



ESCAP Sustainable Business Network

ESBN Monthly Update: March 2023

Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Business

The ESNB Executive Council adopted the Green Deal for Business at its 7th Meeting in May 2022. A soft launch of the Green Deal was held during the Asia Pacific Business Forum 2022 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, on 26 August 2022.

Pledge your support to the Green Deal for Business at: <https://www.unescap.org/projects/gd>

Upcoming events of ESNB interest

27-30 March 2023: [Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2023](#)

The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) is an annual, inclusive intergovernmental forum to support follow-up and review of progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional level, while serving as a regional preparatory meeting to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). The Forum provides a regional perspective on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by identifying regional trends and sharing best practices and lessons learned. Since its inaugural session in 2014, the APFSD has brought governments, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders together to prepare for the HLPF and to support regional efforts to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The 10th APFSD will be organized from 27-30 March 2023 under the theme “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels in Asia and the Pacific” in Bangkok, at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC).

15-19 May 2023: [79th session of the Commission](#)

The seventy-ninth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will be held in from 15 to 19 May 2023 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok. Guided by the theme “Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development”, the annual session will be an opportunity to strengthen regional cooperation on climate change. The session will bring together Government leaders from across Asia and the Pacific and other key stakeholders to discuss policy options and areas of regional cooperation required to accelerate climate action in the region and beyond. With dedicated discussions on catalysing climate finance and investments, complemented by a climate solutions fair, the session will allow identifying opportunities, sharing solutions and facilitate engagement of a broad set of partners and stakeholders, to both reduce the risks and impacts of climate change and foster ambitious climate action in Asia and the Pacific towards net-zero pathways and limit global temperature rise to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.



79th Commission Session

Recently concluded

22-24 February 2023: [Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation, First Session](#)

The first session of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok from 22 to 24 February 2023. The Committee discussed policy issues relating to: (a) strengthening regional integration and competitiveness through sustainable and inclusive trade; (b) advancing partnerships with the public and private sectors to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change; (c) mobilizing investment for sustainable development; (d) enabling business innovation for inclusive and sustainable development; and (e) promoting regional cooperation in innovation and technologies for achieving sustainable development.

22 February 2023: [Accelerating Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific – Harnessing Networks, Finance and Technology to Develop Capacity to Achieve the SDGs: a Side event at the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation](#)

The event organized on the sidelines of the first session of the Committee on trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation, discussed how networks such as the ESCAP Sustainable Business Network, the UN Global Compact Network, and Chief Sustainability Officer networks could be utilized to empower MSMEs to increase their ambitions to meet the SDGs and decarbonization requirements to meet the Paris climate change goals? Given that MSMEs make up 90 per cent of firms, action will be required not only from large multinational corporates but also from the smaller companies that make up the economy and support global supply chains.



Upcoming ESCAP activities and events

8 March 2023: [Asia-Pacific Regional Commemoration of International Women’s Day 2023 \(IWD 2023\) “DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality”](#)

The Asia-Pacific Regional Commemoration of International Women’s Day 2023, jointly convened by ESCAP and UN-Women, will highlight the crucial roles held, and contributions made, by women and girls working to transform the world into a more connected place. The Commemoration will also recognise the need to build a more secure, accessible, inclusive and equitable digital world for women and girls. The theme of IWD 2023 is, “DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality”, which will focus on key topics such as the gendered impact of the digital revolution, meaningful connectivity to narrow the gender digital divide, gender-transformative technology design, and gender-inclusive environments for STEM education and careers.

22 March 2023: [Launch of the Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2023](#)

The Asia and Pacific SDG Progress Report 2023: Championing sustainability despite adversities will be launched on 22 March 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Bangkok at the Foreign Correspondent’s Club of Thailand.

22-23 March 2023: [A Regional Workshop on Digital Connectivity and Digital Transformation in the Asia Pacific Region](#)

This workshop is organized to identify good practices in digital connectivity and transformation as well as the gaps and challenges in Asia-Pacific countries aligned with the three Working Groups of AP-IS. The key outcome is to agree on a follow-up project document development that addresses the challenges and gaps identified in the projects, in particular the ESCAP projects on “Strengthening digital connectivity and transformation for building back better post COVID-19 (Phase 1)” and “Promoting digital connectivity and seamless regional digital infrastructure for affordable broadband for all” and funded by the Government of China and the Ministry of Science and ICT of the Republic of Korea.

29-31 March 2023: [Energy events at the Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development \(APFSD\)](#)

The energy division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will organize three events as part of the Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), to be held in Bangkok from 27-30 March 2023.

Energy Roundtable and Events

For more information and programme, visit links of each event as follows;

1) [APFSD roundtable on assessment of progress in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 7](#)

29 March 2023 from 10:00 to 12:00 hours.

The roundtable is aimed at establishing a shared understanding of the outlook/progress on SDG 7 in the Asia-Pacific region and of the interlinkages across goals by providing an update on progress made since the last assessment; addressing systemic challenges that are barriers to further progress; developing

recommendations on priorities for strengthening policy coherence in implementation efforts; promoting solutions and innovations at the national and regional levels.

2) **[The eight meeting of the Expert Working Group on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels](#)**

30 March 2023 from 10:00 to 16:00 hours.

The objectives of the eighth EWG-SDG 7 are to update participants on the latest developments in the principal technologies that can underpin the energy transition – solar, wind, hydro, energy efficiency, natural gas and nuclear; discuss the roles of these technologies in achieving SDG 7 and the energy transition in the Asia-Pacific region; and identify opportunities for regional cooperation to support the deployment of these technologies and to mitigate any negative impacts.

3) **[The regional preparatory meeting for the third Asian and Pacific Energy Forum \(APEF3\)](#)**

31 March 2023 from 10:00 to 12:00 hours.

In preparation for the APEF3, scheduled to be held from 18 to 20 October 2023, the secretariat is organizing a meeting to provide the opportunity for the member States to consider the content and structure of the agenda and the outcome documents of the planned ministerial segment, as well as to advise the secretariat on organizational and other substantive matters in advance of the Forum.

For a short overview of ESCAP related news, please see <https://www.unescap.org/news> or subscribe: <https://unescap.us10.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=c0fdb6e03fa08a5e575b433c0&id=e318af22fc>

All ESCAP upcoming events: <https://www.unescap.org/events>

Recently published by ESCAP

[Blog: Green Deal for Business and technology in accelerating sustainable development \(12 December 2022\)](#)

['Advanced Draft' of Green and sustainable financial market analysis : financing Cambodia's future \(1 March 2023\)](#)

[Making regional integration work: company perspectives on non-tariff measures in Asia-Pacific \(24 February 2023\)](#)

[SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals \(23 February 2023\)](#)

[Digital trade regulatory review for Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean \(22 February 2023\)](#)

[Policy guidebook on attracting and promoting FDI in the digital economy \(22 February 2023\)](#)

[List of trade agreements covered by the UNESCAP regional trade agreement analyzer \(20 February 2023\)](#)

[Valuing and investing in unpaid care and domestic work - country case study : Uzbekistan \(20 February 2023\)](#)

[User guide on UNESCAP Regional Trade Agreement text analyzer 1.0 \(15 February 2023\)](#)

[SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation \(14 February 2023\)](#)

[SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities \(14 February 2023\)](#)

[SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy \(14 February 2023\)](#)

[The digitalization of tax administrations in Asia and the Pacific : a manual for practitioners \(02 February 2023\)](#)

[Regional Organizations Cooperation Mechanism for Trade Facilitation \(ROC-TF\) Newsletter. Issue XVIII, February 2023 \(01 February 2023\)](#)

[Leaving No One Behind \(LNOB\) : Fiji \(01 February 2023\)](#)

Working paper series

Macroeconomics: Click [here](#)

Trade: Click [here](#)

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us to provide input, questions or suggestions for the monthly update: esbn@un.org

Best regards,

ESBN Secretariat