

[View this email in your browser](#)

ESCAP SSWA Newsletter

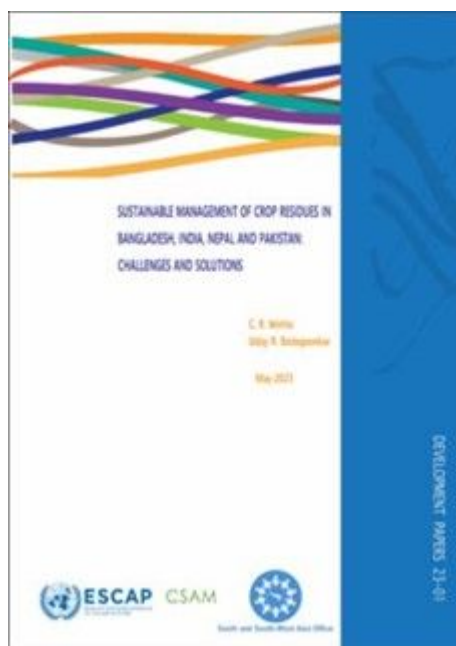
APRIL 2023



SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST ASIA SDG UPDATE



Just released:



The burning of crop residues contributes to the creation of severe air pollution in the subregion and is an ongoing challenge in the pathway toward achieving the SDG Goals.

“Sustainable Management of Crop Residues in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan: Challenges and Solution” was recently published by ESCAP-SSWA and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) to better understand the status of crop residue management in South Asia. Crop residue burning is a major reason for severe air pollution in the Indo-Gangetic plain region. Crop residue burning increases the concentration of particulate matter and black carbon in the air, adversely affecting the health of both rural and urban populations. This burning degrades soil fertility that needs to be compensated by greater use of fertilizers, and can reduce agricultural productivity in the long run. Greenhouse gases emitted from burning also contribute to global warming and climate change. All of these factors adversely affect the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as crop residue burning harms our health and wellbeing (SDG 3), has implications on food security (SDG 2), affects the air quality of city inhabitants (SDG 11) and contributes to climate change (SDG 13).

This paper provides a subregional overview of the status of crop residue management in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan. Based on findings from national studies undertaken, the paper provides an overview of the amounts of crop residues produced, the in-situ and ex-situ management techniques utilized by farmers to make use of residues and the existing challenges, the major factors that influence their burning and the various socio-economic and environmental impacts that such burning has in the subregion. An overview is also provided of the different kinds of agricultural machinery used to manage crop residues in the study countries, government efforts to reduce the level of burning, and the various technologies that exist to use biomass for power generation.

The report provides an overall picture of the gaps and offers a set of necessary policy interventions, action plans and recommendations, such as the promotion of gasification technology, propagation of conservation agriculture practices, and development of mechanisms for aggregation of crop residue biomass.

The paper also touches upon the major areas identified for subregional cooperation for integrated crop residue management, such as joint research and analytical studies, creating reliable supply chains for aggregation of crop residue biomass, sharing and popularization of technologies, equipment and practices for in-situ and ex-situ management of crop residues as well as harmonization of testing standards and promoting more integrated trade of

To know more about the issue, please visit [Sustainable management of crop residues in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan : challenges and solutions | ESCAP \(unescap.org\)](#)



Edition Spotlight:

CELEBRATING E-COMMERCE CAPACITY BUILDING FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST ASIA



From 2019 to March 2023, the ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia conducted a highly successful training programme in e-commerce and digital marketing that benefitted 3000 women entrepreneurs of micro, small and medium enterprises all ten countries of South and South-West Asia.

The women entrepreneurs who participated in the training series discussed what they gained from the programme. Ms. Thinley Yangzom, Founder of Bhutan Superfoods and Herbs, shared, "Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, my business was hugely impacted and had to shut down. But thanks to these trainings, I learnt about e-commerce and digitally marketing my business to expand my reach."

"In today's world, it is essential to be able to showcase products online, and we appreciate the effort that ESCAP has made to support women entrepreneurs to this end. The ESCAP training platform has enabled us to practise showcasing our work and products on e-commerce sites." Ms. Sujata Chatterjee, Founder of Twirl.store India, further elaborated.

Ms. Tazima Hossain Majumdar, Owner of Needle Craft, Bangladesh echoed the sentiments of the other women entrepreneurs, "I learned how to upload my product profile on e-commerce platforms for women entrepreneurs. The training helped me learn about using digital marketing sites to generate and connect with new customers from South Asia."

The success of the initiative could be attributed to its hands-on practical sessions, coupled with the facilitation of networking opportunities and real time support among fellow female participants through WhatsApp and Facebook groups. A Facebook page was also established to encourage female entrepreneurs to share their entrepreneurial stories as well products and services.

Due to its achievements, the initiative was [featured as a good practice](#) in the 2022 Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo - hosted by the Government of Thailand, ESCAP, and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation from 12 to 14 September 2022, in conjunction with the 2022 UN Day for South-South Cooperation.

For more information about the initiative, please view: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPHqc--RMJI>



1. E-Commerce and Digital Marketing Training Program for Women Entrepreneurs

21 January 2023 - 27 February 2023, India and virtual



The ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia (ESCAP-SSWA) conducted four in-person workshops and one online training program for women entrepreneurs in Mysuru, Mangaluru, Bidadi, and Kagalburagi of the southern Indian state of Karnataka. The training and workshops discussed digital marketing using social media platforms, search engine optimization to promote businesses, as well as the basics of running online businesses. Additionally, hands-on training sessions were organized to help participants utilize and register on e-commerce platforms and networking sites. Exhibitions on site provided opportunities for the entrepreneurs to display their products and services and network with fellow women entrepreneurs. The workshops brought together various stakeholders with varied expertise for capacity building and thought-provoking dialogues, with heads of international organizations, senior government officials, ambassadors, high-level managers, and leaders of women's organizations sharing their skills and knowledge in workshops. Read more [here](#).

2. Brainstorming on Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development in South and South-West Asia – Role of SANS and ESCAP

15 February 2023, New Delhi, India (hybrid)



The ESCAP-SSWA organized a brainstorming session in February 2023 among members of the South and South-West Asia Network on the Sustainable Development Goals (SANS) to have a deeper discussion about the priorities, action plans, and the role of SANS in interregional collaboration on priority areas including macroeconomic issues, social sector, digital connectivity, building regional value chains, and environment and climate change. The session

3. Training of Department of Commerce Officials on Secretariat's Role and Functions for Hosting Multilateral Meetings

17 March 2023, New Delhi, India



The ESCAP-SSWA, at the request of the Department of Commerce, Government of India, trained the Department's new officials and staff on the role and function of secretariats for hosting multilateral meetings as the Department would be supporting meetings of the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group during India's Presidency. The training was opened and led by Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head, ESCAP-SSWA, with Mr. Joseph George and Mr. Takashi Takahatake conducting various sessions. The objective of this hands-on training was to create awareness of how multilateral intergovernmental meetings are held, enhance the capacity of participants to provide secretarial assistance to the TIWG meetings, take notes of proceedings, and prepare meeting reports. Read more [here](#).

4. Training of Women Entrepreneurs on Enhancing Business Opportunities Through Digital Tools

20 to 21 March 2023, Jaipur, India



Under the project "E-Commerce Capacity Building for Women-led MSMEs in South Asia", the ESCAP-SSWA conducted this joint training with UN Women to assist rural women entrepreneurs of India and Nepal to enhance business through the use of digital tools, product and market development, and networking. The workshop was opened by Ms. Kanta Singh, Deputy Representative, UN Women, India, and Dr Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head, ESCAP-SSWA. During the training, participants were invited to share experiences and exhibit their products with other women entrepreneurs. Read more [here](#).

23 to 24 March 2023, New Delhi, India



Under the project “E-Commerce Capacity Building for Women-led MSMEs in South Asia”, the ESCAP-SSWA conducted the training to introduce women entrepreneurs to various issues related to e-commerce, digital marketing, and financial viability, such as the use of social media platforms and product development and branding. The training was opened by Dr. Rajni Aggarwal, President, Federation of Indian Women Entrepreneurs (FIWE) and Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head, ESCAP-SSWA. Read more [here](#).



ESCAP-SSWA KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS 2023

- [Sustainable Management of Crop Residues in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan: Challenges and Solutions](#) (May 2023)
- [Strategies to promote regional power grid connectivity and Cross-Border Electricity Trade \(CBET\) in South and South-West Asia](#) (January 2023)



COUNTRIES OF SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST ASIA AT THE TENTH ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2023

Disclaimer: The following summaries do not represent the full speeches made by the representatives. To obtain more details about the Tenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, including links to its video recordings, please visit <https://www.unescap.org/events/apfsd10>.



Bangladesh

The honourable delegate of Bangladesh shared that the country has recently celebrated its 52nd Independence Day and has made significant progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As one of the most populated countries in the world and a leading economy in South Asia, Bangladesh is on track to graduate from the category of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) by 2026 and aims to achieve the SDGs by 2030. The country has shown remarkable advancements in social and economic development, supported by a well-educated

promoting and implementing the SDGs. The country has set 40 national priority indicators for local-level implementation of the SDGs. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Bangladesh has achieved an average GDP growth of 6.3% over the past 14 years, with a growth rate of 7.4% in 2021-2022. The government has addressed the initial challenges of the pandemic by providing logistics, recruiting healthcare professionals, and vaccinating a majority of the population. Bangladesh has also made significant progress in ensuring access to electricity and housing for the homeless. The country has launched the Mozi Climate Prosperity Plan 2030, which aligns with the financing of the 8th Five-Year Plan, Mission 2040, and Bangladesh Plan 2100. Despite the difficulties faced by developing countries in achieving the SDGs by 2030, Bangladesh believes that coordination, partnership, cooperation, and sharing experiences will be crucial for achieving these goals. The country encourages regional cooperation to facilitate inter-regional trade, paperless transactions, and improved connectivity through investment networking. The government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has implemented people-centric initiatives aimed at achieving its vision for development by 2040.



India

The honourable delegate of India highlighted India's steady progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in various areas including clean water, sanitation, clean energy, and infrastructure. The Government of India has implemented initiatives such as housing for all, universal access to electricity, and clean cooking gas to improve the quality of life, particularly in rural areas. India has prioritized sanitation and water access through flagship programs like the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Jal Jivan Mission. The country has made significant strides in reducing multidimensional poverty, with 415 million people escaping poverty between 2005 and 2021. India is committed to climate adaptation and mitigation, aiming to reduce emission intensity and achieve a significant share of non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030. The Government has approved the Green Hydrogen Mission and promotes a circular economy through the "LIFE" movement, emphasizing a lifestyle that aligns with environmental sustainability. India has also made progress in infrastructure development, innovation, and logistics efficiency. The country's focus on sustainability is evident in initiatives like the National Logistic Policy and the implementation of national missions for clean housing, smart cities, and environmental conservation.



Islamic Republic of Iran

The honourable delegate of Iran highlighted challenges faced by the Islamic Republic of Iran in relation to global climate change and limited water resources. The country experiences extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, and sand and dust storms, which have severe consequences for human health and the environment. Efforts have been made at national, regional, and international levels to address these issues, including the establishment of a regional coordination group for sand and dust storms. Iran also hosts a significant number of Afghan refugees and calls for international assistance to meet their needs, particularly in terms of clean water and sanitation. The honourable delegate also highlighted the negative impact of unilateral measures on Iran in hindering access to essential resources and impeding the achievement of sustainable development goals. Developing countries require adequate and predictable support from developed nations in terms of financing and technology transfer. The energy system should prioritize affordability, availability, and environmental sustainability, promoting a comprehensive and balanced approach rather than relying solely on one energy source. The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed its willingness to collaborate with other countries to achieve shared objectives and ensure sustainable development for developing nations.



Maldives

The honourable delegate of Maldives highlighted the challenges faced by countries in Asia and the Pacific in achieving the SDGs. The honourable delegate emphasized the need for urgent and concentrated efforts, particularly in Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, and Climate Action.

importance of collaboration, knowledge sharing, technology transfer, and financial support among countries in the region. The honourable delegate emphasized the need for cooperation and solidarity, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Maldives looks forward to presenting its second Voluntary National Review and called for support from all stakeholders to achieve the 2030 Agenda.



Nepal

The honourable delegate of Nepal emphasized the importance of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nepal's vision and priorities. Nepal has integrated the SDGs into national plans and programs, localizing them at the provincial and local level. The implementation of SDGs involves various stakeholders, including social, civil society, and development partners. While progress has been made in areas like poverty reduction, food security, education, health, gender equality, and energy, the COVID-19 pandemic and global conflicts have hindered Nepal's development efforts. The pandemic has led to increased poverty and unemployment rates, widened wealth disparities, and disrupted supply chains. Rising food and energy prices, outstanding debt, fiscal deficits, and inflation have posed additional challenges. The Government is implementing recovery policies and strategies to mitigate these impacts, providing relief packages and support to affected sectors. Social protection and digitization initiatives are prioritized, while structural reforms are needed to boost economic growth and resilience. Collaboration among global initiatives, development partners, and stakeholders is crucial to accelerate SDGs implementation and address the challenges posed by the pandemic and other crises.



Pakistan

The honourable delegate of Pakistan highlighted the partnership with ESCAP in organizing the Sixth South and South-West Asia Forum on the SDGs in 2022 in Islamabad. The honourable delegate highlighted that the Asia-Pacific region as a whole, including South Asian countries, is lagging behind in achieving the targets of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) according to the global review of the SDG report 2023 and the SDG forum report 2022. It is concluded that countries need to focus on priorities not only at the national level but also at the sub-regional level due to the cross-boundary implications of many issues. Pakistan has faced a triple crisis of COVID-19, international conflicts, and floods in 2022, which has deeply impacted the country's economic and social sectors. Developing countries were provided assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic, but in the recent crisis, they were asked to increase prices and abolish subsidies, leading to a deteriorating balance of payment system, economic shrinkage, high inflation, and historically low reserves. The honourable delegate emphasized the need for a joint financing mechanism in the Asia-Pacific region without adverse conditionalities during emergencies. They call for unity in establishing trade routes, exploring mutual investment opportunities, reducing trade costs, developing a regional electricity market focused on renewable energy, and improving transport infrastructure for a green and clean environment. Long-term financing, sustainable growth, policy consistency, investment in social protection and resilient infrastructure, agricultural and rural transformation, and cross-border trade are highlighted as essential for achieving the SDGs. Regional cooperation is emphasized to address transboundary challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, ecosystem degradation, and ocean contamination. The honourable delegate suggests convening a regional conference every two years to assess the impact of transboundary challenges and monitor progress in this area.



Sri Lanka

The honourable delegate of Sri Lanka shared that the country's second voluntary national review (VNR) helped renew ownership of the 2030 Agenda among stakeholders. Conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic consequences, the VNR allowed self-reflection and exploration of innovative pathways to address challenges. The government ministries and agencies have taken ownership of specific SDG goals and targets, aligning national development programs accordingly. Limitations in the data ecosystem were identified, and efforts

developed the first-ever SDG Investor Map through collaboration between government agencies, the private sector, and UNDP Sri Lanka. Institutional mechanisms for political oversight of the SDG process are being designed and institutionalized in Sri Lanka based on lessons learned from the twinning program with Pakistan. Sri Lanka is committed to implementing VNR recommendations and values the experiences shared by other regional countries. Thanks are extended to UNESCAP for their support in the VNR process and for continuing to assist in implementing VNR recommendations.



NEWS EXCERPTS ON SDG IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Disclaimer: These Headlines consist of selected excerpts from press articles for information only. The inclusion of headlines does not imply endorsement by ESCAP. ESCAP cannot vouch for the accuracy of these reports and is not responsible for any errors contained therein.

A. Economic Dimension

BANGLADESH

Country's export earnings of goods maintained its healthy trend 3 March 2023. The country's export earnings of goods during the July-February period of the current fiscal year (FY23) maintained its healthy trend witnessing a growth of 9.56 per cent compared to the same period of the last fiscal year (FY22). Read more [here](#).

The middle and affluent class is estimated to be around 30 percent of the population and growing rapidly in Bangladesh 14 March. The middle and affluent class is estimated to be around 30 percent of the population and growing rapidly in Bangladesh, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi has said. He also noted that Bangladesh's trade policy includes measures to improve the trade environment, such as simplifying trade procedures, tariff reduction, and trade facilitation. Read more [here](#).

The export of agricultural products at its sharpest decline in seven years 17 March 2023. The export of agricultural products, including vegetables, fruits and dry food, decreased 26.96 per cent in the first eight months of the current financial year, the sharpest decline in seven years, official figures showed. Read more [here](#).

INDIA

Indian economy grew at 4.4% between October and December 2022 and it's expected to grow at 7% during the current financial year 1 March 2023. However, in the current financial year, India's GDP is expected to grow at 7 per cent. Weak global demand and monetary tightening by the Reserve Bank of India could further drag down economic growth that likely slowed in the October-December quarter as pent-up demand eased and private investment remained patchy. India's fiscal deficit for the first 10 months of this fiscal year through January stood at 11.91 lakh crore rupees, or 67.8% of revised annual estimates. Read more [here](#).

Goods and Services Tax collections rose 12 per cent to more than Rs 1.49 lakh 2 March 2023. Goods and Services Tax collections rose 12 per cent to more than Rs 1.49 lakh crore in February as domestic economic activities and consumer spending on high-end goods gained momentum. Read more [here](#).

The central government will increase the number of technology centres to provide tools, trained

Banks are going to reduce the interest rate on savings in March and keep the interest rate on fixed deposits unchanged 10 March 2023. Santosh Koirala, Vice President of the Bankers' Association, said that the full meeting of the association held on Thursday morning decided to keep the interest rate on fixed deposits unchanged and reduce the interest rate on savings by 0.4 percentage points. Read more. The 'Current Macroeconomic and Financial Situation of Nepal' report unveiled by the Nepal Rastra Bank reveals improvement in foreign exchange reserves 14 March 2023. The 'Current Macroeconomic and Financial Situation of Nepal' report unveiled by the Nepal Rastra Bank reveals improvement in foreign exchange reserves in the first seven months of the fiscal year 2022- 23 (mid-July, 2022 to mid-February, 2023) with a surge in remittance inflow. Read more [here](#).

Minister for Culture, Tourism, and Civil Aviation Sudan Kirati has laid emphasis on the collection of accurate data for accelerated growth of the tourism industry 17 March 2023. Stating that the mega programmes and plans which are not based on factual real-time data have proved to be ineffective and impractical, he said that tourism information, data, and statistics are invaluable assets that can be used effectively for taking tourism to the next level. Read more [here](#).

PAKISTAN

Moody's Investors Service downgraded the Government of Pakistan's local and foreign currency issuer 1 March 2023. In addition, senior unsecured debt ratings to Caa3 from Caa1. Pakistan is passing through a dire economic situation and "desperately needs debt restructuring", said former deputy governor State Bank of Pakistan Dr Murtaza Syed. Read more [here](#).

Ministry for Information Technology and Telecommunication: the success of Pakistan's economy depends on the growth of the tech industry 22 March 2023. Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque says the success of Pakistan's economy depends on the growth of the tech industry, especially the Information Technology. Addressing the graduation ceremony of Tech Boot Camp in Islamabad, he said his ministry has collaborated with both public and private sector stakeholders to set a goal of 100 per cent growth in IT sector in the coming years. The Minister said the Techlift Boot camp was started to impart world-class training to around 4,000

and consultancy to MSMEs for stimulating growth of industries. Verma, the union minister of state for micro, small and medium enterprises, inaugurated a two-day 'MSME Technology Centers Conclave' here, and highlighted the crucial role played by the sector during the COVID-19 crisis. Read more [here](#).

Centre allows trade settlement for export promotion schemes in Indian rupee 10 November 2022. In a bid to facilitate and ease international trade in Indian rupees, the government of India on Wednesday allowed trade settlement in the Indian currency for export promotion schemes. With the amendment to the Foreign Trade Policy, invoicing, payment, and settlement of trade can now take place in Indian rupee. Read more [here](#).

The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank is likely to adversely impact the Indian startup scenario 13 March 2023. The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank, the largest vendor in the startup ecosystem, is likely to adversely impact the Indian startup scenario as well as it has injected a lot of uncertainty in the sector overnight, industry experts say. Read more [here](#).

45,000 job openings for artificial intelligence roles 21 March 2023. There were 45,000 job openings in India last month for artificial intelligence roles, with data scientists and machine learning engineers being top careers, said a report on Monday. Read more [here](#).

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Five new subway stations inaugurated in Tehran 20 March 2023. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has inaugurated five new stations and 11 kilometres of new subway lines in the Iranian capital Tehran. Read more [here](#).

NEPAL

The process of preparing the budget for the next financial year has started 1 March 2023. Under this, the Inland Revenue Department has requested suggestions from the general public and stakeholders for the areas related to internal revenue. Read more [here](#).

B. Social Dimension

AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan under the Taliban remains the "most repressive country in the world for women's rights" 9 March 2023. Afghanistan under the Taliban remains the "most repressive country in the world [for] women's rights", the senior UN official in Kabul told the Security Council on Wednesday, while nevertheless voicing a nuanced position on the importance of continuing to engage with the group. Read more [here](#).

The UN adopted a resolution on how the international community should address the challenge that is facing the country 17 March 2023. The United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution calling for independent recommendations on how a united international community should address the enormous challenges confronting Afghanistan — above all the Taliban's drastic curtailment of education and work for women and girls, but also terrorism and the country's dire humanitarian and economic situation. Read more [here](#).

Taliban authorities in Afghanistan must immediately release activists detained for advocating for girls' and women's rights 30 March 2023. The de facto Taliban authorities in Afghanistan must immediately release activists detained for advocating for girls' and women's rights, the UN human rights office, OHCHR, said on Wednesday, expressing alarm over ongoing arrests. Read more [here](#).

President Ranil Wickremesinghe has given instructions to digitize investment information to make it easily and quickly accessible to interested parties 3 March 2023. The purpose of this move is to encourage and promote investment opportunities in Sri Lanka, allowing investors to identify new investment prospects with ease. Read more [here](#).

Several trade unions had engaged in their trade union action against the government 15 March 2023. Several trade unions, including port workers, state bankers, and doctors, had engaged in their trade union action against the government's move to impose a massive PAYE tax, increase electricity bills, increase bank interest rates, and urge the government to honour the working people's freedom to exercise their democratic rights. Read more [here](#).

Sri Lanka will no longer be treated as a bankrupt country 22 March 2023. President Ranil Wickremesinghe making a special statement on the International Monetary Board's approval for an extended arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility, said that Sri Lanka will no longer be treated as a bankrupt country. "The IMF has certified that Sri Lanka is capable of restructuring its debt. Sri Lanka will no longer be treated as a bankrupt country," he said. Read more [here](#).

TÜRKIYE

Türkiye's inflation is expected to have eased further in February 1 March 2023. Although, prices continue to rise on a monthly basis, driven by higher prices of food and services. Read more [here](#).

Türkiye's central bank kept the one-week repo rate, also known as the policy rate, constant at 8.5%, in line with the market forecast 24 March 2023. The unemployment rate was at 10.4% in Türkiye last year, down from 12% in 2021, official figures released on Thursday showed. Read more [here](#).

A member of Parliament called for a renewed commitment for gender equality in digital spaces 13 March 2023. A Member of parliament, human rights defender, gender and media expert and a representative of Nepali law enforcement jointly called for a renewed commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment in digital spaces. Read more [here](#).

The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security has sent a proposal for amending the ministry's procedure to grant labour permits to Nepali migrant workers from destination countries 16 March 2023. The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security has sent a proposal to Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal who also holds the Labour, Employment and Social Security portfolio for amending the ministry's procedure to grant labour permits to Nepali migrant workers from destination countries. PM Dahal is expected to okay the procedure soon. Read more [here](#).

The entire State authorities would act for the protection and promotion of the rights of Dalit 22 March 2023. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal has assured that the entire State and authorities concerned would act responsibly for the protection and promotion of the rights of Dalit who suffer caste-based discrimination and exploitations for centuries. Read more [here](#).

Successfully organized an evidence-based workshop to highlight the status of digital violence and hate speech 23 March 2023. The UN Resident Coordinator Office in Nepal and UNESCO

Challenge for Women 2023" has kick-started with new hope 16 March 2023. After a successful season in 2021, this technology-based contest for women has returned to motivate women in the field of digital technology. Read more [here](#).

Prime Minister with the RAB to help the country to become a developed a prosperous country 20 March 2023. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Sunday asked the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) to play an effective role in maintaining peace, security and stability to smoothen Bangladesh's journey towards a developed and prosperous country by 2026. Read more [here](#).

State Minister for Foreign Affairs: "fundamental shortcomings and mistakes" in the 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 22 March 2023. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam on Tuesday said there are some "fundamental shortcomings and mistakes" in the 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, released by the US Department of State on March 20. Read more [here](#).

INDIA

95 per cent of people in rural areas and 97.2 per cent in cities are having access to drinking water 15 March 2023. According to a government survey, 95 per cent of people in rural areas and 97.2 per cent in cities are having access to improved sources of drinking (potable) water during 2020-21. Read more [here](#).

The Culture Ministry: priority to health, education and transportation 20 March 2023. Given the high disparity it experiences in elementary rural infrastructure like health, education and transportation, it might not be "tenable" for a developing nation like India to allocate a considerable proportion of its public fund to the promotion of art and culture, the Culture Ministry has said. Read more [here](#).

The government has exempted basic customs duty on all drugs and food for treatment of rare diseases 31 March 2023. The government has exempted basic customs duty on all drugs and food for special medical purposes imported for personal use for treatment of rare diseases. The import duty waiver will come into effect from April 1. Read more [here](#).

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Almost 700 girls have been poisoned by toxic gas in Iran since November 1 March 2023. Almost 700 girls have been poisoned by toxic gas in Iran since November. Many believe is a deliberate attempt to force their schools to shut. No girls have died, but dozens have suffered respiratory problems, nausea, dizziness and fatigue. Read more [here](#).

More than 100 people have been identified in connection with the students' poisoning 13 March 2023. Iran's Interior Ministry has announced that more than 100 people have been identified, arrested and investigated in connection with the recent poisoning of students across the country. Read more [here](#).

The most serious human rights violations in the Islamic Republic of Iran over the past four decades 21 March 2023. "The most serious human rights violations in the Islamic Republic of Iran over the past four decades" have been committed since the death in police custody of Jina Mahsa Amini on 16 September 2022, Javid Rehman, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran said. Read more [here](#).

NEPAL

Women's participation is being ensured 8 March 2023. Speaker Devraj Ghimire has said that due to the provisions of the Constitution of Nepal, women's participation is being ensured. In a program organized by the Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal

and mitigate it. Read more [here](#).

The government is all set to run the National Vitamin 'A' Campaign for children from the second week of April 31 March 2023. Director at Family Welfare Division under the Department of Health Service, Dr Bibek Kumar Lal informed that vitamin 'A' and de-worming tablets would be administered to the children across the country on April 19-20. Read more [here](#).

PAKISTAN

A separate women centre/bazaar will be established 8 March 2023. A delegation of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa City Improvement Project sponsored by the Asian Development Bank said that a separate women centre/bazaar will be established to help them display their handicraft. Read more [here](#).

The government has announced a petroleum relief package of 50 rupees per litre for the low-income people of the country 20 March 2023. Read more [here](#).

The Pakistan government has been actively working with the UNHCR to assist in the reparation of Afghan refugees 22 March 2023. UN Refugee Agency Representative in Pakistan Ms. Noriko Yoshida called on Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Islamabad on Tuesday. The Minister said Pakistan has been hosting millions of Afghan refugees for over four decades. The presence of such a significant number of people has strained the country's resources and social services, infrastructure, such as healthcare, education, and housing. The Pakistan government is making efforts and has been actively working with the UNHCR to assist in the reparation of Afghan refugees. Read more [here](#).

SRI LANKA

At least 6.3 million people in Sri Lanka are still facing moderate to severe acute food insecurity 27 March 2023. At least 6.3 million people in Sri Lanka are still facing moderate to severe acute food insecurity and their situation is expected to worsen in 2023 if adequate life-saving assistance and livelihood support is not provided. Read more [here](#).

The President: it is crucial for students in the country to have comprehensive knowledge of modern technology and continually update themselves 31 March 2023. President Ranil Wickremesinghe who was the chief guest at the 135th Annual Prize Giving ceremony of Ananda Vidyalyaya in Colombo said that it is crucial for students in the country to have comprehensive knowledge of modern technology and continually update themselves with the latest advancements to prepare for the future which would enable them to take over the country by 2048. Read more [here](#).

TÜRKIYE

The problem of shelters continues to persist 10 March 2023. In the aftermath of the deadly Feb. 6 quakes, the problem of shelters continues to persist, as the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency has announced that citizens or companies who are willing can donate containers to the quake zone, in a bid to provide adequate accommodation to quake survivors. Read more [here](#).

The Turkish Educational Foundation and the Turkish Education Association are launching a massive fundraiser campaign to give scholarships to thousands of quake survivor students 14 March 2023. The Turkish Educational Foundation and the Turkish Education Association are launching a massive fundraiser campaign in collaboration with the National Education Ministry to give scholarships to thousands of quake survivor students. Read more [here](#).

Ongoing debris removal work in 11 earthquake-affected provinces has put food safety on the

National Assembly Vice-chair Urmila Aryal said that provision should be made to allow women to directly contest 50 per cent of the FPTP seats 9 March 2023. National Assembly Vice-chair Urmila Aryal said that provision should be made to allow women to directly contest 50 per cent of the FPTP seats. Addressing a greeting exchange programme held in Kathmandu on the occasion of the 21st Establishment Day of National Women's Commission and the 113th International Working Women's Day today, Vice-chair Aryal said that arrangements should be made to allow women to contest elections in 50 per cent of the seats. Read more [here](#).

C. Environmental Dimension

AFGHANISTAN

Climate change and the economic downturn continue to fuel the crisis in Afghanistan 1 March 2023. There have been no "encouraging developments" towards getting girls back into classrooms, a senior UN official said on Tuesday. Read more [here](#).

BANGLADESH

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change against single-use plastic 2 March 2023. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has asked all the government offices in districts and coastal areas to take measures to stop the menace of single-use plastic to protect the environment. Read more [here](#).

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md Shahab Uddin on Wednesday asked the Forest Department officials to work diligently and protect the country's forest and forestland 10 March 2023. Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md Shahab Uddin on Wednesday asked the Forest Department officials to work diligently and protect the country's forest and forestland. "Not only for jobs, but work should be done for the nation's welfare with patriotism. Illegal forestland restoration and forest development should be implemented involving people of all walks of life with the government initiative," said Md Shahab Uddin. Read more [here](#).

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister urged the developed countries to take urgent and ambitious actions to reduce greenhouse gas emission 22 March 2023. Minister Md Shahab Uddin Tuesday urged the developed countries to take urgent and ambitious actions to reduce greenhouse gas emission and provide financial and technical supports to vulnerable countries to help address the adverse impacts of climate change. Read more [here](#).

The 'Smart Agriculture Pilot Project' aimed at reducing the cost of irrigation and use of fertilizer along with boosting production 28 March 2023. State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak Monday said that his division is implementing a 'Smart Agriculture Pilot Project' at 10 villages in the country aimed at reducing the cost of irrigation and use of fertilizer along with boosting production. Read more [here](#).

Prime Minister said the government will mechanise agriculture through multipurpose rural cooperatives 30 March 2023. Prime minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday said the government will mechanise the agriculture through multipurpose rural cooperatives to boost production of food and other crops. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked the authorities concerned to transform land management into a digital one to put an end to the social and family problems regarding ownership of land and ensure hassle-free services. Read more [here](#).

INDIA

A remote village in Odisha's is entirely electrified by solar energy 8 March 2023. Sagasahi, a remote

unprecedented harm to not only food crops but also the environment. Read more [here](#).

India is free to use its resources to fulfil the energy needs of its people 29 March 2023. India is free to use its resources to fulfil the energy needs of its people and countries historically responsible for climate change cannot ask it to stop its development, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said. Read more [here](#).

In motion the process of installation of a green hydrogen-based micro grid power plant project 22 March 2023. The Indian Army on Tuesday said it has set in motion a process for installation of a green hydrogen-based micro grid power plant project in the forward areas along the northern borders, a move that comes amid the eastern Ladakh border row with China. Read more [here](#).

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Ambassador Zahra Ershadi: the global north states continue to disregard their international responsibilities 31 March 2023. Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN Zahra Ershadi has said that the global north states who hold historical responsibility for the emerging global challenge (climate change) continue to disregard their international responsibilities through their actions or omissions. Read more [here](#).

TÜRKIYE

Türkiye will launch a comprehensive project to protect the country against the disasters 2 March 2023. Türkiye will launch a comprehensive project to protect the country against the disasters with the participation of government officials and scientists in the aftermath of devastating earthquakes, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has said, underlining the need for bi-partisan strategic and a collective mind to this end. Read more [here](#).

Türkiye has strengthened its position as a major player in wind energy 3 March 2023. Türkiye has strengthened its position as a major player in wind energy, ranking sixth in Europe in installed power capacity, according to the "2022 European Wind Statistics and 2023-2027 Outlook" report by the European Wind Energy Association WindEurope. Read more [here](#).

Experts state that precautions should be taken to prevent the risks brought on by drought and irregular precipitation on wheat production 9 March 2023. Experts state that precautions should be taken to prevent the risks brought on by drought and irregular precipitation on wheat production in Türkiye, noting that more focus should be placed on climate-friendly agricultural techniques and digitization. Read more [here](#).

Patented technology offers the opportunity to produce clean energy from waste hot water, hot gas, chimney temperatures and geothermal waters 29 March 2023. Patented technology offers the opportunity to produce clean energy from waste hot water, hot gas, chimney temperatures and geothermal waters below 100 degrees Celsius (212 degrees Fahrenheit) with zero carbon emissions in

Carbon credit developer EKI Energy Services (EKI) has inked a consultancy service contract for carbon credits project of Kochi Metro Rail 16 March 2023. "EKI has signed a consultancy service contract with Kochi Metro Rail Ltd (KMRL). The contract has been signed against a tender won by EKI for providing carbon credit advisory services to KMRL," a company statement said. Read more [here](#).

D. International Cooperation

AFGHANISTAN

The first meeting of special representatives of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries was held in Tashkent in Uzbekistan 9 March 2023. The first meeting of special representatives of Afghanistan's neighboring countries was held in Tashkent in Uzbekistan where participants discussed the current situation in the country. Representatives from Iran, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, China, Russia, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan attended the meeting and discussed the current situation in Afghanistan; emphasized the need to find solutions to existing issues; and deliberated on the need for last-lasting peace. Read more [here](#).

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh China Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade have signed the MoU 13 March 2023. Bangladesh China Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade have signed the MoU to explore more opportunities for bilateral trade and investment and to further deepen the economic and trade relations between the two nations. Read more [here](#).

INDIA

The US ambassador to India will help achieve critical goals in economic resilience 17 March 2023. Eric Garcetti's confirmation as the US ambassador to India will help achieve critical goals in economic resilience at a time when both countries are working to build their Quad partnership and high-trust ecosystem underpinned by shared democratic values, according to US business leaders. Read more [here](#).

India and the EU on their way for a free trade agreement 20 March 2023. India and the European Union concluded the fourth round of talks for a comprehensive free trade agreement in Brussels, a move aimed at further strengthening economic ties between the two sides. Read more [here](#).

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Minister of Foreign Affairs that door is still open on talks to revive the JCPOA 28 March 2023. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran Hossein Amirabdollahian has warned parties to a 2015 international deal on Iran nuclear program, known as the JCPOA, that door is still open on talks to revive the deal, while stressing that that the process could not go on forever. Read more [here](#).

NEPAL

Nepal is set to add another feather in its diplomatic cap as it is taking the chair of the group of the LDCs for this year 3 March 2023. There are currently 46 countries on the list of LDCs and the countries' status is reviewed every three years by the Committee for Development. This opportunity comes at a time when Nepal is working to graduate from a least developed country to a middle-income developing country by December 2026. Read more [here](#).

PAKISTAN

Pakistan completed all the prior actions needed for staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund 6 March 2023. With unprecedented policy doses within 24 hours, Pakistan completed all the prior actions needed for staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund to avert sovereign default and secure long-delayed \$1.2bn disbursement. Read more [here](#).

The WB would provide \$ 90 million for control and prevention of non-communicable diseases 20 March 2023. The World Bank would provide about \$ 90 million to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government for control and prevention of non-communicable diseases in the province. Read more [here](#).

SRI LANKA

The Asian Development Bank, World Bank, USAID and JICA have assured their assistance for the restructuring process of the Ceylon Electricity Board 13 March 2023. The Asian Development Bank, World Bank, USAID and JICA have assured their assistance for the restructuring process of the Ceylon Electricity Board, Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekara said. Read more [here](#).

Sri Lanka is likely to go for another IMF programme after the end of the current four-year programme 29 March 2023. Sri Lanka is likely to go for another IMF programme after the end of the current four-year programme, to continue with the structural and institutional reforms. The US and Sri Lanka Tuesday discussed ongoing reforms as part of the deal between the IMF and Sri Lanka. Read more [here](#).

Disclaimer: ESCAP does not guarantee the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of any of the news items linked to in the above message. All news items are provided for informational purposes only and all copyrights remain those of the respective copyright holders. The views represented therein reflect those of the authors and not that of ESCAP or any of its member states.

If you have missed them, here are the links to previous newsletter editions!

May - December 2022 2023 Edition 1

ESCAP SSWA Newsletter

JANUARY 2023

SOUTH ASIA SDG UPDATE

COVER ARTICLE: SIXTH SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST ASIA FORUM ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS COMMITS TO STRONGER REGIONAL COOPERATION TO OVERCOME GLOBAL CHALLENGES



The Sixth South and South-West Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals was held from 5 to 7 December 2022, in Islamabad, Pakistan, in cooperation with the Government of Pakistan and the Sustainable Development Policy Institute.

This year's theme, "Accelerating the recovery from COVID-19 and the full implementation of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels" provided ample ground to facilitate discussions on overcoming global challenges within the subregion that were aggravated by the S-CoVid-19 pandemic, and climate change.

Jan 2023

May 2022

SOUTH ASIA SDG UPDATE

Announcement

Appointment of Ms. Mikiko Tanaka as Head, Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia from May 2, 2022

Ms. Tanaka brings with her over twenty-five years of experience within the United Nations system. She most recently served as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Guyana after working as the UNCT Resident Representative, Air Resident Coordinator, the first strategic dialogue with the Government and brought coherence to the work of the United Nations Country Team for the implementation of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development. She furthermore supported the conduct of a Voluntary National Review and consolidated socio-economic policy recommendations in response to COVID-19. Prior to Guyana, Ms. Tanaka served as the UNCT Country Director in Kenya and Tanzania, UNCT Deputy Country Director (Bangladesh), Pakistan, UNCT Deputy Resident Representative in Benin as well as several other capacities with UNCT and its agencies as well as at China and UN Field Offices. Ms. Tanaka joined the United Nations system, she worked as project coordinator for a non-governmental organization in Thailand and as the financial adviser in Japan. Ms. Tanaka holds master's degrees in public policy and management from the University of London and in civil development management from the Tokyo Daichi University, and a bachelor's degree from the International Christian University.



Mr. Ashraf Ali, Director, Strategy and Programme Management Division, ESCAP, has completed his assignment as Director-in-Charge of ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia. During his tenure, he provided strategic leadership in supporting ESCAP analytical, operational and technical cooperation initiatives in economic, environmental and social development dimensions of sustainable development in South and South-West Asia. He also contributed to strengthening relations with ESCAP member States, with United Nations Country Teams and with intergovernmental organizations, such as SAARC and BIMSTEC.

We would like to express our most sincere appreciation to Mr. Ali for serving as the Officer-in-Charge of the SRO-SSWA over the past year.

May 2022

January 2022

SOUTH ASIA SDG UPDATE

I. Key Activities during Oct - Dec 2021

1. Fifth South Asia Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals calls for building back better from COVID-19 while accelerating the implementation of the SDGs in South and South-West Asia



January 2022

October 2021

SOUTH ASIA SDG UPDATE

I. Key Activities during July - Sep 2021

1. ESCAP project "E-commerce capacity building program for women-led SMEs in South Asia" presented at the WTO Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender



Geneva, Switzerland, 16 July 2021. The ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia and the Enhanced Integrated Frameworks, Geneva (EIF) jointly presented and shared their experiences of implementing the project "E-commerce capacity building program for women-led SMEs in South Asia" at the WTO Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender. During the session, objectives, outputs, results, and impact made so far were presented to the WTO members. The meeting was informed about the e-commerce project for women-led micro, small and medium enterprises, its training programs conducted for 1000 women entrepreneurs to date, and how they have enhanced their knowledge about e-commerce, successfully registered with the e-commerce platform and used digital media to promote their businesses.

October 2021

April 2021

SOUTH ASIA SDG UPDATE

Announcement

Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director of UNESCAP SSWA Office moves on to a new position



After 12 years of dedicated service at the UNESCAP, Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director and Head of UNESCAP South and South-West Asia Office, based in New Delhi has decided to take an early retirement from United Nations to head the Institute for Studies in Sustainable Development (ISSD), a New Delhi based public limited firm. Since 2008, Dr. Kumar has served UNESCAP in different senior management roles including as Chief, Environment, Monitoring, Policy and Planning and Development, and Senior Development Director, based at the UNESCAP Headquarters in Bangkok. Before joining UNESCAP in 2008, Dr. Kumar was the Director-General of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RISDC), a New Delhi based policy think tank of the Government of India. He has also served as the Deputy of UNESCAP in Myanmar, the Sustainable UNCT (SUNCT), a UNCT for the South, Director of Economics, Dr. Kumar is recipient of the South Bank Free International Trade Association and SDG's Research Medal. He has researched extensively on different aspects of economic development, resulting in the publication of 10 books, over 50 magazine reports of United Nations and ILO, and over 120 peer reviewed papers, attracting nearly 7000 academic citations.

With his wide understanding of the development challenges and his vast network in South Asia and beyond, he has helped to establish the UNESCAP Office as a leading regional development partner in the subregion, enhancing visibility and impact of UNESCAP's work. The UNESCAP SSWA team wishes Dr. Kumar all the best in his future endeavours.



With the retirement of Mr. Nagesh Kumar on 30 April 2021, Mr. Ashraf Ali, Director, Strategy and Programme Management Division, UNESCAP, Bangkok has been assigned with additional responsibility as the Officer-in-Charge of UNESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia Office, New Delhi with effect from 1 May 2021.

April 2021

January 2021

SOUTH ASIA SDG UPDATE

(Combining October 2020 and January 2021 issues)

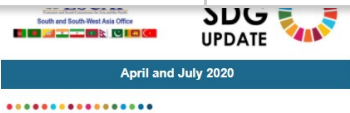
I. Key Activities during July-December 2020

1. The Fourth South Asia Forum on SDGs calls for Fostering Sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19 in South Asia



New Delhi, India, 3-6 December 2020. The Fourth South Asia Forum on the SDGs, organized by UNESCAP South and South-West Asia Office (UNESCAP SSWA) jointly with the Government of Maldives under its Sustainable Recovery and Resilience from COVID-19 to build back better. A two-day virtual forum for the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) and the High Level Political Forum, the opening session of the Forum was addressed by Mr. Amrita S. Anandaram, Executive Secretary of ESCAP, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Adam, Minister of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure of the Republic of Maldives, Mr. Catherine Howard, UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Maldives, H.E. Mr. Dasha Ravara Venkatesan, Secretary General of SAARC, H.E. Mr.

January 2021



1. South Asian Countries Participate in the 76th Commission Session of UNESCAP



BANGKOK, THAILAND, 21 MAY 2020 All the South Asian countries participated in the 76th Commission Session of UNESCAP under the theme "Promoting economic, social and environmental cooperation on oceans for sustainable development". Governments of Asia and the Pacific agreed to pursue coordinated and decisive actions, as well as reinforce regional and global cooperation in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and declared profound solidarity and resolved to provide unfettered support and technical assistance to those most affected, particularly in developing countries, with weaker health systems and vulnerable populations. **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** of Bangladesh said while opening his speech through a video message at the 76th Commission Session that although COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the economy along with public health, it has a silver lining in the form of changes in global efforts to deal with climate change and growing competition for natural resources. The Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), **Dr. Amrita Saha** welcomed the health crisis, countries face an unprecedented dilemma, the need to balance measures to contain the pandemic against those for socio-economic recovery. To support countries in building back better, reinforcing our work is necessary. She further highlighted three priority areas - helping economic recovery, protecting people and enhancing resilience, and restoring supply chains and supporting small and medium enterprises, and urged countries to align policies with environmental protection and climate action. The highlights of the country statements made at the APSSD by South Asian countries are reported later.

Read more [here](#) [Read the Theme Study](#)

April and July 2020



1. UNESCAP Executive Secretary visits Bangladesh



DHAKA, BANGLADESH, 11 December 2019 Dr Amrita Saha, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh during her visit to Bangladesh on Wednesday 11, 2019. The Prime Minister briefed the Executive Secretary on the key priorities of her government and requested support of UNESCAP especially in respect of graduation of Bangladesh from LDC status, for improved transport connectivity and for acceleration of SDGs. The Executive Secretary invited the Prime Minister to deliver a keynote address at the 76th Annual Session of the UNESCAP Commission to be held in Bangkok in July 2020. During her stay in Dhaka, the Executive Secretary also called on a number of dignitaries including the Ministers of Finance, Commerce, Planning, BIMSTEC Secretary-General, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and addressed the United Nations Country Team. Other references can be found [here](#) or [here](#).

2. The Third South Asia Forum on SDGs calls to accelerate

January 2020



SANS welcomes latest member!

The South and South-West Asia Network on the Sustainable Development Goals welcomed its fourteenth member - Maldives National University (MNU). The State-funded University has a student enrolment of more than 8000 students currently, catering for approximately half the tertiary student population of Maldives. At present, there are eleven faculties and centres offering programs from the sub-degree level to the doctorate level.

The mission of MNU is to create, discover, preserve and disseminate knowledge necessary to enhance the lives and livelihoods of people and essential for the cultural, social and economic development of the society so that the Maldives shall remain free and Islamic forever. With its vision to be “acknowledged as the outstanding academic institution of the nation and one of the finest in the region”, special emphasis is given to assure that the MNU's degree would be recognized as a quality credential both nationally and internationally.

About SANS

The South & South-West Asia Network on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been developed by ESCAP to foster subregional cooperation by sharing good practices towards achievement of the SDGs amongst the government agencies, think-tanks, CSOs and other stakeholders in South Asia to build back better.

For details on SANS, click [here](#).

For details on SANS membership, click [here](#).

CONTACT US

UNESCAP- South and South-West Asia Office,
 C-2, Qutab Institutional Area, Post Box No. 4575, 110016 New Delhi, India
 Telephone: +91 11 3097 3700 / Fax: +91 11 2685 6274
 Website: sswa.unescap.org | E-mail: sswa.escap@un.org



This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

UN · C-2 · Qutab Institutional Area · New Delhi, 110016 · India

