

Regional Commissions NY Office Bulletin

Global Challenges...Regional Solutions



Message from the Office

2023 is a pivotal year in many respects. As the Secretary-General has noted in his remarks to the GA on 2023 priorities, “it is a year of reckoning” and “must be a year of game-changing climate action”. Several global events are lined up to help reignite the momentum around the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

In January, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, assumed the role of Coordinator of the Regional Commissions on a rotating basis for 2023. The Commissions defined the priorities for their joint work during the year around four key areas: mid-point assessment of the SDGs, financing for development, climate action and cooperation with regional organizations.

During the 2023 ECOSOC Coordination Segment held from 1-2 February, the Executive Secretaries shared perspectives on the multiple crises the regions are facing and highlighted transformative initiatives and policies spearheaded by the Commissions for strengthening resilience and accelerating the implementation of the SDGs.

This year, the SDG Summit will be the “center-piece moment”. The Summit will seek to energize efforts to implement globally agreed blueprints for transformation and lead the way to desperately needed breakthroughs to a better world. In this regard, the Forums on Sustainable Development in the five regions will help build momentum across regional constituencies and serve as steppingstones to the SDG Summit in September, taking the pulse on SDG progress in the regions and identifying opportunities for

transformative action. In the area of financing for development, the Commissions will contribute with cutting-edge knowledge and analysis on debt and the reform of the global financial architecture to help inform regional and global dialogue and advocacy. The Commissions will also contribute to advancing the climate agenda and implementation of “Our Common Agenda” recommendations.

The New York Office will continue to amplify regional voices, support the Regional Commissions in their joint initiatives, and create and nurture impactful partnerships for the SDGs.

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Office

KEY MEETINGS

- First of the five Regional Forums on Sustainable Development kicked off in Niamey
- 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum: Scaling transformative partnerships pivotal for realizing the SDGs
- The Regional Commissions at the 61st session of the Commission on Social Development
- Setting the tone for the year ahead: Heads of the Regional Commissions present priorities for 2023 at the ECOSOC Coordination segment

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

- ECLAC urges for promoting investment in water services to improve well-being, quality of life and to reactivate the region's economy
- The Council of Arab Ministers of Telecommunication and Information Technology adopts the Digital Agenda 2023-2033
- UNECE's Inland Transport Committee takes action to facilitate wider adoption of electric vehicles
- Regional UN Forum says “Investing for impact” ensures benefits of growth reach everyone everywhere equally

Hot off the Presses - Recent Publications

KEY MEETINGS

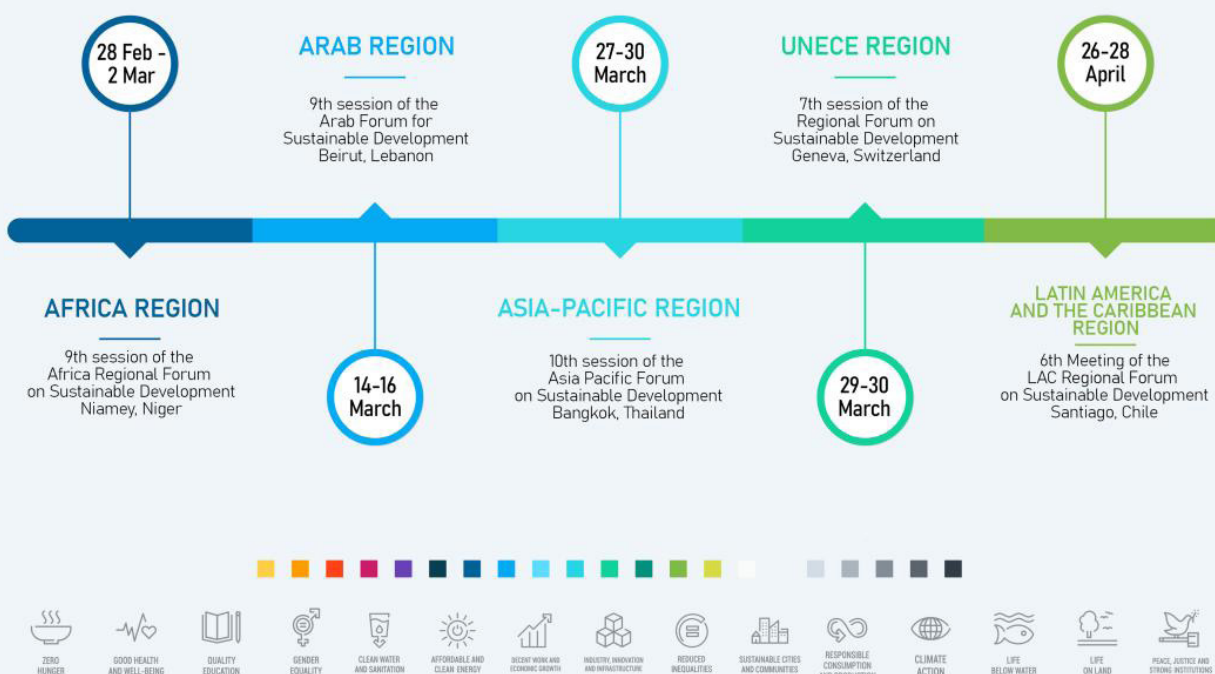
First of the five Regional Forums on Sustainable Development kicked off in Niamey

As the preeminent platforms for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda in the regions, the 2023 Regional Forums for Sustainable Development will help build momentum across regional constituencies to drive transformation to achieve the Sustain-

fied priorities and policy recommendations for Africa to accelerate SDG implementation at multiple levels, and the region's collective input to the 2023 High-Level Political Forum to be held in July in New York. The Forum also adopted in the [Niamey Declaration](#) calling for accelerated inclusive and green recovery from multiple crises, and the integrated and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063.

Please visit our [website](#) to stay up-to-date on

2023 REGIONAL FORUMS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



able Development Goals and promote SDG solutions and partnerships at the regional, sub-regional and country levels.

Aligned with the theme of the ECOSOC and the High-Level Political Forum, the five Regional Forums will provide enabling spaces for a variety of stakeholders (governments, civil society, academia, regional banks, private sector) to come together, share knowledge and best practices and re-energize efforts to advance SDG implementation.

Convened in Niamey from 28 February to 2 March 2023, the Africa Regional Forum identi-

news and key outcomes of the five Regional Forums.

2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum: Scaling transformative partnerships pivotal for realizing the SDGs

The 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, held on 31 January, provided the space for showcasing partnership solutions and rallying a wide range of partners around the 2030 Agenda. In the face of multiple crises and widening inequalities, the President of ECOSOC reminded delegations that global frameworks remain the best tools for reducing risks, overcoming



L to r: Raul Garcia-Buchaca, Deputy Executive Secretary for Management, ECLAC, Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, UNECE, Antonio Pedro Acting Executive Secretary, ECA and Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana Executive Secretary, ESCAP and current Coordinator of the Regional Commissions

barriers, and realizing a sustainable future for all. The Deputy Secretary-General called on all stakeholders to demonstrate the leadership and ambition necessary to seize the opportunities presented by energy, food, digital and social transitions to put the SDGs back on track.

In this spirit, RCNYO was proud to represent the Regional Commissions in the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group that contributed to the organization of the Forum and help identify the innovative partnerships emerging in the regions on priority issues such as unlocking financing for SDG implementation and leveraging STIs,

The Regional Commissions at the 61st session of the Commission on Social Development

In the context of the 61st session of the Commission on Social Development, senior representatives of the Regional Commissions took part in a high-level dialogue on the theme of "Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". The Regional Commissions addressed how ongoing crises have aggravated inequalities in the labour market, with those who were already facing discrimination and marginalization and hit the hardest. Trends in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Asia and the Pacific in relation to labour informality, weak social protection and vulnerability, called for a new social and fiscal compact for sustainable

development and social cohesion. In the case of Europe, elimination of ageism in the labour market emerged as a priority. Better fiscal policies and investment in digital infrastructure were some of the measures highlighted for the Africa region..



Srinivas Tata, Chief of Service, Social Affairs, ESCAP

Setting the tone for the year ahead: Heads of the Regional Commissions present priorities for 2023 at the ECOSOC Coordination segment

Heads of the five Regional Commissions participated in the ECOSOC Coordination Segment in a session on "Leveraging regional perspectives for an inclusive and resilient recovery guided by the 2030 Agenda", where they updated the Council on regional trends in the advancement of the 2030 Agenda, key messages from regional intergovernmental bodies and

provided a preview of the regional forums on sustainable development.

Ms. Alisjahbana highlighted various ESCAP initiatives to support sustainable development pathways in the Asia-Pacific region, including the Global Ocean Account Partnership, the recently adopted Jakarta Declaration on Asian-Pacific Persons with Disabilities 2021-2032; and support to decarbonization of economies, and the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, to name but a few.

Ms. Algayerova underlined the priority areas of energy decarbonization, urban development and the need for integrated thinking on transport, housing, infrastructure and innovation. ECE initiatives such as the ECE's environmen-



Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, ESCAP and current Coordinator of the Regional Commissions

tal performance reviews and the mayors' forum provided opportunities to exploit synergies among the SDGs and advance in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Antonio Pedro, Acting Executive Secretary of ECA, pointed out that despite the reversal of progress on the 2030 Agenda and AU's Agenda 2063, an inclusive and resilient recovery is still possible if it starts with green and equitable growth, decent jobs, and a just energy transition. Ensuring a sustainable recovery which protects both populations and economies from future crises would require reforms of fiscal policies and the global financial architecture, among other areas.

Raúl García-Buchaca, Deputy Executive Secretary of the ECLAC, similarly pointed out that the fight against inflation has notably tightened LAC region's global financial conditions, increased volatility in financial markets and augmented risk aversion. ECLAC identified several strategic sectors — the health-care manufacturing industry, digital transformation, electromobility and sustainable tourism — to drive forward sustainable development.

Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary of the EE-SCWA, said that her Commission is also working on multiple fronts to address the Arab region's expanding public debt, shrinking fiscal space, rising inequality, growing unemployment and increasing demand for quality social protection.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

ECLAC Urges for Promoting Investment in Water Services to Improve Well-Being, Quality of Life and to Reactivate the Region's Economy

At the Regional Water Dialogues in Latin America and the Caribbean region held from 1-3 February 2023 Santiago de Chile, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, urged countries to promote investment in water services to improve the population's well-being and quality of life and to reactivate the region's economy. Mr. Salazar-Xirinachs, Emphasizing that, according to ECLAC's estimates, in order to carry forward a fair and sustainable water transition, universalizing the coverage of safely managed water and sanitation, a public and private investment push equivalent to 1.3% of regional GDP is needed over a 10-year period.

The high-level ministerial event aimed to assess progress related to Sustainable Development Goal 6 in the framework of the "Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Sustainable Development,' 2018-2028."

Mr. Salazar-Xirinachs concluded citing the great opportunity to move forward on a shared



José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary, ECLAC

vision and collective commitment to universal access to water and its integrated management, leaving no one behind and emphasizing this resource's central and indispensable role for life, health and sustainable development.

Please visit ECLAC [website](#) for more Info

The Council of Arab Ministers of Telecommunications and Information Technology adopts the Arab Digital Agenda 2023-2033

On 23 January, the Council of Arab Ministers of Telecommunications and Information Technology adopted the [Arab Digital Agenda](#) 2023-2033 at its 26th meeting in Cairo.



This document was prepared within the framework of a joint project between ESCWA and the League of Arab States) to produce, develop and implement the Arab information and

communication (ICT) Strategy, in partnership with different stakeholders.

The Arab Digital Agenda is a framework for the period 2023-2033, that ensures countries can benefit from digital technology and use it to achieve sustainable development

UNECE's Inland Transport Committee takes action to facilitate wider adoption of electric vehicles

Electrification of vehicles is an important tool to align the transport sector with a climate neutral future and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Focused on climate actions, this year's annual session of UNECE's Inland Transport Committee (ITC) agreed on dedicated actions to facilitate wider adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) by working on policy harmonization, improving relevant data collection, and fostering global exchanges among experts in the public and private sector.

According to the International Energy Agency, in 2021, 18 UNECE member States were among the top 20 countries for EV sales worldwide. However, several challenges hamper the massive adoption of EVs. In addition to higher purchase costs, a common fear among motorists is that they will run out of power in the middle of their journeys. EV charging equipment and stations are still not as widespread as petrol stations. Even when they do exist, they have constraints in terms of the number of devices, power, accessibility, geographical location, and pricing.

To address these important issues, a dedicated side event of the ITC annual session gathered a group of experts to explore policy tools that countries may use to overcome barriers to massive adoption of EVs.

In the coming period, UNECE's Working Party on Transport Statistics and the Working Party on Trends and Economics will establish a steady workflow on passenger EVs and its charging infrastructure and will explore harmonized definitions, including enhanced data collection.

Please visit UNECE [website](#) for more information

Regional UN forum says “investing for impact” ensures benefits of growth reach everyone everywhere equally

As one of the leading destinations and sources of Foreign Direct Investment globally since 2020, the Asia-Pacific region has the potential to use this financing to further scale up sustainable development activities and ensure that the benefits of rapid growth reach everyone equally.

Given estimates that additional investments of at least \$1.5 trillion are needed each year by

On the sidelines of the Committee, ESCAP launched its Policy Guidebook on Promoting Foreign Direct Investment (in the Digital Economy). The report encourages countries to rethink traditional approaches to FDI and identifies three areas in which it can support digital transformation: building digital infrastructure; supporting the digital transformation of traditional firms, in particular, MSMEs and value-chain linked firms; and supporting the development of local digital businesses.

For more [information](#) and [multimedia content](#)



Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, ESCAP and current Coordinator of the Regional Commissions (front row center) and Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business

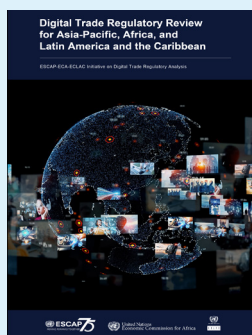
developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, mobilizing FDI effectively and urgently will require investors to shift their practices to investing for social and environmental impact beyond profit.

“Governments in the region are starting to take supportive action on this front,” said Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of ESCAP, at the opening of the inaugural Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation.

“These are early days, however, and there is certainly much room to foster an environment that incentivizes businesses and investors to focus more on people and the planet.”

Hot off the Presses - Recent Publications

Digital trade regulatory review for Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean



This report is part of the collaborative efforts between the three United Nations Regional Commissions (UNRCs): 21 (ESCAP), 28 (ECA), and 20 (ECLAC) under the ESCAP-ECA-ECLAC Digital Trade Regulatory Analysis Initiative.

The report provides a preliminary step towards better understanding the digital trade policy environment within and between Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. The report presents an overview of the digital trade policy landscape in the three regions, based on the regulatory data collections in 2022 from 69 pilot economies in the three regions. The data collection and analysis are based on the ESCAP-ECA-ECLAC common framework of the Regional Digital Trade Regulatory Integration Index (RDTII) 2.0*. The report also proposes recommendations for enhancing digital trade integration within and between the three regions. ([DOWNLOAD](#))

Congo Basin Climate Commission



The study is prepared with a view to addressing those challenges by facilitating the development of a standardized and harmonized protocol on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that provides for the harmonization of carbon emission accounting, verification, and reporting

mechanisms. The study aims to support carbon market integrity, bolster institutional capacity, and boost private investment in inclusive green and blue economies in Congo Basin Climate Commission countries. ([DOWNLOAD](#))

Monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal 7 indicators in Latin American countries



This document, prepared by the French Agency for Ecological Transition (ADEME) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), is intended to assess the status on energy indicators relating to Goal 7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. It was prepared in the framework of the "Energy Efficiency Indicators Database"

project, which aims to build technical capacities in the countries of the region to monitor progress towards affordable, efficient, safe and modern energy.

([DOWNLOAD](#))

Making regional integration work : company perspectives on non-tariff measures in Asia-Pacific



The report highlights that market access begins at home. Trade regulations are deemed burdensome by exporters in the Asia-Pacific region primarily because of domestic procedural obstacles. Streamlining trade procedures at home is key to enabling exporters to access export markets.

We also see that is that a higher implementation rate of trade facilitation measures, especially in the form of paperless trade, correlates with a fewer concerns vis-à-vis NTMs and higher export shares.

([DOWNLOAD](#))

Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2021-2022



As countries worldwide are still recovering from the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine is expected to result in severe implications for the global economy. The ongoing conflict is driving up energy and commodity prices, and threatening food security in many parts of the world.

The magnitude of the impact on individual countries depends on the composition of their economies, and their trade and financial links with the two countries in conflict. The gross domestic product of the Arab region is expected to grow by 5.18 per cent in 2022 if the conflict ends by June 2022 (0.02 percentage point low-

er than the pre-crisis projections), and by 4.78 per cent if the conflict endures longer (0.42 percentage point lower than the pre-crisis projections – an estimated loss of around \$11 billion). ([DOWNLOAD](#))

European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and related Installations (AGTC)



European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and related Installations (AGTC) provides the technical and legal framework for the development of efficient international intermodal and combined road/rail transport infrastructure and services in Europe. The

AGTC determines important European railway lines used for intermodal transport and identifies important terminals, border crossing points and ferry links. It also establishes international infrastructure standards for railway lines and terminals and prescribes international minimum performance standards for intermodal and combined transport services (benchmarks). ([DOWNLOAD](#))

FOR MORE PUBLICATIONS FROM THE REGIONS PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#)

Twitter: @UN_RCNYO
Website: www.un.org/regionalcommissionsnyoffice

Copyright © 2022 United Nations, All rights reserved.

Contact Information:
United Nations
405 E 42nd St
S-1509
New York, NY 10017-3507

RCNYO Email: rcnyo.records@un.org