1	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
SDG 11.2	By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
SDG 12.2	By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
SDG 12.3	By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest loss
SDG 13.1	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
SDG 13.3	Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
SDG 14.2	By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
SDG 15.1	By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed
SDG 15.2	
SDG 15.6	
SDG 16.1	Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
SDG 16.3	Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
SDG 16.6	Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
SDG 16.7	Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
All SDG 17 targets	