



## Commemoration of the UN Day for South-South Cooperation and Intergovernmental Organisations Meeting in Asia- Pacific 2021

**14 September 2021**  
**09:30 – 12:00 hours (Bangkok time)**  
**Virtual format**

### Provisional Agenda

09.30 – 10.00 hrs	Opening session
	<p>Opening remarks by Mr. Adel Abdellatif, Director a.i., UNOSSC (5 min)</p> <p><b>Keynote Messages (pre-recorded video messages):</b></p> <p>Mr. António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President of the seventy-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly</p> <p>Remarks by Mrs. Ureerat Chareontoh, Director General, TICA (5 min)</p> <p>Remarks by Mr. Christophe Bahuet, UNDP Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific (5 min)</p> <p>Remarks by Mr. Adnan Aliani, Director of Strategy and Programme Management Division, ESCAP (5 min)</p> <p>The Launching of South-South Profile by Mr. Denis Nkala, UNOSSC Regional Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific (3 min)</p>
10.00 – 11.30 hrs	Three breakout sessions
	<p>Breakout Session 1: Climate change and green development</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ambassador Solo Mara, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Development Forum Secretariat (PIDF);</li> <li>- Dr. Md Masumur Rahman, Director General, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP);</li> <li>- Mr. Iosefa Maiava, Head, ESCAP Pacific Office;</li> <li>- Ms. Ofa Kaisamy, Manager, Pacific Climate Change Centre, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)</li> </ul> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Mr. Koji Fukuda, Chief Technical Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)</p>
	<p>Session notes</p> <p>According to ESCAP’s Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2021, progress is lacking on most of the environment related goals in the region. The situation is deteriorating on climate action as the region continues to produce half of global greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, the fast</p>

	<p>economic growth in the region is still dependent on intensive use of natural resources, resulting in a heavy material footprint far higher than the global average (1.16kg/\$) and 1.82kg/\$ in Asia Pacific in 2017).</p> <p>Although countries in the Asia and the Pacific are still grappling with the profound impact of COVID-19 pandemic, it is also widely recognized that there is opportunity to redesign public and private policies to address the climate change crisis and structure a transition to a green economy during and after the pandemic. To achieve a sustainable and green recovery, policies and investments towards a greener and circular economy are required. More climate resilient infrastructure, low-carbon mobility and clean energy investment should be included in the recovery plan and distorted policies such as subsidy for fossil fuels should be avoided. By strengthening international coordination, building solidarity and enhancing mutual learning, intergovernmental organisations can play a key role in supporting developing countries in implementing their green recovery pathways and much can be done through South-South and triangular cooperation.</p>
	<p><b>Breakout Session 2: Digital transformation for COVID-19 Recovery</b></p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT);</li> <li>- Prof. Dr. Bambang Pramujtati, Vice Rector for Research, Innovation, Partnership and Alumni, Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology (ITS), Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) Center of Excellence;</li> <li>- Ms. Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director, International Telecommunication Union/Telecommunication Development Bureau (ITU/BDT) Asia and Pacific Office;</li> <li>- Ms. Kate Sutton, Head of the Regional Innovation Centre, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <p>Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director and UNESCO Representative to the People’s Republic of China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea</p>
	<p><b>Session notes</b></p> <p>In the first half of 2021, many countries in Asia and the Pacific continued to suffer from the COVID-19 pandemic which has pushed the countries into trying new ways of doing things. To adapt to the changing world, it is essential, now more than ever, for countries of the Global South to invest in digital transformation. This digital transformation will need to encompass different sectors such as health, economy, governance etc. Many countries in the region have already demonstrated success in digitalizing some of these sectors. Other countries can learn from those practices through regional collaboration. The session objective is to provide policy guidance for digital transformation for inclusive and sustainable development in the region.</p>
	<p><b>Breakout Session 3: SMEs and Entrepreneurship for COVID-19 recovery</b></p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director, Mekong Institute;</li> <li>- Dr. Sayed Yahya Akhlaqi, Deputy Secretary General, Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO);</li> <li>- Mr. Chanchal Chand Sarkar, Director, Economic Trade Finance, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC);</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Penchan Manawanichkul, Head of Enterprise &amp; Stakeholder Engagement Division, ASEAN Secretariat;</li> <li>- Mr. Daniel Muñoz-Smith, Country Representative for Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga and Vanuatu, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Mr. Kelvin Sergeant, Sustainable Enterprise Development Specialist, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</p>
	<p>Session notes</p> <p>According to the Asia Development Bank report “The Asia Small Medium-Sized Enterprise Monitor 2020”, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and the informal sector have spurred rapid economic development in Asia-Pacific. MSMEs account for on average 97% of all enterprises and employ 69% of the national labor force in the region. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), the region hosts about 65% (1.3 billion/2 billion) of global informal workers. Health and economic shocks from the COVID-19 pandemic have hampered productivity and mobility, severely hitting MSMEs and the informal sector. ESCAP projects that an additional 89 million people in the region could be pushed back into extreme poverty (\$1.90 per day threshold), erasing years of progress in poverty reduction. MSMEs can play an important role in socio-economic recovery through digitalisation and other innovative solutions, supported by enabling legal and regulatory environmental frameworks to promote inclusive and sustainable socio-economic growth across the region. In this context, regional cooperation frameworks and intergovernmental institutions can facilitate and provide support to governments, private sector and labor organizations in creating more opportunities for a v-shaped recovery, that is inclusive, green and resilient.</p>
11.30 – 12.00 hrs	<p>Brief on the discussions from each breakout session (5 min each)</p> <p>Closing remarks by Mr. Denis Nkala, UNOSSC Regional Coordinator for Asia and the Pacific</p>