

DRAFT

Report of the Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

I. Matters calling for action by the Secretariat or brought to its attention

1. The Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) adopted the Report of the Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for UNCSD and agreed to provide the Asian and Pacific Regional Outcome on Sustainable Development as an input to the UNCSD.

II. Proceedings of the Meeting

A. Sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific: Key challenges and opportunities

2. Under agenda item four on Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Secretariat provided an overview of programme for the Meeting and procedures, followed by reports from a number of subregional, regional and global meetings related to UNCSD.

- a) H.E. Mr. Fa'amoetauloa Taito Faale Tumaalii, Minister of State, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa presented the outcomes of the Rio +20 Pacific Preparatory Meeting: Joint Ministerial Meeting, held 20 - 22 July 2011 in Apia, Samoa. His Excellency indicated that the Pacific has adopted the "green economy in a blue world" theme for Rio+20 as the smallness and isolation of the Pacific population does not allow sufficient human capacity to build resilience. Therefore, capacity building remains a key issue for sustainable development and the management of the global commons of the world's largest ocean. Small island developing countries need additional and considerable external financing and seek agreements with the international community to improve access to funds.
- b) Mr. Ramakrishna, Kilaparti, Director of ESCAP's Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia presented the outcome of the Sixteenth Senior Officials Meeting of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC), which was held 1-2 September 2011, in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The meeting of Northeast Asian countries exchanged the view that there was a need to reinforce political commitment to sustainable development. In this regard, countries in North-East Asia expressed the view that the UNCSD should have a concise political declaration and a focused political document on the two

- themes of Rio+20, which could provide meaningful insights to formulating international development goals after 2015 by sharing its vision for sustainable development. The Meeting also heard the views of member states on the issues of “the principle of common but differentiated responsibility”, “human security”, and “green protectionism” with regard to the global discussion on a green economy.
- c) Mr. La Yifan, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China provided an overview of the High-Level Symposium on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held 8-9 September 2011, in Beijing, China. Mr. La expressed that Rio+20 should be action-oriented and consensus-based and not renegotiate or retract agreed instruments, principles and outcomes of major summits on sustainable development. The international community should make provision for technology, finance and capacity building for sustainable development. To facilitate this, renewed political commitment is essential for increasing the integration of all three pillars of sustainable development. M. La indicated that a green economy could be a good instrument to achieve sustainable development. However, strengthened governance in all three pillars as well as improved integration among the three pillars is essential, and the United Nations should continue to play a key leading role.
- d) Mr. Dana Adyana Kartakusuma, Assistant Minister, Economy and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Environment, Indonesia presented the key highlights of the High-Level Dialogue on an Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development, which was held 19-21 July 2011, in Solo, Indonesia. This meeting produced seven key messages, specifically (1) the need for renewed political commitment for sustainable development and a translation of this commitment into implementation; (2) the need to ensure that the three pillars of sustainable development work together, (3) at the international level, the need for an organization to enhance the integration of sustainable development, (4) at the national level, the need for more integrated support for national strategies; (5) the need to strengthen UNEP; (6) review and support of sustainable development governance at the local, national and regional level; and (7) the need for new and additional financing to enable implementation for capacity building and technology transfer.
- e) Vice Minister Ruslan Bultrikov, of the Ministry of Environment Protection of Kazakhstan delivered a presentation on the progress made on the development of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme of the Astana Green Bridge Initiative. Based on the Initiative, the Green Bridge Partnership Programme was developed requiring a multilateral, long-term partnership and more stable basis for green investments, and a technology transfer mechanism for green technologies and innovations. The programme aims to ensure free assistance and advice to countries and intuitions on new technologies or innovation, but

also to use other countries' experiences in reforming policies to attract green investment. For this programme, Kazakhstan welcomes strong partners with experience.

- f) Mr. Rajneesh Dube, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest, India, presented the outcome of the Dialogue on "Green Economy and Inclusive Growth", held 3-4 October 2011, in New Delhi, India. Mr. Dube indicated that many in the dialogue considered the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities to be crucial in the context of reinvigorating Agenda 21, and acknowledged poverty eradication as an important benchmark for green economy policies. It was reiterated that there should be recognition of national priorities and conditions that define the nature of the policies and strategies adopted by each country to green their economies. There is the need for creating a "Sustainable Development Fund" at the global level to enable the transition to a green economy. The Dialogue also called for a green economy roadmap with a tool box of flexible policies, instruments and best practices.
- g) A representative from Brazil briefed the Meeting on the status of preparations for UNCSO in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and expressed his expectation for active participation of all government and major group representatives in the Conference.

3. Key outcomes and recommendations from a number of stakeholder meetings were presented, as follows:

- a) Ms. Chee Yoke Ling, Director of Programmes, Third World Network, presented a statement from the 'Road to Rio+20: Charting our Path', held 17-18 October 2011, in Seoul, Republic of Korea. She indicated that while the environmental dimension of sustainable development has remained weak, the economic dimension characterised by market liberalism, privatisation and deregulation has resulted in global financial instability. Employment and livelihoods, the rights of women, indigenous peoples, youth and other vulnerable groups have suffered for this. There is concern that the preparatory process has not sufficiently looked into the gaps over the past 20 year. They emphasized that the focus should be on the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development rather than Green Economy or Green Growth. There is a basic right to natural resources that should be used in a sustainable manner. Regarding the institutional framework for sustainable development, the creation of a sustainable development Council at the General Assembly is recommended, along with enhancing UNEP coordinated with system wide reforms.
- b) Mr. Bruce McKellar, Chair of the ICSU Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific provided an overview of issues raised during the ICSU-UNESCO Rio+20 Science and Technology Workshop held in Kuala Lumpur, in April 2011. The Meeting recognized that the continued use of the earth's resources and

ecosystems in an unsustainable manner will lead to the situation where the planet will not support us, recognized already by the number of people living in extreme poverty. A green economy coupled with a clear commitment to poverty reduction is a practical way to achieve sustainable development, for which the indicators of sustainable development should be fully utilized. With regard to institutional reform for sustainable development, there is a need to integrate the environment, society, and economics, and the natural and social science and technology in a holistic manner.

- c) Prof. Hironori Hamanaka, Chair of the Board of Directors, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), summarized the outcomes of the International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific, held July 2011, in Yokohama, Japan. The key messages were that 'Resilience' is a key factor for pursuing sustainable development; a Green economy is an important interim milestone for shifting towards sustainable development; and a better institutional framework for sustainable development is one of the necessary conditions that support efforts by all stakeholders at all levels. With regard to the institutional framework, universal membership for UNEP should be realized and at the regional level, there needs to be strengthening and coordination of existing institutions and networks.
- d) Mr. Paul Lagoy Quintos, Programme Manager, IBON International, reported on the meeting Towards a People-centered Sustainable Development which was held August 2011, in Bangkok, Thailand. In their statement, they called upon governments and the UN system to deliver on the promises and commitments made in Rio twenty years ago, and asked for that they reaffirm and operationalize the principles of Rio. They expressed concerned that the Green Economy theme chosen for the Rio+20 does not fully or holistically address the social, economic and ecological challenges of sustainable development today. Instead, they requested governments to look at people-centered sustainable development supported and promoted by an enabling environment. Regarding the institutional framework for sustainable development, Rio+20 should work towards the establishment of a broad inclusive multi-stakeholder consultative body or network tasked with supporting the promotion and implementation of Agenda 21 and Rio+20 resolutions.
- e) Ms. Daphne Dolot Roxas, Executive Director and Co-convener, Asian Women's Network on Gender and Development presented the outcome of the Asian Women's Forum on Gender Justice and the Green Economy: Special focus on water, energy and food security, which was held 12-16 September 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand. Key recommendations from this meeting include the need for recognition of gender inequity and an integration of gender perspectives in planning, decision making and implementation of programmes and projects in water, energy and food security. With respect to these three sectors, they concluded by calling for a rights-based approach to development and women's empowerment, gender mainstreaming to include sex disaggregated data, gender

analysis, gender action plans, monitoring and evaluation, gender indicators, gender budget audits, and support to women's leadership in all levels of decision-making.

4. The discussion covered the topic of a green economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development; institutional framework on sustainable development and stakeholder perspectives, the highlight of which have been compiled in the Chairperson's summary, attached as annex one to this report.

B. The Asian and Pacific Regional Outcome on Sustainable Development

5. The Asian and Pacific Regional Outcome on Sustainable Development "the Seoul Outcome" as attached in annex two, was provided as an input to the UNCSD.

C. Other matters

6. A number of participants expressed their appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for their generosity in hosting this event. Several participants also expressed their appreciation to the organizers and partner organizations for their support in attending the meeting.

D. Adoption of the Report of the Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting

7. The Report of the Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for UNCSD was adopted on 20 October 2011.

III. Organization of the Regional Preparatory Meeting

A. Opening session

8. The opening session included seven statements from distinguished speakers, organizers, partners, the host government and the UNCSD Secretariat.

a) The Secretary-General of the UNCSD Secretariat, Mr. Sha Zukang, opened the session with an overview of Asia and the Pacific, which represents more than half of humanity, and has much to contribute to a sustainable future considering its great progress in reducing poverty and protecting ecosystems. Mr. Sha emphasized that Rio+20 must start with a reaffirmation of the Rio principles and the need to renew and reinvigorate political will and commitment. In this connection, he highlighted that a green economy could be a vehicle for integrating the three pillars of sustainable development and a way of reinforcing coherence among economic, environmental and social policies, and that

the discussion on institutional framework for sustainable development has been gaining importance and interest.

- b) Mr. Nessim Ahmad, Director of the Environment and Social Safeguards Division of the Asian Development Bank, followed with remarks as a collaborating partner to the meeting by stating that almost two billion people live without proper safe sanitation in Asia and nearly half of billion do so without safe drinking water. Rising food prices continue to place pressure on Asia's poor. Mr. Ahmad indicated that green policy measures and new green market opportunities may increasingly become key drivers for growth in the region.
- c) Mr. Young-woo Park, Regional Director and Representative for Asia and Pacific for United Nations Development Programme (UNEP) noted the potential for Rio +20 to contribute to the evolution of sustainable development in a way that recognizes and values Asia-Pacific's assets and priorities. Regarding a green economy, it was noted that the concept is an instrument to achieve sustainable development and that a green economic would contribute to income generation, job creation, and poverty reduction. It was noted that to achieve sustainable development, all three pillars of the international framework for sustainable development- environment, social and economic- must be mutually supportive and reinforcing.
- d) In His Excellency Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Sustainable Development, Forest Economics and Environment from the Republic of Congo presented the perspectives of the African region in the lead-up to the UNCSD, and stressed that the Asia-Pacific region and Africa share a common destiny in the context of sustainable development, in particular, through Rio+20 and beyond. He called for that Rio+20 should present the opportunity to catalyze a paradigm shift in growth in the 21st century and strengthen cooperation between developed and developing countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.
- e) Representing the UNCSD Bureau, Ambassador Kim Sook indicated that a green economy has particular relevance to the Asia-Pacific region and can provide an alternative development path for sustainable growth and environmental protection, which will ultimately contribute to eradicating poverty. A transition to a green economy requires strengthening strategic partnerships between developing and developed countries, and utilizing public-private partnerships where possible. Institutional mechanisms to facilitate financial assistance and technology transfer to developing countries will have a significant impact on the success of Rio+20. In this context, strengthening the mandate of regional commissions should also be examined.

- f) As the organizers of the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting, Mr. Shun-ichi Murata, Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP highlighted that the region has plenty of home-grown innovative approaches that support the development of a green economy, since the region pioneered its foresight by adopting a ministerial declaration that identifies the need to shift towards a green growth at the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2005. He expressed his expectation that, based on its rich experiences, the Asia-Pacific region could embrace this unique opportunity to formulate an effective and powerful regional voice, so that the region could play a key role in the development of a Global Partnership for green economy.
- g) Finally, in the keynote speech, the host of the event Her Excellency Dr. Yoo Young-Sook, Minister for Environment of the Republic of Korea welcomed delegates with the perspective that there is a broad consensus that a green economy can provide an alternative development model by making the economy work for the environment. In this regard, Her Excellency emphasized that the opportunities and benefits of a green economy must be maximized through effective policies that also promote social equity. However, she warned that the transition to a green economy will be a huge challenge for the international community, which will need to work together to make a country-specific models for building green economies and narrowing implementation gap.

B. Attendance

9. The Meeting was attended by 41 member and associate member states of ESCAP, specifically: Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Maldives, the Marshall Island, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam.
10. The non-member states of the Republic of Congo and Finland were also present.
11. Four members of the UNCSO Secretariat and three of the UNCSO Bureau were also present.
12. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were present: the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Centre for Regional Development of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster

Reduction, the United Nations Office for Project Service, the United Nations University, and the World Health Organization.

13. Representatives from the following intergovernmental organizations and other entities also attended: the Asian Development Bank, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Global Green Growth Institute, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, the International Institute for Sustainable Development, the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

14. The following non-government organizations and civil society groups also attended: Croplife Asia, the Global Compact Local Network Korea, Homeplus Co. Ltd., Honam Petrochemical Corporation, Korean Metal Workers' Union (on behalf of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions and International Trade Union Confederation), Asia-Pacific Network on Food Sovereignty, the Asian non-government Organization Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, the centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society, the Indonesia Farmer's and Fisher's Society Organization, the Indonesia Peasant Alliance / Asia Pacific Network on Food Security (Indonesia Chapter), the Peasant movement of the Philippines, the Pesticide Action Network for Asia and the Pacific, the World Farmer's Organization, the Asia Indigenous People's Pact, the Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education, the Island Sustainability Alliance CIS Incorporated, the City Government of Dipolog, ZDN, the Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia, the International Council for Science (ICSU) for Asia and the Pacific, ICSU Office for Asia and the Pacific, the World Federation of Engineering Organizations, the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, Asian Women's Network on Gender and Development and Helena Benitez Global Forum, Philippine Women's University, Development Alternatives with Women for a new era, Korean Women's Association United, the National Network on Gender, Energy and Environment, the Social Ecofund, the South Asian Women's Network and Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group, Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resources Management, the Environmental Challenge Organization, the Freedom from debt Coalition and Jubilee South Asia Pacific Movement on Debt and Development, the National Federation of Youth Organizations in Bangladesh, the Project Survival Media/Advocates for Youth, the UNEP Tunza for Asia and the Pacific, Youth with a Mission (Samoa), the Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration, the Asia Pacific Research Network, the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, the Center for Development Program, the Centre for Environment and Development, Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development India, the Earth Council Asia-Pacific Incorporated, the Forum for Nature Protection, the Good People International, the Greeneration Indonesia, Geenovation Hub/Chinese Civil Climate Change Action Network, Greenpeace, IBON International, the International Green Purchasing Network, the Korea Federation for Environmental Movements, the OLE Siosiomaga Society Incorporated, the Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries, the Stakeholder Forum for Sustainable Future, the Thailand Environment Institute, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, the

World Society for Protection of Animals, the Third World Network, Vaagdhara, the World Wildlife Fund (Heart of Borneo Initiative), the World Wildlife Fund International.

15. Observers from the Asian Institute of Technology / United Nations Environment Programme RRCAP and the United Nations University Institute for Sustainability and Peace were also present.

C. Election of officers

16. The Meeting elected the following officers to the Bureau:

a) Chairperson:

H.E. Mr. Yoon Jong-soo (Republic of Korea)

b) Vice-Chairs:

Mr. Yifan La (China)

Ms. Anna Klyukhina (the Russian Federation)

H.E. Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi (Thailand)

Mr. Dana Adyana Kartakusuma (Indonesia)

Mr. Rajneesh Dube (India)

Mr. Golam Kibria (Bangladesh)

H.E. Mr. Ruslan Iskanderovich Bultrikov (Kazakhstan)

Mr. Sangov Odil (Tajikistan)

Ms. Christine Deborah Schweizer (Australia)

H.E. Mr. Fa'amoetula Taito Faale Tumaalii (Samoa)

Mr. Asif Qayyum Qureshi (Pakistan)

c) Rapporteur:

Mr. Atsushi Suginaka (Japan)

D. Agenda

17. The Meeting adopted the agenda EDD/UNCSD/RPM/1 with a slight modification to agenda item five:

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific: Key challenges and opportunities:

- (a) Review of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) in Asia and the Pacific;
 - (b) Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;
 - (c) Institutional framework for sustainable development.
5. Asian and Pacific regional outcome on sustainable development.
 6. Other matters.
 7. Adoption of the report.
 8. Closing of the Meeting.