



Regional knowledge exchange FINANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION IN TIMES OF VOLATILITY AND UNCERTAINTIES

CONCEPT NOTE

Date: 12-13 June 2023

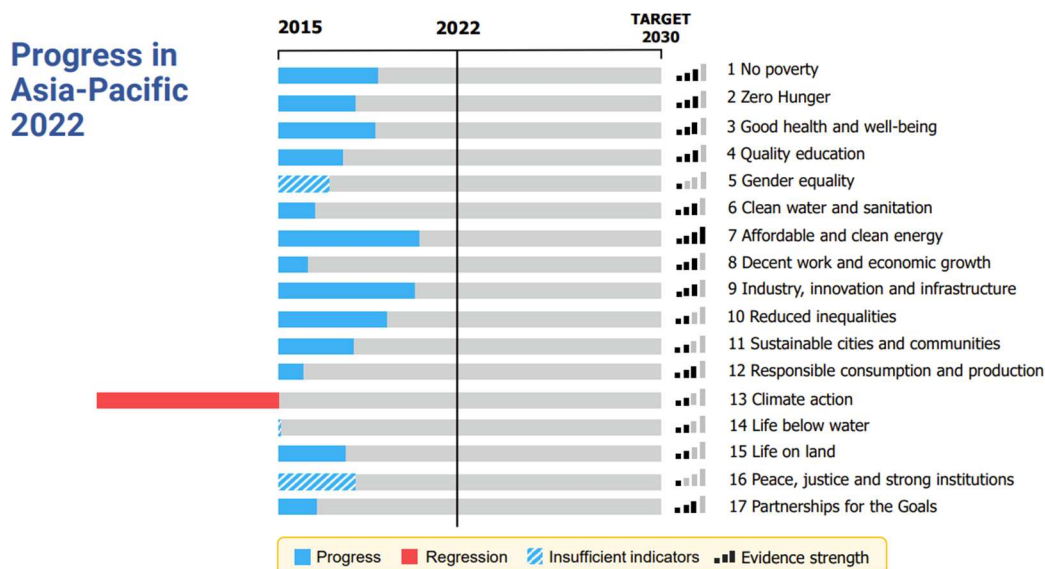
Location: Novotel Sukhumvit 20, Bangkok, Thailand (Conference room: Benjasiri)

Co-organisers: INFF Facility, UNDP, UN-DESA, UNESCAP, European Commission

1. Background

By adopting the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, the United Nations Member States chose a more sustainable path for our planet and our economy. The UN 2030 Agenda has at its core 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals are guiding the Member States in preparing for a future that ensures stability, a healthy planet, fair, inclusive and resilient societies and prosperous economies.

This year the world is at the mid-way point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. While there are impressive national accomplishments across the 17 Goals, none of the countries in the region are on track to reach them and overall achievement is much lower than anticipated for the midpoint. In fact, the task is to accelerate and address the reversals in development as many countries in the Asia-Pacific region suffered two consecutive years of decline in Human Development Index (HDI) and other indicators, as existing development challenges were exacerbated by COVID-19 and other compounding crises.



Source: ESCAP (2023) Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report

Sustainable financing is increasingly playing the role of an enabler that can scale up the progress and development impact toward the SDGs and the implementation of the Paris Agreement. If countries are to foster more coherence and coordinated policymaking in the economy an integrated action across financial systems and actions is



necessary as the region is both significantly impacted by climate change and several countries are also major contributors to emissions¹.

Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFF), which are being established in 86 countries, can guide resource allocation, tackle policy barriers to unleash both private and innovative financing and shape financing of sustainable development in a more effective and coordinated way.² Countries across the Asia-Pacific region are leading in the use of the INFF approach to build a strong financing system that has in its core sustainability facilitated by public and private capital and coherent policies.

This regional exchange – which comes as many countries in the region are working on finalizing the strategies/roadmaps and other foundations of INFFs and are now turning to implementation - provides an opportunity for the countries to hear about global and regional trends and opportunities and to share experiences, practical technical advice, and tools in this context as many countries realize that national sustainable development plans cannot be implemented without a coherent approach to financing the achievement of national priorities.

It is combined with the SDG Finance Academy, which builds on the successful experience of a training workshop “Integrated National Financing Frameworks and Budgeting for the 2030 Agenda: Financing Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery” organized back-to-back to the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in 2021.

2. Objective

The event will serve as a forum for dialogue between policymakers leading INFF processes across the region, engage private sector actors and international partners supporting sustainable financing related initiatives. Through this knowledge exchange event, participants will **learn from promising approaches and practices, compare their different initiatives and identify barriers and opportunities of financing sustainable development**, while respecting national and regional contexts.

The event will therefore aim to:

- (a) Facilitate an exchange among government officials and other stakeholders on how to leverage **Integrated National Financing Frameworks** to address the needs of the sustainable development agenda: the **role of Financing Strategies** in supporting national development agendas;
- (b) Stimulate exchange on how to **reorient private and public financing flows towards sustainable investment** in order to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth;
- (c) Identify key country **examples, lessons, and support** needed that can be applied at country level; and distilled and disseminated further regionally and globally;
- (d) Deepen collaboration between partners to advance INFFs and sustainable finance across the region.

3. Target audience

The main target audience for this event are practitioners from Asia-Pacific countries including representatives from Ministries of Finance, Economy and other Ministries that are actively involved or interested in developing an INFF, IFIs and development partners working on sustainable finance in the region, private sector representatives such as corporates, impact investors, banks and MCOs, bond issuers, academia and other regional stakeholders.

¹ Asia Pacific region includes 13 of the 30 countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Given its structural economic, natural resource endowment and demographic features, the region is also estimated to account for 30% of global greenhouse gas emissions and 60% of the world’s coal consumption.

² See INFF.org



Agenda

| Time | Session |
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| DAY 1: 12 June 2023 | |
| 8:30 – 9:00 | Registration |
| (30 min) 09:00 – 09:30 | <p>Event Opening</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Thomas Beloe, Chief of Programme, Sustainable Finance Hub, UNDP</p> <p>Welcoming remarks by Partner Organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Christophe Bahuet, Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok Regional Hub, UNDP • Ms. Natalia Aristizabal Mora, Inter-Regional Adviser, Financing for Sustainable Development, UN-DESA • Ms. Sara Rezoagli, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Thailand <p>Event Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Thomas Beloe, Chief of Programme, Sustainable Finance Hub, UNDP |
| (60 min) 09:30 – 10:20 | <p>Session 1. Integrated national financing frameworks: building a more sustainable national financing architecture</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Natalia Aristizabal Mora, Inter-Regional Adviser, Financing for Sustainable Development, UN-DESA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Ahmed Saruvash Adam, Chief Financial Budget Executive, Ministry of Finance of Maldives 2. Mr. Setyo Budiantoro, Manager of the Economic Development Pillar, Bappenas, Indonesia 3. Mr. Tuguldur Galbadrakh, Senior specialist of the Development Model and Innovation Division of the Integrated Development Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Development of Mongolia 4. Mr. Tim Strawson, SDG Finance Advisor and INFF Team Lead, UNDP 5. Q&A |
| (25min) 10:20-10:45 | Networking coffee |
| (75 min) 10:45 – 12:00 | <p>Session 2. Fostering private investment in sustainable development agenda</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Shanaz Patel, EU Delegation in Indonesia, ASEAN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Nirwan Noh, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance of Malaysia (Fiscal and Economics Division) 2. Mr. Kobsak Duangdee, Secretary General, Thai Bankers' Association 3. Mr. Ramraj Pai, Chief Executive Officer, India Impact Investors Council (online) 4. Mr. Elvin Uy, Executive Director, Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) 5. Q&A |



| Time | Session |
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| (60 min) 12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch break |
| (90 min) 13:00 – 14:30 | <p>Session 3. Innovative Financing in the era of high debt levels: What are the trends and opportunities, including for green, social and sustainability-linked bonds and other debt instruments</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. AnnaMaria Oltorp, Head of the Development Cooperation Section, Regional Asia and the Pacific, of the Swedish Embassy in Bangkok</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Deni Ridwan, Director of Government Debt Securities, Ministry of Finance of Indonesia 2. Mr. Vatcharin Sirimaneetham, Chief, Macroeconomic Policy and Analysis Section, ESCAP 3. Mr. Muhammad Humair Karim, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Government of Pakistan 4. Ms. Natasha Garcha, Senior Director, Innovative Finance and Gender-Lens Investing Specialist, Impact Investment Exchange (IIX) (online) 5. Q&A |
| (75 min) 14:30 – 15:45 | <p>Session 4. Anchor public-private and blended finance use to a development rationale (e.g. de-risking energy, MSMEs, blue economy)</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Chris Adams, Deputy Director, General Development Office, USAID</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Joan M. Larrea, CEO, Convergence – Blending Global Finance 2. Mr. Baskoro Adi, Chief Operating Officer, Mandiri Investment Management Pte 3. Mr. Andrew Koroj, SDG Manager, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, Ministry of Finance, Fiji 4. Mr. Muktiram Acharya, Under Secretary, Ministry of Finance of Nepal 5. Mr. Shreejesh Ghimire, Chief Investment Officer, Nepal NMB Bank 6. Q&A |
| (20 min) 15:45 – 16:05 | Networking coffee |
| (75 min) 16:05 – 17:20 | <p>Session 5. Responding to sustainability imperatives: progress on enabling environment, the ESGs and the SDG impact opportunity</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Odile Conchou, Senior Advisor on Biodiversity and Finance, French Agency of Development</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Thomas Beloe, Chief of Programme, Sustainable Finance Hub, UNDP 2. Dr. Soraphol Tulayasathien, Senior Executive Vice President, The Stock Exchange of Thailand 3. Mr. Ronald Young, Head of Sustainable Finance, Societe Generale Asia 4. Mr. Hussien Mullar, Head, MIND & Sustainability, Bank Pembangunan Malaysia Berhad 5. Q&A |



| Time | Session |
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| (10 min) 17:20 – 17:30 | Wrap-up of Day 1 – Diyora Kabulova, Regional SDG Finance Specialist, UNDP |
| (90 min) 18:00 – 19:30 | Networking refreshments |
| DAY 2: 13th June | |
| (15 min) 8:30-8:45 | Overview of the Day 2 – Radhika Lal, Regional Advisor, UNDP |
| (10 min) 8:45-8:55 | Setting the scene. Regional macroeconomic outlook. Mr. David Corvino, Macroeconomic Advisor, IMF |
| (75 min) 9:00-10:15 | <p>Session 6. Strengthening alignment of public spending with the SDGs for the better impact</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Nohman Ishtiaq, Public Finance Lead, Sustainable Finance Hub, UNDP</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Hazel Iris Baliatan, Director, National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), and Mr. Donalyn Minimo, Director, Department of Finance, Philippines Mr. Shaikh Moniruzzaman, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh Mr. Kentaro Katayama, Advisor, IMF Mr. Andrea Rossi, Regional Adviser Social Policy and Economic Analysis, UNICEF Q&A |
| (75 min) 10:15-11:30 | <p>Session 7. Moving towards SDG-aligned tax policies</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Alberto Isgut, Economic Affairs Officer, Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Department, ESCAP</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation: Overview of global trends in tax policies and their role in shaping social and environmental outcomes. Sudarshan Kasturirangan, Regional Tax Specialist, UNDP Mr. Elson Martinho da Costa, National Director of Management of Effectiveness and Mobilization of External Assistance, Ministry of Finance, Timor Leste Ms. Odonchimeg Tsendenbal, Head of Transfer Pricing Division, Tax Audit and Methodology Department, General Department of Taxation, Mongolia Mr. A. Kumarasiri, Director General, Department of National Planning, Ministry of Finance of Sri Lanka Q&A |
| (20 min) 11:30-11:50 | Networking coffee |
| (75 min) 11:50-13:05 | <p>Session 8. Integrated national financing frameworks in SIDS</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Natalia Aristizabal Mora, Inter-Regional Adviser, Financing for Sustainable Development, UN-DESA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Resina Katafono, Economic Affairs Officer, UN-DESA Mr. Marlon Peter Keni, Principal Planning Officer, Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination, Solomon Islands |



| Time | Session |
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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Mr. Andrew Koroi, SDG Finance Manager, Ministry of Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics of Fiji 4. Mr. Carlos Lopes Ximenes, General Director of Industry, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Timor Leste 5. Mr. William Pamata, Senior Research Officer, Ministry of Finance, Samoa 6. Q&A |
| (60 min) 13:05-14:05 | Lunch break |
| (120 min) 14:05-16:05 | <p>Session 9. INFF Market Place</p> <p>Each country has a stand where they present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - key steps and milestones achieved (plans, policies, including ongoing reforms) - offer their proposed expertise on 1 area for further south-south exchange (and ask for expertise on at least one other area). |
| (10 min) 16:05-16:15 | Group photo |
| (75 min) 16:15-17:30 | <p>Session 10. INFF and its role in supporting sustainable development agenda: reflections and takeaways</p> <p>Moderator: Thomas Beloe, Chief of Programme, Sustainable Finance Hub, UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed panel for 5-7 country representatives to share their reflections and takeaways • Group discussion: takeaways from the event • Speed panel for 5-7 private sector and development partners to share their reflections and takeaways from the event |
| (5 min) 17:30-17:35 | Wrap-up of Day 2 and closing. Thomas Beloe, Chief of Programme, Sustainable Finance Hub, UNDP |