

## **Annual high-level UN Commission session to examine intersection of regional cooperation and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia-Pacific**

The 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) opens on 15 May 2017, with countries set to discuss how greater economic cooperation and integration in the region can help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Comprising two parts, the annual session will include the senior officials segment from 15 to 17 May, in preparation for the ministerial segment, which will be held from the afternoon of 17 May to 19 May at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok.

The high-level dialogue of leaders in the morning of 18 May will provide a platform for countries to share their priorities and perspectives on regional economic cooperation as a means to achieving the SDGs. At the same time, there is strong recognition that the 2030 Agenda provides a sustainable approach for the region to become more closely integrated economically, and better connected through roads and other infrastructure, while ensuring the ability to rebound from natural disasters and other shocks to the system.

In the afternoon of 18 May, the Commission will take up the theme topic, 'Regional cooperation for sustainable energy.' Ministers will share their countries' policy approaches to ensuring access to energy sources, transitioning from traditional sources of energy and other collaborative opportunities they see ahead.

- What:** 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of ESCAP
- When:** 15 to 19 May 2017
- Where:** United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Rajadamnern Nok Ave, Bangkok
- Who:** Heads of State, Heads of Government, Senior Ministers and Officials from Asia-Pacific

### **Media Highlights**

#### **Monday, 15 May 2017**

09:00-09:30 Opening of the Senior Officials Segment

12:00-13:00 Side event on Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum - Space Applications for Environment, hosted by the Government of Japan

#### **Wednesday, 17 May 2017**

15:00-16:30 Opening of the Ministerial segment

16:30-18:00 High-level exchange of the Special Body on Least Developed, Landlocked Developing and Pacific Island Developing Countries

#### **Thursday, 18 May 2017**

10:30-12:00 High-level dialogue on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- 12:00-13:00 Side event on Towards SDG7 - Empowering the Excluded with Affordable and Clean Energy, hosted by the Government of Bangladesh
- 13:00-14:00 Side event on Building Regional Resilience for Water-related Disaster Risks, hosted by the Government of Japan
- 14:00-15:30 Ministerial round table on the Role of Regional Cooperation in a Changing Energy Scene

**Friday, 19 May 2017**

- 09:00-10:00 Side event and High-level consultation on Oceans and Seas in Asia-Pacific, hosted by the Government of Fiji
- 10:00-11:30 Ministerial panel on the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2017
- 13:00-14:00 Side event on the launch of the Social Panorama publication, hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka

**Note to Editors**

Please note the above schedule is subject to change. The timetable is available on the ESCAP website at: <http://www.unescap.org/commission/73/timetable#day1>

**Media Accreditation**

**For media registration, please provide us with the following information (First Name; Last Name; Nationality; ID/Passport Number; Email Address; Mobile No; Organization/New Agency, as well as the latest electronic copy of a passport-sized photo for printing the badge in advance) and please email to [escap-scas@un.org](mailto:escap-scas@un.org).**

**Media Facilities**

Journalists will have access to a Media Centre at the UN Conference Centre equipped with Internet, Wi-Fi, desktops, printers, and photocopier.

**Interview Requests**

For individual interview requests with senior UN officials or delegates, please contact the Strategic Communications and Advocacy Section at [escap-scas@un.org](mailto:escap-scas@un.org).

For more information, visit: <http://www.unescap.org/commission/73/>

For media enquiries, please contact:

Katie Elles, Public Information Officer, Strategic Communications and Advocacy Section, ESCAP, M: (66) 9481 525 36 / E: [elles@un.org](mailto:elles@un.org)

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