

Side Event

Financing for Development Follow-up in the Asia-Pacific region: Agenda for implementation of regional priorities

**18 April 2016 (08:00-10:00)
The West Terrace, 4th Floor, Main Building
United Nations, New York**

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

I: Background

The international community adopted in 2015 three historic, universal and transformative agreements – the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development in July, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in December. The adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, a comprehensive and integrated framework for financing sustainable development, is expected to reinvigorate and strengthen the Financing for Development process, which is to reaffirm and build on the 2002 Monterrey Consensus and the 2008 Doha Declaration. Furthermore, this important means of implementation framework aims to lay out the action-oriented mechanism in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity for supporting implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development: Addis Ababa Action Agenda encouraged regional commissions, in cooperation with regional banks and organizations, to mobilize their expertise and existing mechanisms, which could focus on thematic aspects of the present Action Agenda. Therefore, this follow-up process on implementation of the Addis Agenda would equally require credible and forward-looking strategies for taking concrete actions for mobilization of financial resources for sustainable development at the regional level, while taking into action the sub-regional and national context.

In this context, the First High-Level Follow-up Dialogue on Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific provided an important opportunity to gather regional momentum, scale up consolidated efforts and recalibrate the regional financial architecture to lay down a solid foundation for supporting implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, the dialogue process was instrumental in setting up an annual regional review process to better understand the implementation of the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The region's implementation of the Addis Agenda is critically linked to the regional economic and financial environment. To effectively harness domestic public resources, private finance and global partnerships, the region needs an enabling environment that supports economic prospects and financial stability.

With this first follow-up dialogue, ESCAP has initiated to advance the work on the implementation of the financing for development agenda in the Asia-Pacific region. To support further the follow-up process at the regional level, this side event will discuss the Chair's Summary from the First High-Level Follow-up Dialogue, which could guide the policymakers to further review several commitments under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and approach their implementation process in Asia and the Pacific region.

At 2016 Incheon meeting, the policymakers underscored the importance of the following regional priorities for the countries, with a special reference to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States that would contribute to efforts aimed at: (i) recognizing the need for an Asia Pacific Tax Forum; (ii) encouraging harmonization and standardized of legal and regulatory frameworks of securities markets and work with securities regulators to encourage cross border flows and market integration with due consideration for financial stability; (iii) highlighting importance of a regional Infrastructure Financing Forum which would enhance the support for cross-border capital flows for infrastructure projects; (iv) suggesting that ESCAP work with regional networks, in particular the Alliance for Financial Inclusion, to harness financial inclusion policies to support sustainable development; (v) suggested the possibility of a Regional Center in the Pacific for capacity building on climate change adaptation and mitigation; and (vi) suggested that countries with special needs establish a focal point within one of their ministries to deal with South-South Cooperation and Triangular Development Cooperation and to develop a regional platform for technology transfer and capacity building and advisory services.

These and other conclusion were included in the Chair's Summary of the First High-Level Follow-up Dialogue on Financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific organized by ESCAP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea in Incheon on 30 and 31 March 2016. With further elaboration, these recommendations could provide a forward looking action plan to generate a regional financing for 2030 Agenda on sustainable development.

II: Objectives

The objective of the side event on “Financing for Development Follow-up in the Asia-Pacific region: Agenda for implementation of regional priorities” is to provide a focused discussion on innovative financing sources, modalities and priorities in the Asia and the Pacific region for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development. The side event will also consider and elaborate on the policy recommendations contained in the Chair's Summary mentioned above.

Key areas:

- Regional tax cooperation, and the role and framework of the proposed Asia-Pacific Tax Forum.
- Developing capital markets in the region, in particular the harmonization of rules and regulations across securities markets.
- Leveraging the funds for long-term infrastructure investment.
- Enhancing financial inclusion and other forms of innovative financing mechanisms.
- Climate finance with a special focus on the least development countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.
- Regional partnership: South-South and triangular development cooperation.

III. Organization and participation

The side event will be organized as a high-level panel discussion, which will be followed by an open discussion. Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP will moderate the session. The meeting will be Chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea. The panel will include finance ministers and senior Ministers from the Asia-Pacific region, private sector and CSO representatives and the officials from other UN agencies. Speakers will be kindly requested to limit their interventions to 5 to 7 minutes. Member States, representatives of non-governmental organizations and the private sector and members of the media attending the inaugural ECOSOC FfD Forum are invited to attend.

IV: Documentation

ESCAP will share Chair's Summary, reports and discussion papers in key areas of discussions of the side event. Please visit ESCAP website for further information: <http://www.unescap.org/events/apffd-nyc>