



UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



Asia – Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2015

- **Held** in Bangkok ESCAP on 21-22 May 2015
- **Attended** by more than 400 participants including representatives of governments, major groups and other stakeholders, United Nation bodies and programs and other international organization and entities.
- **Benefited** from
 - ✓ The Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development, which was organized by ESCAP and the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, held in Bangkok on 17 and 18 May 2015
 - ✓ The Regional Conference on Aligning Corporate Sustainability with SDGs, held in Bangkok on 20 May 2015.
 - ✓ 1st UNEP Forum of Ministers and Environmental Authorities of Asia Pacific, held in Bangkok, on 19 and 20 May 2015
 - ✓ Several side events organized by civil society and development partners

APFSD Main Messages

- ❑ APFSD built regional and multi-stakeholder **consensus** on Asia-Pacific sustainable development dimensions and associated challenges and opportunities within the context of post-2015 development agenda as well as regional review and follow-up mechanisms.
- ❑ Meeting confirmed to importance of an holistic approach to sustainable development, based on **balanced integration** of three dimensions.
- ❑ A forward-looking agenda needs to engage **all people** of the region.
- ❑ Call for **political commitment and leadership** to realize sustainable development aspirations.
- ❑ Noted the benefits of the APFSD as a **regional platform** for sustainable development.

APFSD 2015 Agenda

Defining Asia –Pacific sustainable development challenges and opportunities – ‘Strengthening integration, implementation and review for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

Perspectives on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 and the sustainable goals

Regional mechanisms for review of implementation of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015

APFSD beyond 2015

Special presentation: Asia-pacific models of sustainable development

Regional preparatory session for the Annual Ministerial Review

Session 1. Defining Asia-Pacific sustainable development challenges and opportunities — strengthening integration, implementation and review for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

- ❑ Need to focus on a more inclusive, balanced and sustained growth path, while respecting **planetary boundaries and social needs**.
- ❑ Call for region-wide acceptance of social justice and ecological sustainability as **fundamental policy objectives**.
- ❑ Sustainable development agenda must be firmly embedded in **national policy frameworks**, and requires national and local **ownership**
- ❑ Call for enhanced **political commitment and leadership** to realize sustainable development aspirations.

Session 2. Panel on perspectives on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 and the sustainable development goals

- ❑ Decisions on the post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals, are expected to be concluded in September and Region must **begin** to discuss implementation modalities.
- ❑ Global agenda needs to be reflected in **national sustainable development frameworks**.
- ❑ Implementing the post-2015 agenda in a way that supports all three dimensions of sustainable development will be **challenging**.
- ❑ Consensus on need to involve all **stakeholders** into planning, implementation and review processes.
- ❑ Need to bring **private sector fully** on board by creating an enabling and incentivizing environment.

Session 3. Regional monitoring and review mechanisms for implementation of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015

- ❑ **Robust, effective and transparent follow-up and review framework is needed**
- ❑ **Critical role of follow-up and review in ensuring the implementation of the ambitious post-2015 development agenda.** Such a framework should:
 - ✓ Help to track progress and identify achievements, challenges and critical factors in implementing the post-2015 development agenda.
 - ✓ Support decision makers in making policy choices
 - ✓ Assist in prioritizing actions and investments.
 - ✓ Assist in identifying needs and help to mobilize means of implementation.
- ❑ **Follow-up and review, in the context of the post-2015 development agenda:**
 - ✓ Should be streamlined
 - ✓ ‘Fit for purpose’
 - ✓ Adapted to the capacities and national priorities of member States

Session 4. The form and function of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development beyond 2015

The Forum agreed that:

- APFSD should be convened as an **intergovernmental meeting prior to the High-level Political Forum** in 2016, on a theme consistent with that of the latter
- Objectives of the Forum in 2016 should be to **support the full and balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development** and the **implementation of the post-2015 development agenda** in Asia and the Pacific, including follow-up and review, while being consistent with the objectives, form, function and modalities of the High-level Political Forum
- APFSD will initiate the development of a **regional Road Map** for implementing the post-2015 development agenda at its session in 2016. The regional road map will be defined in consultation with member States at its third session in 2016
- Based on the outcome of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, the form, function and modalities of the Forum after 2016 will **be decided at its third session in 2016 through an intergovernmental consultative process**

Special Presentation of APFSD

- ❑ Session showcased **unique models** of sustainable development strongly based on Asia-Pacific culture and values.

- ❑ **Models and approaches** introduced included:
 - ✓ The sufficiency economy of Thailand;
 - ✓ The “3R” (reduce, reuse, recycle) model of Japan;
 - ✓ The Japanese circular economy effort; the guiding philosophy of the Gross National Happiness model of Bhutan;
 - ✓ Efforts by Georgia to promote connectivity and cooperation through the silk road;
 - ✓ Vanuatu to incorporate the traditional and informal economy into its national sustainable development plan

- ❑ Stressed importance of **development justice** and shifting people’s mindset to attain a more **sustainable consumption** pattern and lifestyle based on spiritual, cultural and ethical values.

Session 5. Regional preparations for the Annual Ministerial Review: “Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: What will it take?”

- The Asia-Pacific region has made impressive achievements, but level of progress towards MDGs has been **uneven**.

- Least developed countries** need particular support and attention in implementation of sustainable development agenda:
 - ✓ Targeting finance for development
 - ✓ Transfer of technology
 - ✓ Capacity development

- Development cooperation and financing** will play significant role in support for implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

Way forward

- APFSD represented key milestone for Asia-Pacific region.
- Forum emphasized the need for normative policy shifts towards more sustainable growth paths
 - ✓ More resource-efficient
 - ✓ Able to meet the needs of both present and future generations
 - ✓ Respecting planetary boundaries
 - ✓ Putting people at the centre of development
- Such a shift is beyond means of individual countries.
- Asia-Pacific region as a whole must lead this transformation through forward-looking and innovative approaches.
- Regional roadmap to identify regional priorities to be developed.



Thank you for your attention😊

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