

Panel: Regional Cooperation for Achieving SDGs in South Asia

As South Asian countries are preparing for meeting the 2030 Development Agenda, a comprehensive assessment of the baseline scenarios and the policy challenges is required to frame a coordinated regional approach to sustainable development. With its grossly inadequate share in global income and assets, which is unacceptably disproportionate to its share of world population, the subregional countries face crippling resource deficits and capacity constraints, most of which can be overcome only through collective action. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a common non-political development agenda, to which all South Asian countries are committed as signatories, which can be utilised to reinvigorate regional cooperation for achieving the common goals.

This panel will discuss how regional/subregional cooperation and coordination can support and complement the effectiveness of national mechanisms for achieving the SDGs in South Asia, also highlighting the importance of inclusive and effective multi-stakeholder partnerships. It will also discuss the possibilities and prospects of alternative platforms for regional cooperation, to complement and strengthen existing subregional organisations in their delivery, and how the United Nations Development System can provide support in this regard. The main points for discussion will include:

- Review of progress in implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda in South Asia, and the key challenges and opportunities for the subregion in achieving the SDGs.
- Ways of utilising regional partnerships and cooperation as a strategy to strengthen the means of implementation for achieving the SDGs in South Asia.
- Identifying gaps in technology and financing, and exploring innovative ways of mobilising resources for the SDGs.
- Assessment of the statistical capacity preparedness and regional monitoring frameworks needed to support the implementation of the SDGs.
- The potential of regional networks of think tanks in fostering regional cooperation by way of data generation, knowledge sharing, capacity building and other means of support.
- The role of partnerships between regional think tanks and the United Nations Development System.

Panel Organisers:

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