
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Committee on Environment and Development

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Outcomes of key regional dialogues on sustainable development:

First session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Second session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Outcomes of the first and second sessions of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Summary

The present document contains an introduction and a summary of key outcomes of the first and second sessions of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Pattaya, Thailand, from 19 to 21 May 2014 and in Bangkok on 21 and 22 May 2015, respectively. Details on the main outcomes of the two Forum sessions were incorporated in the Chair's summary of the inaugural meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (E/ESCAP/FSD/2) and in the report of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development on its second session (E/ESCAP/FSD(2)/3). The chair's summary and the report can be electronically accessed from the ESCAP website at: www.unescap.org/official-documents/asia-pacific-forum-sustainable-development/session/2.

The Committee may wish to take note of the outcomes of the first and second sessions of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

1. In preparation for the comprehensive regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to foster an opportunity for dialogue among member States and other stakeholders to inform the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on perspectives on priorities and goals for sustainable development from the Asia-Pacific region to the secretariat organized the inaugural Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) in May 2014, hosted by the Royal Government of Thailand in Pattaya.

2. The inaugural Forum discussed: integration and transformation for sustainable development; shared prosperity within planetary boundaries; means of implementation, and the way forward for sustainable development, with a special session on the rule of law in the development agenda. A major

* E/ESCAP/CED(4)/L.1.

outcome of the inaugural Forum was the consensus among member States on the need to recognize the interdependence and need for balancing the three dimensions of sustainability in national policymaking as well as ensuring that economic growth, social justice, and ecological sustainability objectives are well balanced and they reinforce, rather than undermine each other.

3. In response to the call of the member States in Commission resolution 70/11, the secretariat organized the second APFSD meeting in May 2015 back-to-back with the Seventy First Commission Session. The second APFSD deliberated on regional sustainable development challenges and opportunities, and perspectives on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as components and institutional structure of a regional mechanism for the implementation, follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The second session's outcome called for the development of a regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the 2016 APFSD session, and proposed that the form, function and modalities of the Forum after 2016 will be decided at the third APFSD in 2016 through an intergovernmental consultative process.

4. To ensure broad participation in the regional dialogue on sustainable development, the APFSD 2015 process was supported by the development of an online platform for dialogue with multi-stakeholders including civil society organizations and the business sector to capture their important inputs. The Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) provided funding support to the secretariat to coordinate with the Regional Civil Society Organization (CSO) Engagement Mechanism (RCEM) and to develop the online platform within the World We Want process. The views of civil society organizations expressed at APFSD were consolidated at the Asia Pacific CSO Forum on Sustainable Development, which preceded the APFSD in both 2014 and 2015.