

A world map is centered in the background, with continents in a light greyish-blue. Overlaid on the map are numerous colorful, swirling lines in shades of blue, green, yellow, and orange, creating a sense of global connectivity and movement. The lines swirl around the map, particularly concentrated in the Asia-Pacific region.

REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR SDGs

EXPERIENCE FROM ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Preparatory meeting for the AFSD

Cairo, Egypt 23-24 April 2017



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I. Background: the VNR process

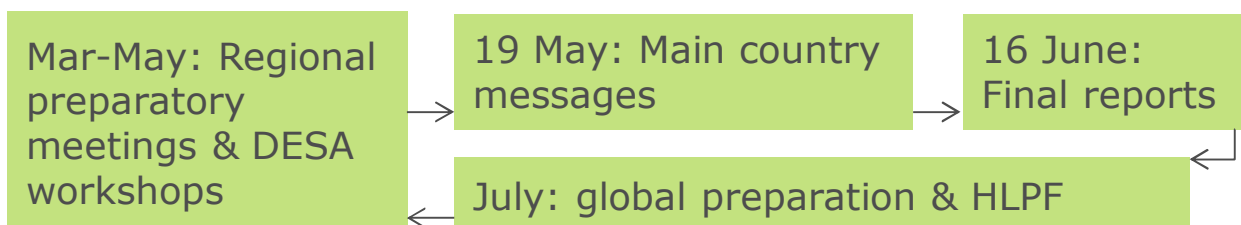


VNRs

- link the national and global
- are voluntary and state-led
- outline progress, share successes and challenges
- guidelines for presentation at HLPF
- regional frameworks facilitate

2017 44 countries: Jordan, Qatar (2016: Egypt, Morocco)

TIME LINE





II. Support for VNRs: GLOBAL LEVEL

- Workshop with VNR countries to prepare national review
- Share regional commonalities, challenges, lessons learned, progress
- Presenting format at HLPF: HL presenter, elements, panel, audio-visual aids

CHALLENGES

- Data collection biggest challenge all countries face
- Applying global indicators to national & local context

KEY LESSONS

- ✓ Integrate in national plans & align with national priorities
- ✓ Foster commitment, leadership & interagency cooperation
- ✓ Engage stakeholders, youth, civil society & private sector
- ✓ Build on international & regional partnerships
- ✓ Enable peer learning



III. Regional cooperation at ESCAP RES 72/6

- Promote integration of 3 dimensions of SD
- Regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda
- Support implementation in member States of the Agenda
- Provide capacity-building & an intergovernmental forum for FUR

REGIONAL DIALOGUE 2017

- ✓ APFSD as a key platform for exchange
- ✓ Capacity-building events to support follow-up & review process
- ✓ Workshops & sessions to support VNR countries
- ✓ Regional road map to strengthen means of implementation & set priorities



IV. 4TH APFSD: A Regional Road Map for AP

EXPECTATION

- strengthen regional cooperation on priority issues
- enable continued and more efficient and coordinated support
- facilitate more effective knowledge sharing

PRIORITY AREAS

- Data and statistics
- Technology
- Finance
- Policy coherence

FOCUS ON PRACTICAL MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

- North-South, South-South,
international & regional partnerships

THEMATIC AREAS OF COOPERATION

- Leave no one behind
- DRR & resilience
- Climate change

WITH MULTISECTORAL IMPACTS

- Natural resource management
- Connectivity
- Energy



V. 4TH APFSD: Form & function of the Forum

FUNCTION OF THE FORUM

- Support preparations for the HLPF
- Support countries & enhance their capacity for implementation of the 2030 Agenda
- Provide regional perspective, identify regional trends, share best practices and lessons learned
- Support follow-up and review, assess progress and enable peer learning related to HLPF themes
- Support presentation of VNRs, review progress of regional road map

INCLUSIVE & INTERGOVERNMENTAL

- contributions of UN agencies & organizations at (sub)regional level
- inter-agency support through UN AP RCM
- space for multi-stakeholder engagement, civil society & youth



VI. Support for VNRs: VNR session APFSD

REGIONAL FORA are a platform for exchange for VNR countries

HOW TO

- ✓ align national & subregional development plans
- ✓ strengthen interministerial coordination
- ✓ engage stakeholders
- ✓ facilitate peer learning and partnerships
- ✓ localize SDG targets & indicators in an inclusive manner

PANEL OF 2016 / 2017 VNR COUNTRIES

CHALLENGES

- Collect, manage, validate disaggregated data in inclusive & effective way
- Build statistical capacity for VNR reporting

→ (Sub)regional cooperation plays a pivotal role for capacity building



VII. Support for VNRs: VNR Learning Café'

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Most vulnerable groups to exclusion
- Role of media in creating awareness
- Cross-sector communication
- Inclusion in high-level meetings
- CSOs key to SDG implementation

Example: sustainability in China-India tea trade to achieve SDGs

Role of startups in transferring environmentally sound technologies

REGIONAL COLLABORATION TO INCREASE CAPACITY

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION & VNRs

- Data collection & sharing should be transparent
- Benchmarking is essential when preparing VNRs
- Share best practice & innovative solutions to achieve ambitious targets
- Language as a barrier for awareness & implementation
- Targets must be localized to fit national context



VIII. Lessons learned for regional cooperation

REGIONAL

- Cooperation is crucial to tackling cross-border issues
- Cooperation is an opportunity for peer learning & exchange of good practices
- Fora are key platforms to identify priorities, challenges, joint action
- Road maps can strengthen cooperation & support

CHALLENGES REMAIN

- Data issues and localization of indicators
- Interministerial cooperation, leadership & stakeholder engagement



Thank you

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For information on the APFSD, road map etc. please visit:

<http://www.unescap.org/events/apfsd4/>

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